



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, August 25, 2026 at 8:00 AM.

PRESIDING: Ms. Kathleen Waldron

PRESENT: Kathleen Waldron – Chairperson
Jim Reynolds – Vice Chairperson (via Teams)
Phil Tremonti – Treasurer
Jesse Gage - Secretary
Roy Starr – Board Member

Staff Present: Darron Anglin – District Manager
Traci Coronado – Executive Assistant
James Drye – Operations Supervisor
Paul Gonzales – Collection System Supervisor
Corina Jimenez – Utility Services Supervisor
Anne Latimer – District Engineer
Maria Zagar – Financial Services Supervisor

Others Present: Jason Cassidy – District Counsel
Brian Voss - Synagro

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. Discussion on biosolids land application and action as determined.

Mr. Anglin stated that the Board had previously tabled this item until staff could bring a representative from Synagro to discuss land application, current challenges and what land application would mean for the District.

Mr. Voss provided an overview of Synagro, who handles biosolids across the county and approximately 80% of biosolids in Arizona, and stated that land application is the most common method of biosolids management. Mr. Tremonti asked for the definition of land application. Mr. Voss stated that it is another form of fertilizer that is spread into the soil to fertilize crops or land.

Mr. Voss stated that biosolids are much more regulated and defined. He explained that Plant Available Nitrogen (PAN) rates establish the amount of nitrogen that can be applied per acre, and that the biosolids are tested to determine the number of pounds of nitrogen contained in each dry ton of biosolids. Mr. Voss stated that biosolids are more cost effective for farmers compared to commercial nitrogen.

Mr. Voss discussed PFAS as a concern for the wastewater industry. He stated that research conducted by Dr. Ian Pepper at the University of Arizona had examined movement of PFAS from biosolids toward groundwater concluded that it does not migrate deep into the soil. Another study on crop-uptake was still underway. He stated that biosolids for land application are used primarily on cotton, corn, alfalfa, or other feed crops, not crops for direct human consumption.

Mr. Voss said that wastewater agencies are passive receivers of PFAS and do not produce it. He identified food packaging, dust, carpet, cosmetics, and other everyday products as sources. Mr. Anglin stated that the District does not have any industrial users and that its PFAS levels are low. He stated that land application would provide a beneficial use for the biosolids and remove them from the landfill stream.

Mr. Reynolds asked whether land application created undue legal risk for the District. Mr. Cassidy stated that there was some risk, but the District's potential proportional liability appeared small due to the low PFAS concentration and the steps between the District's biosolids and any possible exposure. He stated that landfill disposal could also create potential liability and that following current expert and agency guidance was the best available protection.

The Board directed staff to move forward with the biosolids land application process. Mr. Cassidy confirmed that no motion was required because the Board was directing staff to solicit services rather than authorizing a specific contract.

4. Approval of the Minutes of the June 23, 2026 Regular Meeting and Executive Session.

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

5. Monthly Disclosure Report for June and July 2026.

Mr. Tremonti asked about the large credit shown in aged receivables. Ms. Zagar stated that a developer had deposited funds so permit fees could be applied against the balance as permits were issued. The funds were not being used any longer and the District refunded the amounts to the developer.

Mr. Tremonti commented that the District had not utilized much of the budgeted funds for employee team building and conferences and stated that he would like the District to use those funds as the organization grows.

Mr. Gage said that training funds could help retain and motivate employees who are near the top of their salary ranges. He also noted that operations and maintenance expenses finished within 10% of the budgeted amount and credited staff's budgeting and preventive maintenance efforts.

There was discussion regarding legal fees and the bankruptcies involving Solon and a Water and Ice customer.

6. Monthly Project Status Report for July 2026.

Mr. Anglin reviewed the project status report and stated that Fiscal Year 2027 projects had been added. He stated that the flocculation system schedule had been delayed due to contractor scheduling. Recharge Basin 12 was constructed and complete, with as-built drawings and final paperwork remaining. He also said Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) had not yet completed the related permit review, and staff would be submitting photographs in place of an on-site pre-inspection.

Mr. Tremonti asked about the Operations and Maintenance Building. Ms. Latimer stated there were a few issues involving the footings required and review and redesign by Stantec. She stated that the building manufacturer had caused a delay, but the project was moving forward with foundation and footings expected in the coming weeks. She also emphasized the need to have the building available for the new plant's SCADA system.

