

**Heard County Water Authority
Board Meeting Minutes
February 17, 2026
5:00 P.M.**

The Heard County Water Authority Board met in regular session on February 17, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. The following members were present: Loy Howard, Rick Jones, Connie Nelms and Lynda Tucker.

Chairman Loy Howard called the meeting to order. Jennifer Betts, gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Recognition of Guests: Lawrence Lipford

Approval/Modify Agenda: On motion by Nelms and seconded by Tucker, the Board unanimously approved the agenda.

Approve Regular Minutes: On a motion by Jones, and seconded by Tucker, the Board approved the minutes from the January 2026 meeting.

Public Comments: Lawrence Lipford spoke to the Board about his concerns regarding the condition of the Hillabahatchee raw water pump station, which functions as the Authority's secondary source for raw water withdrawal. He also had questions about the level of the quarry. Executive Director Beth Cantrell noted that HCWA has already proactively applied for funding to rehabilitate the station and address the issues raised.

New Business:

Watchfire Digital Sign: Executive Director Beth Cantrell presented two quotes for a digital sign to be installed at the new location. She shared that many residents have asked about reinstating the time, date, and temperature feature that historically stood at the site. Because the old sign is obsolete, the Authority located a company capable of providing a modern replacement. The sign would be funded through advertising partnerships with local businesses, allowing the project to be fully supported without relying on customer rates. On a motion by Jones, seconded by Nelms, the Board voted to approve the W8mm sign.

STAline Meter Pilot: Executive Director Beth Cantrell addressed the Board regarding her interest in conducting a meter pilot with STAline using their ultrasonic meters. She explained that the cost of the STAline pilot is significantly lower than the proposal previously reviewed from another vendor several months ago. STAline utilizes cellular for data communications that report directly back to the office and partners with a software company whose platform is designed to integrate with their meters. She also noted that the Authority would be able to pilot the accompanying software program at no cost during the meter pilot period.

Vice Chairman Rick Jones requested that staff reach out to Census Meter Company to inquire about their ultrasonic meter options. The Board agreed to allow Director Cantrell to proceed with the STAline pilot. Because the expense is minimal and falls within the Authority's Spending Policy, no formal vote was required.

Audit FY2025: A motion was made by Nelms, seconded by Jones, to table this item of new business until the Auditor could attend the next Board meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Old Business:

Revision of Purchasing Policy: Attorney Michael Hill presented revisions to the existing Spending Policies contained in the Personnel Management Handbook. The revisions authorize the Executive Director to make an emergency purchase exceeding the \$25,000 limit when necessary to prevent delays in critical repairs, with the requirement that the purchase be ratified by the Board at the next scheduled meeting. Michael Hill also updated the Spending Policy to clarify that any item previously approved as a capital expenditure in the annual budget may be purchased without returning to the Board for additional approval, provided that at least two quotes are obtained prior to proceeding with the expenditure. Upon a motion by Jones, seconded by Tucker, the Board unanimously approved the revisions to the Spending Policy.

Truck for Distribution: Distribution Superintendent Darrell Brice presented two bids for a new gas-powered distribution fleet vehicle, following the diesel-powered options reviewed at the previous Board meeting. Upon a motion by Jones, seconded by Nelms, the Board voted unanimously to approve the purchase of the gas-powered Chevrolet 3500 for the Distribution Department.

Agenda modified: Upon a motion by Jones, seconded by Nelms, the agenda was modified to move the Executive Session ahead of the reports due to time constraints.

Executive Session: On a motion by Jones, seconded by Nelms, the Board entered Executive Session at 5:48 p.m. No action was taken. On a motion by Jones, seconded by Nelms, the Board returned to regular session at 5:50 p.m.

Reports:

1.) Financial: Beth Cantrell, Executive Director

January 2026

*Income: \$288,413.67

*Expenses: \$275,777.64

*Net Income: \$12,636.03

*Net Income with Depreciation, Capital Expenses and other Expenses: <\$62,982.43>

2.) Distribution

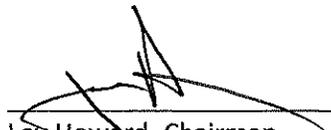
MONTH	December
NEW INSTALLS	3
LEAKS	17
MAIN BREAKS	0
VALVE MAINT	0
MTR /PUMP TESTING	0
LOCATES	101
WORK ORDERS	181
N/PAY CUT-OFFS	0
DATA LOGS	6
MTR CHANGE OUTS	5
D.O.T. PERMITS	0

3.) WTP: Normal Operations.

4.) WWTP: Normal Operations.

Additional Board Issues/Concerns: None

Adjourn: Upon motion by Nelms and seconded by Jones, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 6:00 p.m.



Loy Howard, Chairman

Date 3-17-26