

MINUTES

Regular Meeting
Cleveland County Water Board Room

September 08, 2026
Tuesday, 6:00 P.M.

Present: Chairman Bill Cameron, Vice Chairman Amy Elliott Bridges, Secretary Tony Brooks, Commissioners Bruce Martin, Pamela P. Maddox, Pete Pedersen and Dewey Cook. Attorney Delton W. Barnes and General Manager Brad Cornwell were present.

Chairman Cameron called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM, welcomed all who were in attendance. Chairman Bill Cameron gave the invocation, and Commissioner Pete Pedersen led the *Pledge of Allegiance*.

A. Approval of Agenda:

Chairman Cameron asked Commissioners if anyone had any questions related to the adoption of the agenda. Mr. Cornwell shared that an updated agenda was available for the member's reference. The Chairman Cameron requested a motion to adopt the agenda.

ACTION TAKEN: Upon a motion by Mr. Pedersen and second by Mrs. Maddox, the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to accept the agenda.

B. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

C. Public Hearing

1) Consideration of Ordinance Number 21-2026 An Ordinance Approving The Water Shortage Response Plan for Cleveland County Water dated July 13th, 2026 (PWSID#: 01-23-055)

Mr. Cornwell provided guidance for the public hearing. Chairman Cameron opened the public hearing at 6:02. Mr. Cornwell shared that the response plan has been advertised multiple times using multiple methods. There was no communication received by email, telephone or mail by Mr. Cornwell or Mr. Gilbert. The advertising instructions were that comments would be addressed to Mr. Gilbert. The public hearing was closed at 6:03. Mr.

Cornwell introduced Assistant General Manager, Garrett Gilbert, to provide updates on the water shortage response plan. There have been several staffing changes since the previous plan, all the changes in reference to staffing and title changes were shared. The District has recently begun using Facebook to provide updates and share information with customers, this information was added to the plan. The water shortage response plan trigger section was updated in 2023 with new cubic feet per second information. This version of the plan reverts back to the 2018 plan version for the triggers. The stage one trigger was changed from 15 cubic feet per second to 25 cubic feet per second and the stage two trigger was changed from 12 cubic feet per second to 15 cubic feet per second. The Lawndale bridge gauging station is the measurement used for cubic feet per second. The measurement accounts for the river and all the tributaries feeding into the river including Knob Creek. The variance protocols section has been updated to provide a variance application and information to customers that may have a situation that requires special protocols. Mr. Gilbert called for questions or comments concerning the water shortage response plan. Mr. Pedersen asked if pressure on fire hydrants would remain the same if restrictions were in place. Mr. Gilbert noted that the voluntary restrictions are still in effect. The water shortage response plan limits the amount of water that customers can use. The advanced stages of the plan do contain penalties and fines for noncompliance. Also in the advanced stages is the irrigation meter cut-off. These actions would not affect the pressure on the fire hydrants. Fire departments are required to fire flow test their hydrants every five years. If the fire flow test period were to occur while in the drought stages, a variance form would be required from the fire department. Mr. Pedersen asked if there were procedures currently in place to communicate with the fire departments during fire flow testing. Mr. Cornwell noted that some fire departments were very communitive about their fire flow testing, while others are not communitive. Mr. Gilbert added that the water shortage plan mandated communication during the drought restrictions. Cameron inquired about the enforcement of the penalties and fines. Mr. Cornwell and Mr. Gilbert noted that charges would be added to the customer monthly water bill. Mr. Cameron asked what the current flow readings were. Mr. Gilbert replied that the Lawndale gauge is at 60 cubic feet per second. The Casar gauge is reading 25 cubic feet per second. Mr. Gilbert provided a drought update using the NC Drought Update map. The upper northwest corner of Cleveland County has been removed from the drought map with no shading. The watershed basin area of Rutherford County has been removed from the

drought map with no shading. Mr. Gilbert has emailed a contact with the US drought monitor to request information on the factors determining that change. The stream flows have shown improvement, and the trend shows the drought improving but the threat remains. The typical reading for the Lawndale gauge is 100 cubic feet per second. The cooler temperatures have assisted in the improvement. The changing of the season is also assisting with the improvements, the trees are losing leaves and not drawing water from the river.