Mr. Tremonti asked about the solar project. Ms. Latimer stated that the project was proceeding well. The connection date had moved approximately two weeks due to SRP's availability.

Mr. Tremonti noted a discrepancy in the reported unit count for Blossom Rock; Ms. Zagar stated that the percentage was correct and the unit count was being corrected.

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

Mr. Anglin said that ADWR refunded the District's application fees because the agency did not meet its required licensing timeframe. Ms. Latimer stated that the pending permit would increase the District's authorized recharge capacity from approximately 3.5 MGD to 6.5 MGD but noted that the additional capacity is not immediately needed because current flows remain below that level.

Mr. Anglin stated that the expansion project hit a milestone with more than 50% of the work complete. Ms. Latimer discussed startup and commissioning planning, including a schedule to be submitted by the contractor and reviewed by Stantec. Manufacturers will be providing training and on-site support for District staff, including six weeks of support from the MBR manufacturer.

8. District Manager's Report for June and July 2026.

Mr. Anglin stated that he completed and passed the Project Management Professional examination through the Project Management Institute. He stated that the training was useful for the expansion and other District capital projects.

Mr. Anglin reported that three Board positions were open for appointment. Applications were due September 15, 2026, with City Council interviews scheduled for October 19th and appointments on October 20th. He added that the newly appointed members were expected to attend the November meeting.

Mr. Anglin provided updates regarding current development, including American Leadership Academy opening and other planned projects. Mr. Gage asked whether the District would continue to have sufficient capacity to accommodate all new construction. Mr. Anglin stated that there were no capacity concerns.

Mr. Anglin recognized Dalayna Pacheco for 5 years of service and Paul Gonzales for 25 years of service. Mr. Anglin presented Mr. Gonzales with a certificate and plaque, and Board members thanked him for his service.

9. Discussion and authorization to increase the approved budget for recharge basin 12 by \$40,000, increasing the District's authorized contribution from \$150,000 to an amount not to exceed \$190,000, to be paid from the Capital and Replacement Fund.

Mr. Anglin said that the District received a WIFA Water Conservation Grant for Recharge Basin 12 and although project costs came in below the preliminary estimate, WIFA held the District to the match indicated in the original application. He stated that the District therefore had to reduce the grant

allocation and increase its contribution to maintain the required match percentage. WIFA would provide \$227,335, with the remaining costs coming from the District. He also stated that approximately \$17,000 of the requested increase was for additional project costs. Mr. Anglin stated that the grant remained beneficial to the District despite the increased contribution.

MOTION made by Mr. Gage to authorize and approve an increase of \$40,000 to the approved budget for Recharge Basin 12, increasing the District's authorized contribution from \$150,000 to an amount not to exceed \$190,000, to be paid from the Capital and Replacement Fund; seconded by Mr. Starr.

Yes (5): Board Member Starr, Board Member Tremonti, Vice Chairperson Reynolds, Board Member Gage, Chairperson Waldron

No (0): None

MOTION CARRIED

10. Discussion and review of the District Manager's goals for Fiscal Year 2027 and action as determined.

Mr. Anglin thanked the Board members for submitting proposed goals. He reviewed additions involving safety, maintenance and training for the new plant, future expansion planning, artificial intelligence, succession planning, outside professional activities, cybersecurity, and general security.

Mr. Tremonti said he would like to see staff develop a plan to help customers convert from septic systems to sewer, including consideration of possible financing. He also stated that the District should begin preliminary planning for the next treatment capacity phase because planning and construction could take approximately five years and current projections showed the District reaching capacity in approximately ten years.

Mr. Anglin stated that he would incorporate the Board's feedback and return the revised goals the following month for final approval. Mr. Starr raised the potential effect of federal water reductions on development and future capacity needs. Mr. Anglin stated that the issue could be included in future planning.

11. 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 § 38-431.01.I.

No member of the public appeared to comment.

12. Direction from the Board of Directors to staff regarding items to place on the next regular board meeting agenda.

The Board directed staff to move forward with the biosolids land application process and to return the revised District Manager goals the following month.

Ms. Waldron asked to add elections of officers to next month's agenda.

13. Adjournment.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:26 AM.



APACHE JUNCTION SEWER DISTRICT

RECLAIMING WATER FOR THE FUTURE

Board of Directors
Regular Meeting
Guest Sign-In

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>
1.	Brian Voss	Synagro
2.	Robert MATSCH	
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