

Lost Hills Utility District
Minutes
February 5, 2026

I. The Meeting to was called by Daisy Garcia at 5:00PM. Board Directors in attendance were Ana Martinez, Rosario Velazquez, Rigoberto Salto and Pioquinto Garza. Also in attendance were Thomas Schroeter, Amando Garza, Alejandro Ruiz, Yuliana Velazquez, Marisol Jimenez (interpreter) and Ana Chavez.

II. Approval of Minutes **January 8, 2026**

Minutes: Rosario Velazquez made a motion to Approve Minutes as submitted. Pioquinto Garza seconds the motion. All Board Members present in favor, Motion carried.

III. District's Financial Report- **December 2025**

Sewer Month Loss: (\$1,245.22) Year Profit: \$5,922.78
Water Month Profit: \$5,365.57 Year Profit: \$129,581.18

IV. Public Time for Non-Agenda Items

Jesus Alonso – wanted to share local community reduction plan, to develop plan with more resources in the community to help with the air quality in town.

V. New Business

1. Reports from Cannon Engineers

(a) WTP Booster Pump Station: Payment Request No. 2 by WM Lyles for work completed in January. The requested amount is for \$35,553.75.

Motion: Rosario Velazquez made a motion to Approve Pay Request No.2. Pioquinto Garza seconds the motion. All Board Directors present in favor, Motion carried.

(b) WTP Booster Pump Station: Consideration for a Change Order Request by Electrical Contractor on the project. For \$4,226.34.

Motion: Pioquinto Garza made a motion to Approve Change Order No.1. Ana Martinez seconds the motion. All Board Directors present in favor, Motion carried.

(c) Consideration for Increasing Sewer and Water connection fees for 2026

Motion: Rosario Velazquez made a motion to Increase all connection fees, Construction Water, Meter Deposit and Meter Rental Fees, Sewer Rate Fees, Second Trailer Sewer and Second Trailer Penalty. Ana Martinez seconds the motion. All Board Directors present in favor, Motion carried.

(d) Report on CDBG Application: Project for Berrenda Mesa service area including the Tank and PS replacements at Blackwells Corner and Union Tank

Amando Garza- Project total cost is \$2,583,400. Motion: Rosario Velazquez made a Motion to Approve Application for Funding with CDBG. Rigoberto Salto seconds the motion. All Board Directors present in favor, Motion carried.

2. Consideration of increase in water and sewer connection fees

Already covered under another item.

3. Update on Connection Fee Charges for Existing and Future ADU's

Ordinance has been posted. Motion to approve declaration of resolution.

Motion: Rosario Velazquez made a Motion to Approve Declaration of Posting Resolution. Ana Martinez seconds the Motion. All Board Directors present in favor, Motion carried.

4. Update on Approval of Agreement with Westside Ag for Purchase of SWP Water

Tom Schroeter- We are still waiting on the response from Semitropic Water Storage District to see if they agree on the transfer of the lease water to their District. Until this happens the District will not sign the lease agreement with Westside Ag for the Purchase of SWP water.

5. Consideration of study to determine need and amount of sewer rate increase

The Sewer Department has been experiencing a Loss for several months already, the revenue coming in is barely enough to keep up with the expenses and we need to conduct a sewer rate study to determine how much the District should be charging for the sewer rate to keep up with the operating expenses.

Motion: Rosario Velazquez made a motion to Approve Agreement with Robert D. Niehaus, Inc. to conduct a sewer rate study. Ana Martinez seconds the motion. All Board Directors present in favor, Motion carried.

6. Report on requests for service

Gabriel Gutierrez is still waiting on the approval from the KC Building Permits. Leon did not provide plans for his project, we need more information from him to find out if the meter size he selected is sufficient for his project. HACK- The District has issue a conditional will serve letter for 28 units, Wonderful will provide the water for this project.

7. District Manager Agenda

(a) Report on District's Financial Audit 2024-2025

We will present this next month, Mark is still working on the audit.

