

# LAPORTE COUNTY REGIONAL SEWER AND WATER DISTRICT

## MEETING MINUTES

**March 31, 2026**

**9:00 a.m.**

### **Time and Place:**

The LaPorte County Regional Sewer & Water District monthly board meeting was held on Tuesday, March 31, 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 9:02 a.m.

### **B. Pledge of Allegiance**

Pledge of Allegiance was said.

### **C. Roll Call**

Roll call was taken.

Present: John Carr, Marcella Kunstek, Jerry Jackson, Mitch Bishop, and Amanda Lahners

Absent: Corey Campbell and Mark Danielson

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

### **D. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from February 24, 2026, Monthly Board meeting were presented. Marcella Kunstek made a motion to approve February 24, 2026, meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Amanda Lahners. All were in favor. The motion carried unanimously.

### **E. Public Comments:**

No public comment

**F. Reports**

**1. Steve Carter – Claims and Finance**

Steve Carter provided the financial report for the month ending March 31, 2026

**a. Rolling Prairie**

- i. Receipts for the month: \$14,548.68
- ii. Operating Disbursements: \$19,543.80
- iii. Interest Income: \$317.20
- iv. Loan Payment to the County: \$1,830.00
- v. Total Positive Cash Flow: \$
- vi. Total Ending Balance: \$440,100.34
- vii. Monthly Analysis of Fund Balances
  - a. Operation & Maintenance (Horizon): \$420,292.93
  - b. Debt Service Reserve (BONY): \$16,190.50
  - c. Bond & Interest (BONY): \$3,616.91

**b. Hudson Saugany Service Area**

- i. Receipts for the month: \$5,500.92
- ii. Operating Disbursements: \$34,733.05
- iii. Interest Income: \$4,101.72
- iv. Total Negative Cash Flow: \$
- v. Monthly Analysis of Fund Balances
  - a. Operation & Maintenance (Horizon Checking): \$47,359.20
  - b. Debt Service Reserve (BONY): \$13,868.24
  - c. Bond & Interest Account (BONY): \$14,527.14
  - d. Construction Fund (Hoosier Fund): \$993,739.75
  - e. Construction Fund (BONY): \$353,270.72

**c. Toll Road – Horizon Account.**

- i. Receipts for the month: \$34,357.93
- ii. Operating Disbursements: \$18,366.46
- iii. Interest Income: \$470.69
- iv. Total Positive Cash Flow: \$
- v. Total Ending Balance: \$261,621.61
- vi. Monthly Analysis of Fund Balances
  - a. Operation & Maintenance (Horizon): \$136,679.82
  - b. Improvement Fund (Hoosier Fund): \$124,941.79

**d. Claims totaling**

Steve Carter indicated claims for approval in the amount of \$99,574.46. And further discussed the variances which were deposited into the account for the project in the amount of \$8,194.00. He also transferred previous variance payments from the Rolling Prairie account to the Hudson Saugany account in the amount of \$37,988.70 which were made in 3 deposits. Steve also needs Marci to transfer \$250K from the Hoosier Fund to the Hudson Account to continue to pay the JPR fees and other costs for the project that are not being paid by SRF for Phase I.

Marcella Kunstek made a motion to transfer \$250K from the Hoosier fund to the Horizon Hudson Saugany account as suggested. Jerry Jackson seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion was approved unanimously.

Marcella Kunstek made a motion to approve the transfer of \$37,988.70 from the Rolling Prairie checking account to the Hudson Saugany checking account for the variance payments for the project. Mitch Bishop seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mitch Bishop made a motion to approve the claims and pay the bills in the amount of \$99,574.46. Marcella Kunstek seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion was approved unanimously.

Steve discussed the draft 2026 Budget he prepared. The board had some discussions regarding additional expenses needing to be more defined and separated into categories. The board will review it and come back with any additional comments.

## **2. Astbury Water Technologies**

### **a. Operations**

Chris Vogeler indicated that they have been having problems with the SCADA system at WWTP and that when he contacted SCADA they said the system was outdated. They provided a quote for the upgrade to the system. Jerry Jackson would like to get away from using SCADA in the future but understands for now we need to upgrade what we have.

Jerry Jackson made a motion to approve the quote for the SCADA replacement in the amount of \$2,242.65. Marcella Kunstek seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion was approved unanimously.