ACTION TAKEN: Upon a motion by Mr. Martin, second by Mrs. Bridges, the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to adopt Resolution Number 21-2026 *An Ordinance Approving The Water Shortage Response Plan for Cleveland County Water dated July 13th, 2026 (PWSID#: 01-23-055)*

D. Consent Agenda:

ACTION TAKEN: Chairman Cameron presented the Consent Agenda Items. Upon a motion by Mr. Brooks, second by Mr. Pedersen, the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda.

- 1) Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 11, 2026
- 2) Approval of the Minutes of the Closed Session of August 11, 2026
- 3) Consideration of Resolution Number 26-2026 A Resolution Adopting and Accepting ARP Policies for Internal Control and Record Retention

E. Unfinished Business: None at this time

F. New Business: None at this time

G. General Manager's Report:

Mr. Cornwell began the General Manager's Report. The updated project sheet was shared with the members. Many of the projects are in a design review period with the State of North Carolina. The review period is currently forty-five days long. The guidance has been that if a project is in holding forty-five days with no activity, then the project is automatically approved. Several of the projects were close to the forty-five-day end point and now have issues and questions to address to avoid automatic approval. The NC Department of Transportation projects are updated. The FEMA/Helene creek crossing project has started and will continue in

upcoming months. The Town of Grover interconnection requires an easement on the property. The District is working with the property owner for the easement. The resiliency project for the new Casar water tank is still waiting for a response from the Town of Casar on the location. Mr. Gilbert left to attend the meeting at the Town of Casar. The waterline rehab project will be funded with the remaining ARP funding. The re-appropriating of the \$200,000.00 funding is currently being processed. The financial report included that most of the final audit work was completed in the second and third week of August. The audit is now being reviewed by the partner. The plan is for the audit to be presented at the November board meeting. August water sales increased due to usage with the numbers being included in the packet for reference. The District received another PFAS settlement for \$42,619.00. These funds will be transferred to the Capital Reserve Fund at NC Capital Management Trust. There were several big-ticket items expended for the new fiscal year, two new trucks were purchased for the maintenance department. The trucks have been delivered and are waiting for paperwork and tags. Mr. Cornwell has been communicating with the City of Shelby about the possibility of adding more emergency connections. There is USDA funding available for this project. A project scope and application can be completed to request funding for these emergency connections. Mr. Cameron mentioned that Gulf Services was back in Cleveland County. Gulf Services assisted in clean-up after Hurricane Helene. Mr. Cornwell shared that Cleveland County oversaw the work of Gulf Services. He had seen that Gulf Services had returned but the equipment didn't appear to be moving. Mr. Cornwell speculated that maybe some NCDOT projects required clean-up. Mrs. Maddox mentioned that the fuel budgets were over budget for August and questioned if the budget would be alright. Mr. Cornwell noted that more fuel was required in the summer/fall months and if necessary, fuel funds would be pulled from other expense accounts. Mr. Cameron asked about the progress on the lease for the Old Bank building property in Lawndale. Mr. Cornwell shared that the lease has been signed effective September 1, 2026. Attorney Barnes met with the lease holder and shared positive comments concerning the aspect of the business. The lease term is for a twelve-month period. Mr. Cornwell noted that the certificate of insurance has not been provided. Ms. Rikard has been instructed not to share the key until a certificate of insurance has been provided.

H. Board Members Announcement and Remarks

The members expressed appreciation to the staff.

I. Adjournment:

Action Taken: Chairman Cameron called for a motion to adjourn. Upon a motion by Mr. Pedersen, second by Mrs. Maddox, the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to adjourn at 6:27 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Tony Brooks, Secretary

