

**GALLATIN GATEWAY COUNTY WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING, January 14, 2026**

Call to Order

President Cary Fox called the Regular Meeting of the Gallatin Gateway County Water & Sewer District (GGCWSWSD) to order at 6:30 pm on January 14, 2026, at the Gallatin Gateway Community Center at 145 Mill Street, Gallatin Gateway, Montana, 59730.

Board Members present: President Cary Fox, Vice President Eric Amend, Member Tim Melton, and Member Ted Border

Staff/Public present: Phil George, General Manager (GM) from Four Corners Water and Sewer District (FCWSD); Amy Ellingson, District Administrator (DA) from FCWSD; Libby Kueneke, Secretary; Ron Page and Tim Szafaryn

Conflict of Interest Disclosure:

No conflict of interest arose.

Approval of Minutes

September, 2025 Board Meeting

The location of the land for sale needs to change from "West" to "East" of The Jump. Under the General Manager's report, "uncovered" needs to be changed to "covered."

Motion: Member Tim Melton moved to approve the Minutes as amended. Member Eric Amend seconded. No public comment occurred. The Minutes were approved 4 -0.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:

No public comment occurred.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Land Appraisal Discussion

The parcel includes 5 Acres located to the east of the Jump. After the appraisal is set, 6 months are given at that appraisal value, after which an update rather than a redo will be required. Property must be sold for at least 90% of the appraised value. GGWSWSD hopes to list while The Jump is listed. The Board President will contact Bridger to handle the appraisal.

Financial Report

Amy Ellingson provided the report.

- The DA reviewed the September to January budget vs. actual expenses.
- The DA reviewed upcoming annexations.
- The Stip Bond status is at \$485,260

General Manager and District Administrators Report

Phil George offered the report.

- 31 covered manholes remain a concern. Step 1 is finding them. The risk is low but if a problem occurs, someone else will have to be called in to remedy it. 300 feet is the normal distance

between covers. As these are covered with hard packed dirt, potholes are created in the uncovering process. Many also have a buried asphalt collar around them. A goal of correcting 6-10 a year would be a reasonable goal. Raising the manholes up with rings would help.

- The GM reviewed the VRU status. 5 VRUs are pending.
- Simplification of the lift station is in planning.
- The generator was repaired with a replaced battery.
- As Eric Amend's end of term is coming up, a portal will come live on the website and Eric Amend has until February 2nd to submit his contract. Tim Melton also needs to apply to formally register on the board. One vacant seat needs to be filled as well. A Resolution has passed to call for the proper election steps needed to make the GGWSD procedures official. The DA will contact these two Members with a link to update their seats.

Contract Renewal Discussion

- GGWSD requested to extend the contract with FCWSD, set to end in April, for two more years. Susan will create the contract and send it to GGWSD.

Board Member Topics

- A request was made to review customers using more VRUs than contracted. The GM reviewed these customers and confirmed penalization is occurring where applicable.
- The GM confirmed all meters are working and checked regularly.
- The GM will report back to the Board on the official interest rate of the state revenue bonds. The GM recommends continuing using excess funds to pay down the bonds.

Public Comment:

A question arose about if a specific trailer in the district is allowed to be a permanent fixture when it does not have a commode connected to GGWSD. The trailer in question will have no restrooms that will connect to GGWSD. A question arose over if district members can put trailers on property that aren't connected to the District. The county decides regulations in these areas.

Next Meeting Date: April 8th, 2026

Adjourn

There being no further business before the Board, the Gallatin Gateway County Water and Sewer District Meeting of January 14, 2026 adjourned at 7:05 p.m.



Libby Kueneke, Secretary