

FLATHEAD COUNTY WATER DISTRICT #101

POB 1141, Columbia Falls, MT 59912

*** Meeting Minutes August 5, 2025 ***

General Meeting:

I. Call to Order

Directors present: Steve Fucci, Jody Mason and Hilary Shepard

Directors absent: Linda Parker

Additional present – District Customers Norm Nunnally and Clarence Tabor; Tina Bondy, Board Secretary

II. Adoption of the Agenda

III. Review and Approval of Minutes from July 8, 2025

Secretary read the drafted minutes from July 8, 2025 verbatim, at request of Customer Nunnally. Hilary Shepard made a Motion to approve the Minutes as read; Steve Fucci seconded, and all voted in favor.

IV. Unfinished Business

a. **Generator** – discussion following the receipt of another bid for a 48kw GENERAC generator managed by Glacier Power Solutions, and including installation (\$26,720). This would also cover monthly servicing – firing up / report. Also includes electrical and gas permits, expert labor by certified technicians. Russ had worked very hard on this – and did send info to DEQ; which signed off and approved. Replumbing to natural gas.

i. **Steve made a Motion to approve the cost of the new generator through Glacier Power Solutions; Jody seconded and all voted in favor.**

b. Insurance/Legal Services

- i. Continuing to look in to E&O for directors and water board members.
- ii. Continuing to look into hiring a lawyer / on retainer for the district. Hilary check with other water boards to get recommendations. Discussion about retainer potentially. Will seek qualified folks.
 1. **Hilary made a Motion to follow up on insurance and legal counsel; Steve seconded; all voted in favor.**

V. New Business

a. Building for the Future

i. Water Quality and Storage

Hilary speaking to the DEQ work on the previous project and read an excerpt from Mike Krop's letter from October 2020 that referenced the incredible turnaround in the water system – went from a dilapidated and regulatory nightmare to reliable system. With this and looking at a larger storage tank, the District needs to put out a request for an engineer and begin working towards this.

Current tank capacity is 30k.

Board discussion as to the size of the new generator, any expanded pumps and need to look at the current and future capacity, to make sure the District is on track. Need to start with a Proposal for Engineering Resources (PER).

Further Board discussion regarding DEQ which okayed the upgraded generator with knowledge of the existing system.

Per Clarence. We owe the rate payers the knowledge of what we are up to. Not all customers have web access.

Steve made a Motion to pursue the research on the water flow and capacity questions; Hilary seconded, all voted in favor.

b. District Policies

Board discussion that there need to be certain District policies established and/or published. Specifically, late payment protocols. Discussion about notice for customers and ideas for this, such as "Terms and conditions" being a part of the district, or some type of a customer acknowledgement of the policies. If a hardship – apply for that.

c. Water Shut Off / Turn On Requests

Application for new hookups is on the website;
Also form for shut off / turn on requests – to forward to Gavin.

VI. Reports

a. Water Operations – in future – will get this from Gavin.

b. Financial Operations

- i. Secretary provided and reviewed financial reports as of August 5, 2025**
WF Financial is now handling the bookkeeping.

c. Website / District Phone

- i. Website to be updated with the new billing info, etc., what discussed this evening;
Steve agreed to help Customer Nunnally navigate to the new website.
- ii. The District has a cell phone that should be forwarded to one of the Board members and/or Gavin.

VII. Time for Public Comment and Discussions - 5 min allotment / property owner.

Customer Nunnally addressed the Board with the following:

He believes:

- (a) there should be a curb stop at every meter. If there was a curb stop at every meter – when they called one of the board at an emergency – would be easy to shut off w/o tampering with the meter;
- (b) there should be backflow preventers as part of each meter. He does not believe that rules were followed when the district rebuild project was conducted;
- (c) there should be an audit including all source documents; auditors should be able to see the designations for how much spent, when authorized and receipts.
- (d) Wants the budget on the website, and wants what was spent every month available at the meetings.

Customer Taber addressed the Board with the following:

- (a) Is there going to be an audit?
- (b) Wants an Auditor / Treasurer appointed.
- (c) Wants the meter readings on the bills.
- (d) Wants to know why there is an invoice number on each of the bills, and why can't they just use the meter number?
- (e) Wants a survey / surveyor to assess the hydrant he believes was incorrectly placed in his field. This was not supposed to be in the field in the first place, he wants it off his property and wants the surveyor to address this.
- (f) Wants to know what is going to be done to fill the chair left by Russ's departure?

VIII. Correspondence and Additional Discussion

None presented.

IX. Adjournment 8:44pm

Hilary announced the next General Meeting of the Board scheduled September 2, 2025, 7pm, at the Badrock Fire Department.

Following this, Hilary made a Motion to adjourn this meeting. Jody seconded, and all voted in favor.