- Chris indicated that he had purchased the UV supplies and installed them as required.
- Generator service agreements from vendors were discussed. Chris indicated they had gotten one from Herman & Goetz. Jerry Jackson indicated he would procure a few others and get them to Astbury. Jerry will work with Chris and get those quotes together and review them.
- Water Plant leak issues were discussed. The Toll Road now knows that the flow meter was verified and is working properly. This information was provided to them at the meeting held with Toll Road, Astbury and JPR. Toll Road has dug a couple of locations and has not found the leak currently. They are getting frustrated. The additional billing for the additional water usage, approximately 50K gallons per day is coming, billing is done a month behind, so they have not received a bill yet for all the extra usage.
- The pancake compressor to run the backwash cycles failed this week so Chris will need to get a new one. It will cost around \$120-\$150.

Jerry Jackson made a motion to approve the purchase of a pancake air compressor not to exceed the amount of \$300. Marcella Kunstek seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion was approved unanimously.

- Chris is receiving a quote to replace some of the fluorescent lights in the water plant. He contacted a local electrician to get the proposal and he will bring it to the board next month.
- Jerry Jackson indicated that the analog at Hatfield went out and it is 15-20 years old. They have 2 spares in stock. Don't remember who replaced it last time – probably BL Anderson. You might consider replacing both. Dan Byam will look into it. It can wait until next month. They monitor it every time they go out.

Astbury's contract was received to late for review this month. The board will review it in an executive session or engineering session and discuss it at next month's meeting.

b. Billings

Jennifer Ransbottom indicated the report was included in the Board packet from Astbury. Some liens were filed last month. Copies of late notice letters were included in the board packets. 28 for Rolling Prairie and 9 for Hudson Saugany.

**G. JPR District Administrator**

1. Variance Invoices for Property Owners

Jennifer Ransbottom indicated there is a property owner who is requesting an extension on her variance payment due to a hardship on her part. She is requesting a 90 day extension for payment. Selge is currently in the area and needs to install the grinder at the extended variance location or go back to the original location. The board discussed this situation and agreed to give the property owner the 90 day extension to pay the variance payment with her current hardship.

Jerry Jackson made a motion to allow property owner an additional 90 day extension to pay the variance payment. Amanda Lahners seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion was approved unanimously.

2. Toll Road – Emergency Repair and Water Leak Update

This issue was discussed under agenda item 2a.

**H. JPR – District Engineer**

Dan Byam referenced the Project Update Report, noting that no change orders this month. The project is 50% done at this point. 39% of contingency has been used to date with a remaining balance of \$281,863.45 left in contingency. Quantities install TGB Unlimited has installed about 8,325 feet of pipe, which is about 48% complete, and Selge has installed about 7,962 feet of pipe, which is about 49% complete for a total pipe installed for the project of 48.5%. Selge has installed 17 of the 78 grinders on the project which is about 28% complete of grinders installed.

Dan also updated the Retainage Summary column which shows TGB Contract A which shows TGB total contract amount to date as \$1,906,456.23 and retainage to date of \$95,322.81 for 39.6%. Selge Contract B is total contract amount to date is \$1,293,883.19 and retainage to date of \$64,694.16 for 32.2% of the contract.

1. Hudson/Saugany Project Construction Update

a. Contract A – TGB Pay App #7

Dan Byam presented Contract A - TGB's Pay App #8 for \$114,935.27 for continuation of drilling and purchase of pump station equipment. He indicated JPR reviewed all quantities and recommended Board approval for payment.

Mitch Bishop made a motion to approve Contract A - TGB's Pay App #8 for \$114,935.27. Jerry Jackson seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion was approved unanimously.

b. Contract B - Selge Pay App #5

Dan Byam presented Contract B - Selge's Pay App #6 for \$123,975.85 for installation of a few grinders and pipe being installed. He indicated JPR reviewed all quantities and recommended Board approval for payment.

