



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE APACHE JUNCTION SEWER DISTRICT (the "District") held in the District's Board Room, 5661 S. Ironwood Drive, Apache Junction, Arizona 85120 on Tuesday, April 29, 2025 at 8:00 AM.

PRESIDING: Ms. Kathleen Waldron

PRESENT: Kathleen Waldron – Chairperson
Jim Reynolds – Vice Chairperson
Phil Tremonti – Treasurer
Roy Starr – Board Member

ABSENT: Jesse Gage - Secretary

Staff Present: Darron Anglin – District Manager
Traci Coronado – Executive Assistant
James Drye – Operations Supervisor
Kathy Huckfeldt – Management Analyst
Corina Jimenez – Utility Services Supervisor
Anne Latimer – District Engineer
Maria Zagar – Financial Services Supervisor

Others Present: Jason Cassidy – District Counsel
Richard Dyer – Independent Newsmedia
Trina Harrison – City of Apache Junction
Ben Matthews – Tischler Bise
Matt Weatherly – Public Sector Personnel Consultants

1. Call to Order.

Ms. Waldron called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM.

2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Reynolds gave the Invocation.

Mr. Tremonti led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the March 25, 2025 Regular Meeting.

Ms. Waldron asked if there were any additions or corrections to the meeting minutes; there were none and the minutes were accepted as presented.

4. Monthly Disclosure Report for March 2025.

Mr. Reynolds stated there is a significant unfavorable variance in revenues and inquired whether this is still because the community to the south is waiting for service from SRP. Mr. Anglin confirmed that is correct and said that there are no updates to be provided.

Mr. Anglin stated that the District continues with 100% recharge, and soon the Non-Potable Water (NPW) deliveries will start. He also said septage levels have remained high for the past three months, which has been a good source of revenue.

Mr. Reynolds inquired about the start date for the A+ reclaimed water. Mr. Anglin stated that everything is ready to begin, and the NPW station is awaiting for power to be turned on. Ms. Waldron asked if there was an estimated date for when it would be operational. Mr. Anglin explained that it should be ready in 2 to 3 weeks.

Mr. Tremonti said that the suspended solids exhibit a 98% removal rate and questioned whether the \$425,000 Returned Activated Sludge (RAS) pumps are necessary for removing the remaining 2%. Mr. Anglin said that the purpose of the pumps is to help operate the plant, noting that they will not increase the solids removal rate. He further stated that the septage and process statistics page contains the percentage of solids removed. This removal is stipulated by the permit and requires a minimum solids removal percentage. He also said that several years ago, the Board of Directors requested staff to provide the removal percentage on the monthly report. He also said that the Class A+ reclaimed water permit requires staff to achieve a very low turbidity in the effluent, with an average of 2 NTUs (Nephelometric Turbidity Units) or less. If the treatment process cannot remove enough solids, the effluent will not meet A+ reclaimed water standards.

Mr. Tremonti stated that the Board would like staff to accelerate the solar project on the property.

5. Monthly Project Status Report.

Mr. Reynolds inquired about the relocation of the generator for the Baseline lift station. Mr. Anglin explained that the generator will be transferred from the interim lift station at the Williams Field Lift Station. Staff plan to repurpose and relocate this newer unit with low usage to the Baseline pump station. He stated that staff must wait until the larger pumps are operational which relies on a larger backup generator. This is anticipated later this fall. Mr. Anglin indicated that once the full lift station is operational at Williams Field, everything from the interim phase will be decommissioned and the generator moved to the Baseline Pump Station.

There was discussion regarding the flocculation system and the polymer being used that was approved by the manufacturer. Further discussion on the project costs will be brought back to the Board for approval at a future meeting.

6. Discussion and update of the Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) Expansion and action as determined.

Ms. Latimer provided an update on the construction progress, noting that Archer Western Construction (AWC) is currently working on excavation.

Mr. Reynolds asked about the compatibility of the soil with the requirements for the structure. Ms. Latimer responded that the contractor is testing the soil as they proceed with the work.

7. District Manager's Report for March 2025.

Mr. Anglin said that staff have completed and submitted the application to Zayo for fiber internet service. Zayo indicated that it will take 45 to 60 days to complete the connection to the fiber. He also said that itSynergy is working on installing the necessary equipment for their part of the fiber connection. Mr. Anglin stated that the existing internet service provided by Triad will serve as the internet backup.

There was discussion about Lumen, and the letter sent by District Counsel Mr. Cassidy requesting that they stop expending resources on the District's fiber project.

Mr. Anglin provided an update on in-pipe energy generation as directed by the Board. He reported that staff reached out to a company specializing in the design and installation of energy generation solutions for water and wastewater pipelines. However, the company indicated that they could not work with raw sewage in

their system, which negates the sewer force mains from consideration. He also mentioned that the District would need greater flow rates or a large drop (approximately a 70-feet) to generate sufficient energy from that system.

Mr. Anglin recognized Utility Services Associate Patricia Nelson on her one-year anniversary with the District.

8. Request for authorization and approval for the purchase and replacement of two Returned Activated Sludge pumps at a cost not to exceed \$425,000 to be paid from the Capital and Replacement Fund.

Mr. Anglin explained that the RAS pumps take sludge from the end of the clarifier and pumps it back to the front of the plant. He mentioned that this process also brings the microorganisms back to the front, allowing them to continue consuming wastewater and maintaining a healthy population of bacteria. He added that these pumps require less maintenance and are easier to use and operate, which enables staff to run the older plant more efficiently.

Mr. Drye noted that the current air lift pumps frequently become clogged with hair and rags. He also said that the new pumps can be set to maintain a steady flow rate throughout their operation.

There was additional discussion about the design and size of the RAS pumps.

MOTION made by Mr. Reynolds for authorization and approval for the purchase and replacement of two Returned Activated Sludge pumps at a cost not to exceed \$425,000 to be paid from the Capital and Replacement Fund; seconded by Mr. Tremonti.

Yes (5): Board Member Starr, Board Member Tremonti, Board Member Reynolds,
and Chairperson Waldron.

No (0): None

MOTION CARRIED

9. Call to the public. The Board will neither discuss nor take legal action on a matter raised during the call to the public but may refer the matter to the District staff for review or direct the matter to be put on a future agenda. Members of the Board may respond to matters raised as permitted by Arizona Revised Statutes § 38-431.

No one from the public appeared at this meeting to comment.

10. Direction from the Board of Directors to staff regarding items to place on the next Regular Board meeting agenda.

Mr. Tremonti would like staff to accelerate the installation of solar energy on-site.

Mr. Starr would like to discuss the possibility of creating a power plant on-site.

11. Adjournment.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:54 AM.



**APACHE JUNCTION
SEWER DISTRICT**
RECLAIMING WATER FOR THE FUTURE

**Board of Directors
Regular Meeting & Work Session
Guest Sign-In**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>
1. <u>Trina Harrison</u>	<u>CMO @ COAJ</u>
2. <u>Richard Dyon</u>	<u>Independent news media</u>
3. <u>ASH Weatherly</u>	<u>Public Sector Personnel Consultants</u>
4. _____	_____
5. _____	_____
6. _____	_____
7. _____	_____
8. _____	_____
9. _____	_____
10. _____	_____
11. _____	_____
12. _____	_____
13. _____	_____
14. _____	_____
15. _____	_____
16. _____	_____
17. _____	_____
18. _____	_____
19. _____	_____