

Big Mesa MDWCA

Minutes from July 11, 2026

BOD Attending: Jeff Mechenbier, Dave Artery, Jeff Strom, Rhiannon Peterson, Steve Jones

Meeting called to order at 8:00 AM

The members recited the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag.

Minutes: Minutes of the June 13, 2026, meeting was posted on the website and sent to members of the Board. There were no additions or corrections to the Draft Minutes.

Motion to approve Jeff Strom, second Dave Artery. Vote was Unanimous.

Treasure's Report: Jeff Strom reported total of all accounts as of June 30 ,2026 was \$810,168.92. Misc. Trash Sales of \$780.00.

Motion to approve Steve Jones, second Dave Artery. Vote was Unanimous.

Water Managers Report: Jay Allen reported total gallons pumped 1,615,392 with total gallons billed of 1,212,892. Microbiologic sample 6/08, 2026 was Absent. HAA5 was N/D and TTHM was 67. There were no installations and one lockout with no tampering fee imposed. There were no billed leaks.

Motion to approve the Water Managers Report made by Dave Artery, second Jeff Strom. Vote was Unanimous.

Business Managers Report: Beate Merkert reported total amount billed for June was \$43,301.85 including \$564.11 in penalties and \$0 in membership fees with \$200 in transfer fees and \$0 in Installations. Monthly Expenses including payroll were \$48,200.84. Beate reported on the bank services review, and a revised list of fewer bank accounts and modified accounting services was provided for Kelly McFarland. We will await his written quote. Insurance renewal was \$1,600 higher than last year. After contacting Tucumcari General we were advised to disregard and that it had increased \$200.00. We are seeking additional bids. Motion to approve Office Managers Report Dave Artery, second Steve Jones. Vote was Unanimous.

RAIL

- Big Mesa Capitol Projects – Jeff Mechenbier reported that production water was achieved and a bactee test passed. JHC pump skid is not up to production standards and Eddie rejected the pump results. Jay and Beate completed

training on the new Miox system. Project completion is estimated for September. OPEN

- Kelly McFarland CPA- Beate informed the board of the contract reduction by Mr McFarland's office but, the are still contract issues to be resolved. OPEN
- Burn Pile- Will continue to accept green waste and await the lifting of the Burn Ban by San Miguel County. OPEN
- Board Training- Beate will send links to the Board. Scada training is planned for Monday the 13th. OPEN
- FY 2027 Interim Budget- Submitted to DFA and waiting on approval. OPEN
- Compactor Container- One additional bid of \$12,393.00 for a 40 yard. RDM is not consistent and will not return calls but remains the only option. OPEN
- Newsletter- Has been sent out. CLOSED
- Electrical Cable for Pump Dock-Cowboy Electric to provide proposal. OPEN
- Community Collection Center Changes- A new trial system will launch in August and run for two months. The Board will review feedback from the trial period before taking further action. OPEN
- Main Line Relocation- Ansley's used D&R Tank for construction and connection. Project went well and there was no significant disruption to service. CLOSED

NEW BUSINESS

- Tucumcari Land Discussion- Board decided to not consider offers at this time. Discussion was that we needed to gather more information on the property value and benefit to Big Mesa prior to taking any action. OPEN
- Pledged Securities Policy- Signed by Board. CLOSED
- Safe Home Security- Letter was drafted and sent to terminate service on old security system. CLOESD
- Water Leak Forgiveness Maldonado- Plumbers repairs completed and new shutoff valve installed. Board approved the request to forgive debt. CLOSED

- Payment Processing Increase- Beate requested the bank to increase current \$10,000. Limit to a \$20,000. Limit. CLOSED
- EFCU Bank Account Closures- Suggested by Auditor to simplify what had been a McFarland procedure. CLOSED
- LNC Consulting- Portales consultant will assist monthly with accounting until staff is confident with system and monthly reports. OPEN
- Outboard motor for work Barge- To be delivered next week and installed by Ron Cunico. OPEN
- Buoys for Buoy line- Received quote for Buoys at \$8,921 for 30 Buoys. Motion to purchase Jeff Strom, second Dave Artery. Vote was Unanimous CLOSED
- Road Work- San Miguel to work on roads in Hooverville. We will need to pothole to protect the water lines as work proceeds. OPEN
- AI Policy- Daun Willoughby has requested and we have prepared such policy. The Policy prohibits use of AI in financial preparation and purposes. The Policy will require Board approval. OPEN

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Open Meeting Adjourned at 9:31

Employee Evaluations were discussed as were Cost of Living and Performance Pay Increases and no actions were taken.

Executive Session Adjourned at 10:18

Regular Session resumed and board announced Cost of Living and Performance Pay increases.

ADJOURNMENT

10:20- Motion to Adjourn Jeff Strom, second Steve Jones. Vote Unanimous