

LAPORTE COUNTY REGIONAL SEWER AND WATER DISTRICT

MEETING MINUTES

May 26, 2026

9:00 a.m.

Time and Place:

The LaPorte County Regional Sewer & Water District monthly board meeting was held on Tuesday, May 26, 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

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

C. Roll Call

Roll call was taken.

Present: John Carr, Mark Danielson, Amanda Lahners, and Marcella Kunstek

Absent: Mitch Bishop, Corey Campbell, and Jerry Jackson

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

D. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the April 23, 2026, Monthly Board meeting were presented. Marcella Kunstek made a motion to approve the April 23, 2026, meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Mark Danielson. All were in favor. The motion carried unanimously.

E. Public Comments:

Michael Caufield, 5641 E. Ostego Trail – I have not spoken here before, so if any of my questions have been answered before, I apologize in advance. A couple of things that are

weighing heavily on my mind right now is around Saugany Lake. In the last 3 years, we have had several power outages. Some of which have lasted 18 hours or longer. I do not know what happens once the Saugany project is completed. What do we do if we are unable to use water, sewage, or other things for that length of time? I know there is a reservoir in the grinders, but what I don't know is what happens when that reservoir fills. Yes, we are a family of two, but 18 hours is a long time to hold it. If it overflows, is there damage to the property? I have not heard an answer that I really understand. Second, we are only at that residence 100 days out of the year. I know we do not have a way to monitor the input of water and for the output, but there sure seems to me that there ought to be a way to measure the throughput through each of the grinders and if there is no throughput in the grinders then those people are not there and so they shouldn't be forced to pay a full month for somebody that is there full time. The cost that is being charged right now is roughly three times what I pay in Naperville for a much larger residence and for a full-time opportunity. The last thing is that during those power outages, they were fairly widespread, and when it came on, it came on in different sections at different times. The problem I have with this is that we don't have any way to know when the power is on in the grinders. So, when the power goes off, it is off. But when the power comes on, we don't know if the grinder is on because there is no way for us to tell. I don't understand why the grinders don't have century lights that give an indication that there is power. That would be a help. Thank you for listening, and I hope that hasn't been repeated questions.

Mark Yoder, 5791 E. Saugana Trail – I looked on the internet what the normal costs are in Indiana per month for a sewer system. The range was \$40-\$85 a month. This is going to start at \$116, which is pretty crazy. As part of that, the following are included in your cost estimates for the financing, and that is your going to get some overflow charges submitted from the engineering firm. There was at the last meeting and at the prior meeting; were these all factored into the equation, or is that going to push up the monthly assessments? Second, I know a civil engineer very well, and a grinder system is substandard for what's available. He sent me some information from a maintenance schedule perspective. Will our monthly assessment cover annually a professional inspection of the motor, oil levels, the grease, the debris, the buildup, and test for a high water alarm? Is there an alarm on the grinders? Every 3 years, a major system overhaul and preventive parts replacement, such as seals, impellers, and worn grinding blades for the grinders, will be done, and part of the monthly cost. Finally, they never turn off, and getting to the former gentleman's point, the majority of the people that are forced to hook up to this will not be there for the majority of the year. What happens to the grinders if they are stagnant for periods of time? Will that cause additional problems?

Tim Greve, 5589 E. Wawasee Trail – It has been a while since I attended a meeting, and it has been a while since I have spoken, but I just want to know, plain and simple, what we are hearing is that they already spent \$22M on the project and that they are \$44M short. Is that correct? John Carr indicated he did not think those numbers were quite accurate. I don't know the exact numbers. Barry McDonnell indicated no, they are not accurate. There is money to finish Phase 1. Mr. Greve asked what about the people who

are in Phases 2 and 3. Barry McDonnell indicated that he did not want to get into a back-and-forth during public comment, but Phase 1 is all this Board has approved and financed at this point. Mr. Greve said so for those in phases 2 and 3, we just sit back and wait, there is no idea when or if it will be finished.

Gary McCloud, 7601 N Huron Trail – Last meeting, I addressed the fact that there's a big electrical box that has been placed in front of my house, not placed by a pole or on the side, but in front of my house. After the meeting, when I spoke to the engineer, he indicated it was placed there because he did not think it would matter. He didn't think I would mind where it was. Obviously, I mind where it is, and I know that it's not an insignificant cost to have to move something like that, but I don't want to be tasked with having to move it once I can build out of my property now that I don't have a septic field next to where that box is in front of. I don't know if there are steps that I can find out from the Board who I can talk to about this. Jennifer Ransbottom stated there is a process to move the box, but it would be at his expense. Mr. McCloud stated that, from what I understand, it would be at my expense. Mark Danielson asked the engineer to give Mr. McCloud the information he needed for what he wanted to do. Dan Byam asked Mr. McCloud to get with Dave Williams, who will get with the contractor. My other question from what I understood for doing the project was cleanliness of the lake and to ensure we are not infecting it with anything that comes out of the septic systems, my only statement is I am not on the lake or the many others that are going to have their septic's removed and if we are only at Phase 1 and we don't have securing to go to Phase 2 or 3 it feels like there is not much of point for me to have mine done when all the other concerns are still going to be out there for a project that never gets completed.