(b) Consideration for Water Services from Blackwell Land Co.

Leon is waiting to know if Semitropic WSD will accept the lease water that the District is negotiating to give him a better idea of what the process would be if he wants to bring his own water.

(c) Consider Request from Jorge Sanchez to re-active water services

Motion: Rosario Velazquez made a Motion to Approve a Conditional Will Serve Letter under the same terms of one year, effective when Semitropic signs the agreement with the District, there will be no charge on connection fees, but will be subject to payment of recurring billing charges of when account was closed to present and will subject to the new water charge of leased water. Ana Martinez seconds the motion. All Board Directors present in favor, Motion carried.

(d) Report on LAFCO's call for Nominations

Ana Chavez- provided the information to the board along with the deadline to apply.

(e) Report Discretionary Match towards Employees 401K Plans

Total match for 2025 was \$8,574.81, Paychex processed the payment on February 3rd. ADP will now start collecting the match per paycheck not yearly. The Board approved a 3% employer contribution match on June 6, 2025.

(f) Consideration to Authorize District Manager & Facilities Manager to attend the 2026 Kern County Water Summit

Motion: Pioquinto Garza made a motion to Authorize Ana Chavez and Alejandro Ruiz to attend the 2026 water summit. Rigoberto Salto seconds the motion. All Board Directors present in favor, Motion carried.

(g) Consideration to Appoint Committee to Review Budget Activity from July-December 2025

Board Directors appointed to the committee; Rosario Velazquez and Rigoberto Salto.

8. Facilities Manager Agenda

(a) Consideration of the budget for additional aerator installation components

We will stay with the original plan of replacement of the old aerator without the need for additional budget at the moment.

(b) Consideration of hiring a contractor for new service connections

Motion: Rosario Velazquez made a Motion to Adopt a Resolution to allow the District to collect the fees to hire a licensed contractor to do the water and/or sewer connections to the district's main lines. Pioquinto Garza seconds the motion. All Board Directors present in favor, Motion carried.

(c) Consideration of the budget for constructing a shade structure at the Water Plant

Alex Ruiz- waiting to get the final cost, right now the estimate I have is about \$2,000. I also need to get a cost for the cement foundation.

(d) Report on filter valve maintenance and replacement

Alex Ruiz - Filter has been repaired, several valves are not working I will have a cost for the next meeting.

(e) Report on Solar Quote from Bright House

No action taken

9. Date and Location of March, 2026 Meeting

March 5, 2026

10. Staff Reports

Ana presented report to the Board.

11. Customer Request &/ Complaints

Acct #1290 reported an odor complaint – Alex reported he flushed the line for 8 minutes, tested for chlorine and everything looked okay, this customer is on a dead end and staff will go back to the regular flushing schedule.

Acct#1123 Complaint for retro billing on estimated water usage charges. Meter stopped working and customer had not been billed for water usage since October, we estimated on the low side compared to the customer's water usage.

12. Delinquency Report

Accounts No. 1017,1061,1095,1135,1148,1152,1216,1218,1269,1280,1301,1304,1317,1325,1343,1350,1357, 1391,1394,1406,2029,2071,2075,2081,2084,2089.

VI. Maintenance & Operations Report

Alejandro Ruiz-Wastewater

Report presented to the Board.

Alejandro Ruiz-Water

Report presented to the Board.

VII. Board Members Report

None

VIII. Engineer Report - Amando Garza

Everything has been covered under the agenda.

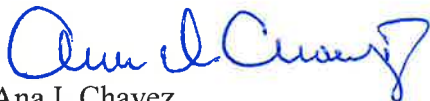
IX. Next Board Meeting- **March 5, 2026.**

X. Approval of Accounts Payable – **January 2026**

Motion: Ana Martinez made a Motion to Approve January 2026 Accounts Payable. Rigoberto Salto seconds the motion. All Board Directors present in favor, Motion carried.

XI. Meeting Adjourned at 6:28PM.

Respectfully submitted by,



Ana I. Chavez

District Manager