

**SOUTH HENRY REGIONAL WASTE DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING SEPT 8, 2026
SHRWD OFFICE
4:30 P.M.**

According to the meeting notice, President Donna Tauber called the meeting to order. Board members who were present or absent were as follows:

Present: Donna Tauber, Tyler Hellums, Aaron Eckart, Irvin Bengé, Tom Conley, and Dwight Barnes

Absent: Luke Garner

Tyler Hellums made a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting, seconded by Tom Conley. Motion carried.

Dwight Barnes made a motion to approve the claims as submitted. This was seconded by Irvin Bengé. Motion carried.

The Board also reviewed and approved all final payments from August 2026 Claims Docket.

Zach reported that the recent storm caused three sewer overflows due to excessive system pressure; however, treatment operations were not interrupted. Lightning struck a utility pole near the Mays Lift Station, damaging several electrical components and the Mission communications board. Maintenance staff completed repairs totaling \$4,617.71, excluding labor, and restored the electrical panel and monitoring system.

The electrical surge also damaged a pump at the Mays Lift Station, causing it to overheat and fail. The pump was originally installed in 2003 and rebuilt in 2015. Zach obtained replacement quotes of approximately \$24,000 for a Homa pump and \$16,886.90 for a Myers pump. He plans to obtain a third quote for a Champion pump before making a final recommendation. Due to the pump's age and condition, replacement is recommended rather than rebuilding.

Zach reported that a boring contractor working in Spiceland struck a District force main. Pritchett was called in to complete the repairs, and the area was backfilled and will be allowed to settle before additional stone and paving are completed. Zach explained that responsibility for the damage depends on whether the utility markings were within the required two-foot tolerance. He has timestamped photographs documenting the markings in case the charges are disputed. Once repair invoices are received, the district will seek reimbursement from the responsible contractor.

Zach discussed ongoing challenges with accurately locating sewer lines due to outdated maps and the lack of tracer wire throughout much of the system. He noted that the District currently relies on paper maps and dowsing rods, making accurate locating

difficult. Staff are working to update digital mapping using additional records obtained from the county and Gonzalez Engineering. The Board discussed exploring professional locating services, improved equipment, and assistance from outside agencies. Zach will research available options and costs to improve locating accuracy and reduce future damage to District lines.

Zach reported that, following discussions with the Personnel Committee, Waylon Thompson was offered and accepted the third maintenance position, with a start date of September 21, 2026. This will bring the maintenance department to full staffing, allowing two employees to focus on fieldwork, troubleshooting, and preventive maintenance while another handles daily plant operations. The additional staffing will also allow Zach more time for administrative duties, equipment ordering, project coordination, and exploring funding opportunities.

Gonzalez reported that OCRA funding will not be feasible under the District's current Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) due to additional requirements. The Board discussed pursuing bond financing for necessary infrastructure improvements. The existing bond is scheduled to be paid off in 2030, with the possibility of incorporating the remaining balance into a new bond. Priority projects discussed included generator upgrades, electrical panels, and clarifier repairs. The Board agreed on the importance of prioritizing projects, obtaining cost estimates, and exploring financing options in preparation for 2027 to address aging infrastructure before major failures occur.

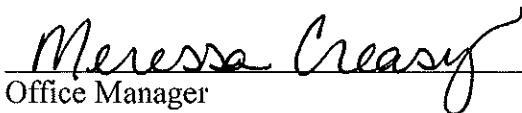
Aaron Eckart made a motion, seconded by Dwight Barnes, to authorize the early release of a sewer lien that has been paid in full, due to extenuating circumstances involving substantial flood damage to the property. The Board further authorized the Office Manager to execute and file the necessary documentation with the Henry County Recorder's Office before the District's regularly scheduled lien release period, with no additional fees assessed to the property owner. Motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



President

ATTEST:



Office Manager