F. Reports

1. Steve Carter – Claims and Finance

Steve Carter indicated for the Board's consideration the financials for March, which were sent a few days after the last meeting. He indicated he would report on April's financials unless there were questions regarding the March financials. The financials for the month ending April 30, 2026:

a. Rolling Prairie

- i. Receipts for the month: \$16,637.28
- ii. Operating Disbursements: \$17,397.58
- iii. Interest Income: \$319.24
- iv. Two Loan Payments to the County: \$3,660.00. There were 2 payments due to March's was omitted.
- v. Total Ending Balance: \$406,303.75
- vi. Monthly Analysis of Fund Balances a. Operation & Maintenance (Horizon): \$383,816.44
- vii. Debt Service Reserve (BONY): \$16,190.50
- viii. Bond & Interest (BONY): \$6,296.81

b. Hudson Saugany Service Area

- i. Receipts for the month: \$6,161.44
- ii. Operating Disbursements: \$538.79
- iii. Interest Income: \$2,687.29

- iv. Bond Proceeds from SRF: \$238,911.00
- vi. Project Expenses: \$89,604.00
- vii. Construction on the 2 Contracts: \$238,911.00
- viii. Ending Cash Balance: \$925,962.41
- ix. Monthly Analysis of Fund Balances
- x. Operation & Maintenance (Horizon Checking): \$124,078.10
- xi. Debt Service Reserve (BONY): \$16,989.75
- xii. Bond & Interest Account (BONY): \$29,615.57
- xiii. Construction Fund (Hoosier Fund): \$990,881.49
- xiv. Construction Fund (BONY): \$749,180.78
- c. Toll Road – Horizon Account.
 - i. Receipts for the month: \$70,696.26
 - ii. Operating Disbursements: \$27,222.87
 - iii. Interest Income: \$532.02
 - iv. Total Positive Cash Flow: \$44,005.40
 - v. Total Ending Balance: \$286,271.55
 - vi. Monthly Analysis of Fund Balances
 - vii. Operation & Maintenance (Horizon): \$160,611.04
 - viii. Improvement Fund (Hoosier Fund): \$125,660.61
- d. Claims

Claims for the month totaling \$103,388.28 for all three service territories

Marcella Kunstek made a motion to approve the Claims as presented. Amanda Lahners seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion was approved unanimously.

2. Astbury Water Technologies

a. Operations

Chris Vogeler reported that Lucas Electric has completed the installation of new LED lights at both buildings. SCADATA installed the new computer telemetry control. System. The compressor used to control the iron filter backwash has been replaced. Planned upgrades to the wastewater treatment plan have begun. Astbury is coordinating with the construction contractors to minimize disruption and maintain compliance through the project.

b. Billing

Jennifer Ransbottom stated that Astbury's billing information was included in the Board's packet.

G. JPR District Administrator

1. Variance Invoices for Property Owners

Jennifer Ransbottom reported she had a variance payment for deposit.

2. Toll Road – Emergency Repair and Water Leak Update

Jennifer Ransbottom reported that the Toll Road over usage water charges invoice will be sent to the ITRCC. She stated that the amount of overcharges was noted on

the agenda, and the Certified letter that will be sent with the invoice was included in the Board packet.

H. JPR – District Engineer

1. Hudson/Saugany Project Construction Update

Dan Byam reported that the contract timeline is about 60% complete. The remaining balance for contingency and variance is \$395,000 and will be available for any future change orders. As a result of the jack and bore installation, a change order is expected in the coming month. Contract A has 76% of all pipe installed, and Contract B has 65% of all pipe installed, and about 50% of the grinders are complete.

a. Contract A – TGB Pay App #10

Dan Byam presented Contract A - TGB's Pay App #10 for \$322,234.26. He indicated JPR reviewed all quantities and recommended Board approval for payment.

Marcella Kunstek made a motion to approve Contract A - TGB's Pay App #10 for \$322,234.26. Mark Danielson seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion was approved unanimously.

b. Contract A – TGB Change Order # 5

Dan Byam presented Contract A – TGB Change Order #5 for a net deduction of \$95,722.06 for the following items: breaker disconnect in the digital phase converter, 7 additional force main tracer towers. TGB ran into one 18-in drain tile repair, which was deducted from the project last month. There was a portion of installation along 800 that had subsurface materials laced with Portland cement, which could not be drilled through, for which they had to do exploratory digging in the County Right-of-Way and had to swing the pipe to the other side of the road. Because of this, an additional 22 yards of pavement had to be done. The final item was \$110,000 for exploratory digging by the railroad, which was calculated on an hourly basis. TGB was concerned about the responsiveness of working with the railroad inspectors. As it turned out, this was able to be worked out efficiently; therefore, 60 of the 120 hours that were deducted would be put back into the project. He indicated JPR reviewed all quantities and recommended Board approval for payment.

