

LAPORTE COUNTY REGIONAL SEWER AND WATER DISTRICT

MEETING MINUTES

January 27, 2026

9:00 a.m.

Time and Place:

The LaPorte County Regional Sewer & Water District monthly board meeting was held on Tuesday, January 27, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. Central Time, at 809 State Street, Room #3, LaPorte, IN 46350, and by Zoom Meeting, Login:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82015295897?pwd=SjllK0FsYnFzM3B5TFZxNUsxQ0xvdz09>

Meeting ID: 820 1529 5897 Password: 060992

A. Call to Order

John Carr called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

Pledge of Allegiance was said.

C. Roll Call

Roll call was taken.

Present: John Carr, Mitch Bishop, Corey Campbell, Mark Danielson, Jerry Jackson, Marcella Kunstek and Amanda Lahners

Absent: Mitch Bishop

Also Present: Daniel Byam, Jones Petrie Rafinski
Steve Carter, O.W. Krohn & Associates
Barry McDonnell, Esq
Jennifer Ransbottom, Jones Petrie Rafinski
Chris Vogeler, Astbury (via zoom)

D. Election of Officers

John Carr indicated the following officer positions were up for election: President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary.

The floor was open for President nominations. Marcella Kunstek nominated John Carr as President. Corey Campbell seconded the nomination. There were no further nominations. All were in favor. John Carr was approved unanimously as President.

The floor was open for Vice President nomination. Marcella Kunstek nominated Corey Campbell as Vice President. Mark Danielson seconded the nomination. There were no

further nominations. All were in favor. Corey Campbell was approved unanimously as Vice President.

The floor was open for Secretary nominations. Marcella Kunstek nominated Jerry Jackson as Secretary. Corey Campbell seconded the nomination. There were no further nominations. All were in favor. Jerry Jackson was approved unanimously as Secretary.

The floor was open for Treasurer nominations. Corey Campbell nominated Marcella Kunstek. Jerry Jackson seconded the nomination. There were no further nominations. All were in favor. Marcella Kunstek was approved unanimously as Treasurer.

E. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the December 16, 2025, Monthly Board meeting were presented. Corey Campbell made a motion to approve the December meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Mark Danielson. All were in favor. The motion carried unanimously.

F. Public Comments:

No public comment

G. Reports

1. Steve Carter – Claims and Finance

Steve Carter provided the financial report for the year ending December 31, 2025

a. Rolling Prairie

i. Ending Total Balance of \$414,936.53

ii. Analysis of Fund Balances

a. Operation & Maintenance (Horizon): \$391,927.45

b. Debt Service Reserve (BONY): \$16,190.50

c. Bond & Interest (BONY): \$6,818.58

b. Hudson Saugany Service Area

i. End of Year Balance: \$1,565,236.17

a. Steve Carter stated receipts for partial bills. Interest income is declining due to funds being spent. The Bond Anticipation Note paid off; therefore, there was a payment of \$502,226.58 made in December for the interest.

b. Construction was \$211,397.35

c. Engineering was \$53,480.45

ii. Monthly Analysis of Fund Balances

a. Operation & Maintenance (Horizon Checking): \$174,082.77

b. Debt Service Reserve (BONY): \$10,719.33

c. Bond & Interest Account (BONY): \$36,178.88

d. Construction Fund (Hoosier Fund): \$987,685.73

e. Construction Fund (BONY): \$356,569.46

- c. Toll Road – Horizon Account.
 - i. End of Year Total Balance: \$228,410.49
 - ii. Net Operating Receipts: \$68,717.52
 - a. Operation & Maintenance (Horizon): \$104,229.82
 - b. Improvement Fund (Hoosier Fund): \$124,180.67
- d. Claims totaling
Steve Carter indicated there was one late claim for Rolling Prairie from Siko for chemicals for odor control in the amount of \$2,814.00. The total request for claims for approval was \$115,047.94.

Mark Danielson made a motion to accept the financial report as presented and claims in the amount of \$115,047.94 as submitted. Corey Campbell seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion was approved unanimously.

2. Astbury Water Technologies

a. Operations

Chris Vogeler indicated there has been discussion regarding Astbury's new contract, which Tom Astbury will be responsible for. Chris Vogeler stated that a correction was made to the DMR of an incorrect flow on December 17 that was submitted to the State and to the EPA.

Jennifer Ransbottom indicated last month that Astbury presented an agreement for an increase to their contract. The Executive Committee discussed the contract and asked Astbury to go with half of the increase. Ken Jones spoke to Tom Astbury and agreed to go 50%. Jennifer Ransbottom will follow up with Tom Astbury to request a new written agreement, as the current one has expired. Barry McDonnell indicated the original and extension of the current agreement lapsed as of October 31, 2025; therefore, good to have a new contract with appropriate dates. The new agreement will be reviewed by Barry McDonnell for presentation at the February meeting.

b. Billings

Jennifer Ransbottom indicated the report was included in the Board packet.

H. JPR District Administrator

1. Variance Invoices for Property Owners

Jennifer Ransbottom indicated working on variances with property owners for additional feet for the grinder station that is allowed.

2. Toll Road – Internet – Proposal/Costs

Jennifer Ransbottom stated the Board had indicated an interest in having internet service at the treatment facility. Included in the Board packet was information from JPR's IT Department for service at the facility and monthly expenses. Jerry Jackson inquired if there were other options besides AT&T. He indicated if connected to Surf

there'd be no connection cost, and it would be \$60/\$70 a month. AT&T appeared very expensive. Jennifer Ransbottom will ask JPR's IT Department to look into other internet services available in the area. Jerry Jackson inquired if SCADA would be connected to the internet service and who does the integration. Jennifer Ransbottom indicated she will discuss the integration with JPR's IT staff.