Marcella Kunstek made a motion to approve Contract B - Selge's Pay App #6 for \$123,975.85. Jerry Jackson seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Proposed Hudson/Saugany Phase II Project**

- a. JPR is conducting SRF PER Updates to ensure that the District remains on SRF's Project Priority List for the next fiscal year. These updates will be submitted to the SRF before March 31<sup>st</sup> to remain compliant with SRF's funding requirements.
- b. JPR has met with the Executive Committee and presented a proposed revised Phase II and Phase III project scope for Hudson/Saugany Lake to maximize SRF scoring and the effectiveness of subsidization. The most cost-effective solution for the Phase II project includes the following:
  - i. The recommended Phase II project includes the construction of a reduced-scope pressure sewer system to serve the areas closest to the Hudson Lake lakefront, the construction of Pump Station No. 8 and associated force main, and a reduced-scope expansion of the TP#3 WWTP.
    1. Expansion of the WWTP facility would bring the rated capacity of the existing plant from 0.080 MGD up to 0.160 MGD and would not require the construction of any new process tankage at the plant site.
    2. This would include the conversion of the Surge Tank into new secondary clarifiers and the conversion of the Sludge

Storage Tank into a new 2<sup>nd</sup> Stage Aeration Basin. The plant was already set up for this expansion when it was initially constructed.

3. Other improvements at the existing TP#3 WWTP would include the construction of a new Headworks Building and Mechanical Screen, Influent Pump Station, Sludge Dewatering System, UV Disinfection System, Replacement of the Existing Blowers, etc.
4. This expansion would allow for the connection of the initial phase of Hudson Lake customers as well as up to 350 EDUs of future expansion.
  - ii. The proposed Phase III project would include the buildout of the remainder of Saugany Lake, the remainder of Hudson Lake, and a WWTP expansion, doubling the capacity to 0.320 MGD.
- c. Phase II cost estimate is \$22 Million and Phase III is \$52 Million at this time based on current cost estimates.
- d. JPR is continuing to pursue subsidization opportunities to make this alternative more favorable, including discussions with Rudy Yakym's office and St. Joseph County.
- e. Dan presented an SRF Asset Management Plan Certification for execution by the District Board.
- f. JPR would also like to request Board Authorization to allow John Carr to sign the updated SRF Application for the proposed revised Phase II and Phase III projects outside of a regular District Board meeting.

Ken Jones from JPR discussed his continued efforts to bring in more funds to the project to offset the rate for property owners. He feels the project will receive the \$5 Million forgivable loan from SRF as it has previously, along with a 35-year loan for pipe only with a smaller 2.75% interest which could go up or down. Ken has successfully applied for funding through Rudy Yakym's office online. The request was for \$4Million, his office indicated they would push for the highest allocation they could get. Ken is talking with St. Joseph County on a cash contribution of an annual allocation and also looking at other options. There is still a funding gap that needs to be filled in order to keep the rates down where the board would like them to be. Inflation has continued to effect the industry and pricing increases for projects.

Jerry Jackson left the meeting at 9:51 a.m.

Ken indicated that if the current funding sources are secured more monies will be still needed to get the rate where the other current phases rate is wanted. Discussions regarding the upgrading of the WWTP and the ongoing upgrades in Phase II and Phase III.

Ken will also being looking at applying with USDA application and considering a joint project as well. A couple of the board members assistance with meetings and reaching

out to help with communicating and requesting additional funds will be needed going forward.

Ken will continue his efforts in putting together some information and reviewing the funding options and analysis of the phases for Hudson Saugany.

Dan indicated that the deadline for SRF application is March 31, 2026, and if the board wants to move forward they will. The board indicated to continue to move forward.

Corey Campbell made a motion to approve Contract B, Change Order #6. Mark Danielson seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion was approved unanimously.

Discussion regarding one property owner who has an exemption on their property for their main property but not on their cottage which has one parcel ID. They are not being cooperative. We could switch to a type 1 grinder, but it is currently a type 2 grinder. It was determined that the Type 2 grinder will remain and to be placed on the neighbor's property who has signed an easement. The board decided to go ahead and stay with the Type 2 grinder and place it on the neighbor's property.

**I. Executive Committee**

1. None

**J. Engineering Committee**

None

**L. New Business**

1. 350 E. Lift Station Pump Follow Up – Jerry sent off for repairs.
2. Pre-Agenda Meeting & Attendees – John Carr, Marcella Kunstek, Corey Campbell, Barry McDonnell, Dan Byam, and Jennifer Ransbottom, next meeting is April 21, 2026, at 9:00 AM Central (10:00 AM Eastern).
3. Next Meeting – April 28, 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. – Will ask Jerry Jackson if he attended.

**M. Adjournment**

Marcella Kunstek made a motion to adjourn at 10:15 a.m. Second by Mitch Bishop. All were in favor. The motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 AM.

J:\Projects\2019 Projects\2019-0071 Laporte\Administrative Tasks\Board Packets\2026\4-28-2026\D.1. 2026-03-31 Meeting Minutes.doc