Marcella Kunstek made a motion to approve Contract A – TGB's Change Order #5 for a net deduction of \$95,722.06. Amanda Lahners seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion was approved unanimously.

c. Contract B – Selge Pay App #8

Dan Byam indicated that Pay App #8 for \$443,843.83. He indicated JPR reviewed all quantities and recommended Board approval for payment.

Marcella Kunstek made a motion to approve Contract A - TGB's Pay App #10 for \$443,843.83. Mark Danielson seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion was approved unanimously.

d. Contract B – Selge Change Order #8

Dan Byam indicated that Change Order #8 is a net deduction of \$16,885.25 for the modification of grinder station locations based on discussions with property owners.

Marcella Kunstek made a motion to approve Change Order #8. Amanda Lahners seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion was approved unanimously.

Dan Byam addressed the following comments raised earlier in the meeting during Public Comment.

- The grinder stations are all owned and operated by the District, not by individual property owners. All grinder stations are equipped with alarms and lights, so if there is an issue with the pump, an alarm will go off. The District Operator and Collection Operating staff will know when the power goes out and will be driving around the area regularly to check on the pumps. If an alarm is going off and the property owner is not there, this is when it will be caught. The power is provided by the District; the homeowner is not providing that power.
- Operation and Maintenance of the pumps is factored into the current monthly rate, as well as a certain number of grinder replacements per month. So if there is an issue with seal failures or impeller wear, the defective pump is pulled, and a new one is put in, and the old pump is taken for repair or replacement, which is the District's responsibility.
- The question regarding sewage back-up into houses if the grinder stations are not operating. During customer connections, the property owners will be required to install a backwater check valve in the 6-in lateral coming from their property. If the grinder fails to start and sewage starts backing up the gravity line coming in will stop at that property line and will not back up into the house. This is part of the connection cost when installing the gravity lateral out to the grinder. The force mains also have a check valve installed on them that is installed by the District that will prevent the sewage that is under pressure in the mains and in the right-of-way from backing up into the pits; therefore, there is a check valve on each side of the pit. In fact the grinders have a check value in them as well as a curb stop assembly.
- The cleanliness of Saugany Lake is only a portion of the need for this project. The primary concern is for the aquifer that the resident share as their source of drinking water. The idea is that the system is intended to prevent your neighbors from polluting your drinking water. The cleanliness of the lake is a secondary result.

- The District has not given up securing funding for future phases of the project. JPR will continue to work with the Board to obtain additional subsidization to assist with monthly rates going forward. Not giving up on Phases 2 or 3, still forging forward to find the subsidization.
- Over the last month, TGB and Selge have indicated they have seen vandalism of force main and lateral pipe on site in the form of small diameter holes being drilled into the pipe that is sitting on spools or resting along the right-of-way before installation. The contractors managed to catch several pieces of this before it was installed. The issue is they are not sure how much was totally installed with holes already in them, so when it is time to pressure test and may run into stretches of pipe that will not be able to hold pressure, in which case the contractors may have to go back and make some repairs. Both contractors have filed police reports and are following up.

Ken Jones, CEO of JPR, provided an update on fundraising for future phases. He stated they have been engaged in some untraditional procurement that is ongoing and are still looking for resources. The State Revolving Loan Fund was notified that we are asked to delay Phase 2 until FY28, which means the project will be reactivated in 2027, and asked that the project status remain on the project priority list. SRF indicated the status has not changed and understands that areas of additional money are being looked into for the project. There is currently only one substantial resource from the Federal Government through the US EPA, and they are continuing to support the state revolving loan funds. A direct request for funding through the District's state representative is moving through the process, and it is unknown if it is going to happen or when it is going to happen. Other opportunities are also being looked into.

I. Executive Committee - 2026 Budget Information
Ongoing

J. Finance Committee
No Meeting

K. Engineering Committee
No report

L. New Business

1. Pre-Agenda Meeting & Attendees – John Carr, Marcella Kunstek, Corey Campbell, Barry McDonnell, Dan Byam, and Jennifer Ransbottom, next meeting is June 16, 2026, at 9:00 AM Central (10:00 AM Eastern)
2. Next Meeting – June 23, 2026, in person and Zoom/Teams links.

M. Old Business

1. Rolling Prairie Lift Station SCADA Follow Up - Jerry Jackson
2. Flow Meter Repair – 1083 E SR 2 – LaPorte Village Manufactured Home Community (Account #M014173-0)

N. Adjournment

Marcella Kunstek made a motion to adjourn at 9:42 a.m. Second by Mark Danielson. All were in favor. The motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:42 AM.

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