I. JPR – District Engineer

Dan Byam reported that the project has slowed down because of the weather. TGB installed approximately 2,000 feet of pipe. Selge set a couple of grinders, but not on PayApp's because they have to connect and test before they can bill.

Dan Byam stated the construction report indicates construction is about 40% complete time-wise. Also indicated there are contingencies and variances paid for by the property owners, and changes made to the contingency made via change orders, with about \$300,000 left to be used on future pay orders or potential use of remaining funds at the end of the project.

The update indicates TGB is about a third complete on pipe installation, and Selge is about halfway through as far as pipe installation. Both contractors plan to continue pipe and grinder installation but has been difficult due to the weather conditions.

a. Contract A – TGB Pay App #6

Dan Byam presented Contract A - TGB's Pay App #6 for \$256,261.03. He indicated JPR reviewed all quantities and recommended Board approval for payment.

Mark Danielson made a motion to approve Contract A - TGB's Pay App #6 for \$256,261.03 Amanda Lahners seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion was approved unanimously.

b. Contract B - Selge Pay App #4

Dan Byam presented Contract B - Selge's Pay App #4 for \$370,288.34. He indicated JPR reviewed all quantities and recommended Board approval for payment. Dan Byam noted there was a negative quantity installed for the month of 2 in pipe. This is due to Selge previously built an amount of 2-inch pipe when the pipe was drilled in on the project. In the last pay period they set an ARV station on the 2-inch line and when this is done they subtract the 4 inch of pipe from inside the structure out of their pay items

Corey Campbell made a motion to approve Contract B - Selge's Pay App #4 for \$370,288.34. Mark Danielson seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion was approved unanimously.

c. Contract B – Selge Change Order #5

Dan Byam presented Contract B – Selge’s Change Order #5. This change order is for minor adjustments to grinder stations, replacing some type one with a type two. These changes result in a net deduction of \$4,537.35. JPR recommends issuance of Change Order #5.

Mark Danielson made a motion to approve Contract B, Change Order #5. Jerry Jackson seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion was approved unanimously.

Dan Byam indicated there was no change in land acquisition from last month. A few stragglers are holding out on getting signed easements. JPR will continue to push to obtain signed easements.

Dan Byam indicated that the proposed Phase 2 submittal to SRF is due at the end of March. He indicated Ken Jones, Sr., is working on finding subsidization opportunities, and in doing so, JPR has decided to take a step back to look at alternate designs for Phase 2 to maximize the use of subsidization funds for the rate impact to be where the Board wants it to be. One item that will be looked at will be a reduced scope at Hudson Lake, focusing on the areas immediately around the lake. The reason for the reduced scope is due to SRF informed during the last funding cycle that trying to connect just the remainder of Saugany Lake would unlikely be scored favorably, as Hudson Lake is what drives the favorable funding for this project. The options being looked into are to finish the build-out of Saugany Lake and the area immediately around Hudson Lake, construction of pump station #8, and the force main to pump station #7, and then do a plan expansion at travel plaza 3. The other option is to build out the remaining Saugany Lake because the existing travel plaza 3 plant can handle those flows and then construct a smaller package plant on the southeast side of Hudson Lake. This would avoid the need for pump station #8 and reduce the overall construction cost. Marcella Kunstek inquired when the Build Operate Transfer meetings with contractors would be held. Dan Byam indicated that once a plan is finalized, meetings with contractors regarding Build Operate Transfer for the wastewater treatment plant can be held. He indicated that when the PER is updated in the March meeting and would submit it to SRF before March 31. Barry McDonnell inquired how quickly SRF scores the projects. Dan Byam indicated that results are received by midsummer.

J. Executive Committee - January 20, 2026

- a) Astbury Contract – Ken Jones was able to negotiate a contract increase reduction by 50% for the LaPorte County Regional Sewer District.
- b) Locating Proposal – Jennifer Ransbottom indicated Astbury had provided a Utility Locate Proposal for Rolling Prairie. She stated the District currently has an agreement with Indiana 811. Barry McDonnell noted the proposal was part of the

packet submitted by Astbury, and it has nothing to do with the basic agreement. It is to do services that they are currently not doing.

2. 2026 Budget – Jennifer Ransbottom indicated that a meeting of the Finance Committee (Amanda Lahners, Marcella Kunstek and Mark Danielson with Corey Campbell as an alternate) to create the 2026 Budget will be scheduled. She stated Steve Carter has already started an initial budget.

John Carr appointed the following members to the Executive Committee: Marcella Kunstek, Jerry Jackson, and John Carr, with Corey Campbell as an alternate. The following members were appointed to the Engineering Committee: Jerry Jackson, Corey Campbell, and Mark Danielson, with Mitch Bishop as an alternate.

3. Proposed Phase II Alternatives

K. Engineering Committee

No meeting held.

L. New Business

1. Pre-Agenda Meeting & Attendees – John Carr, Marcella Kunstek, Corey Campbell, Barry McDonnell, Dan Byam, and Jennifer Ransbottom, February 17, 2026, at 9:00 AM Central (10:00 AM Eastern).
2. Next Meeting – February 24, 2026, in person and Zoom/Teams links.

L. Old Business

IFA Regional Planning meeting: The Northwest Region is scheduled for February 25 in Schererville Town Hall, 10 East Joliet Street, at 1:00 – 2:30 PM CST. – Jerry Jackson and Mitch Bishop will be attendees.

M. Adjournment

Marcella Kunstek made a motion to adjourn. Second, by Mark Danielson. All were in favor. The motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:47 AM.