

CWEP

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The Carthage Water & Electric Plant Board met in regular session April 9th, 2026, 12:30 p.m. at the CWEP Office, 627 W. Centennial, Carthage, MO.

Board:

Brian Schmidt -Vice President
 Ron Ross- Member
 Darren Collier - President
 Jack Perkins - Liaison

Sid Teel - Secretary
 Tom Garrison – Member
 Mark Gier – Member

Staff:

Chuck Bryant-General Manager
 Cassandra Ludwig-General Counsel
 Jason Peterson-Director of IT & Broadband
 Megan Kirby- Executive Assistant

Jason Choate-Director of Water Services
 Kelli Nugent/CFO
 Kevin Emery-Director of Power Services
 Stephanie Howard-Economic Development Manager

Others present: Accountant Mandy Bates; Accountant Ben Schwarting; Accountant Jamie Jadwin

President Collier called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO THE AGENDA: None.

CITIZENS PARTICIPATION PERIOD: None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion by Teel and seconded by Schmidt to approve the minutes as presented of the regular meeting of February 19th, 2026, passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENTS:

A motion by Ross and seconded by Teel to approve disbursements for February in the amount of \$5,447,814.16, passed unanimously.

A motion by Garrison and seconded by Gier to approve disbursements for March in the amount of \$5,007,323.70, passed unanimously.

REPORT OF OPERATIONS:

Director of Power Services Emery reported net position was over budget due to a couple different factors. Revenues were strong due mainly to the purchase power adjustment that was affected by extended outages with Sikeston, Plum Point, and Dogwood that started in the fall.

Purchase Power energy expenses were under budget due to receiving some of the adjustments for Plum Point and Dogwood being down in recent months. He noted Purchase power demand expenses were over budget due to unbudgeted people's electric expenses and timing differences. He reported Plum Point returned to service on March 8th.

Director of Water Services Choate reported water sales were negative 1%. Plant and distribution utilities were over due to the south tower being out of service for an interior painting. He noted wastewater sales were positive 2.45%, mostly from industrial. He noted sludge hauling started again in February. He noted the overall change in net position was positive.

Director of IT & Broadband Services Peterson reported operating revenues for the month were over. He noted operating expenses were under budget for the month and year to date. He noted the expansion project out on North Country Club Road has been completed.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT:

CFO Nugent presented the February financials to the Board. She reported combined operating revenues exceeded budget and combined operating expenses were over budget for the month and year to date.

A motion by Gier and seconded by Schmidt to approve the February 2026 financials passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Consideration of Resolution 2026.04: Approving Authorized Signatures

GM Bryant presented to the Board, Resolution 2026.04: Approving authorized signatures. The authorized signatories of financial documents on behalf of CWEP are to include the following: General Manager, Chuck Bryant; Chief Financial Officer, Kelli Nugent; CWEP Board Vice President, Brian Schmidt and Senior Utility Accountant, Mandy Bates.

A motion by Ross and seconded by Garrison to approve Resolution 2026.04: a resolution of the CWEP Board to approve authorized signatures for institutions holding CWEP financial accounts, passed unanimously. Schmidt was present in the meeting but abstained from the vote.

2. Consideration to Purchase a Wastewater Drive Unit for East Grit Chamber

General Manager Bryant noted a request for approval to proceed with the purchase of a new drive unit for the East Grit Chamber at CWEP's Wastewater Treatment Plant. Bryant reported due to the technical nature of this specialized equipment, obtaining competitive quotes would require disassembly, evaluation, and reassembly of the existing unit. Accordingly, this purchase falls within an exemption from competitive bidding under CWEP's Purchasing Policy.

JCI Industries, Inc., which specializes in this type of equipment and is familiar with CWEP's wastewater system, has proposed a new replacement unit at a cost of \$58,730.00, compared to an estimated rebuilding cost of \$47,465.00. With the technical complexity of the project and the relatively minor price difference, a new replacement unit offers greater reliability and lower operational risk.

A motion by Schmidt and seconded by Garrison to proceed with the purchase of a new drive unit for the East Grit Chamber from JCI Industries, Inc., in the amount of \$58,730.00, passed unanimously.

3. Consideration of bids for Well 17 Pump and Motor Upgrade

General Manager Bryant reported the water services team have been seeking options to increase the pumping capacity at Well 17, enabling it to manage the south pressure district for most of the year without pumping water from the pumphouse. A proposal was requested and received from Flynn Drilling Company in the amount of \$55,515.00, offering a 16 stage all stainless steel pump and a 150hp motor to increase output by approximately 100gmp.

A motion by Ross and seconded by Teel to award this purchase in accordance with the CWEP Well Maintenance Contract agreement between CWEP and Flynn Drilling Company, passed unanimously.

4. Consideration of Integrated Resource Plan Consultants

General Manager Bryant reported CWEP is requesting approval to continue engagement with an Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) consultant. GM Bryant provided an overview of the IRP process, noting that an IRP is a long-term planning tool used to evaluate and identify the most cost-effective and reliable strategies for meeting CWEP's future energy needs. GM Bryant presented information regarding the services provided by Black & Veatch and their ongoing role in supporting CWEP's IRP development.

A motion by Schmidt and seconded by Ross to approve the continued engagement with Black & Veatch as CWEP's IRP Consultant, passed unanimously.

5. Consideration of Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget

General Manager Bryant and staff presented a budget draft for fiscal year 2026-2027. Board members discussed wages, rate adjustments, ongoing infrastructure needs, major items including revenues, operating expenses, capital expenditures, cash reserve projections and reviewed cost of service modules. GM Bryant presented a wage adjustment up to 3.8% to help keep in line with market. He noted this will be a 2.4% cost of living and a 1.4% merit increase to equal the 3.8%.

A motion by Ross and seconded by Schmidt to approve the proposed CWEP Fiscal Year 2026-2027 budget including the 3.8% wage adjustment and rate adjustments as presented, for presentation to the Carthage City Council, passed unanimously.

6. Consideration of Revisions to CWEP's Salary Administration Guidelines

General Manager Bryant and staff presented the revisions to CWEP's Salary Administration Guidelines Policy which involves adjusting salary grades up to 2.4% to help keep in line with market.

A motion by Schmidt and seconded by Garrison to approve amending CWEP's Salary Administration Guidelines Policy as presented, passed unanimously.

STAFF REPORTS:

GM Bryant announced CWEP has once again received the diamond level RP3 award from APPA, which is the highest level available. He noted this is an incredible achievement which involves teamwork from many different departments to complete. Bryant also commended the work of all staff who contribute to the budget creation process and thanked the board for the great questions asked during the budget presentation.

CFO Nugent thanked the departments for their help with the budget, thanking GM Bryant for encouraging each department and employees to take ownership of their work. She noted that without everyone's input, the budget process would not be as successful as it was.

General Counsel/Dir. of Customer Relations Ludwig announced that CWEP has created a new customer assistance program, called CWEP C.A.R.E.S. (Customer Assistance for Reliable Essential Services). She noted CWEP will work with the Economic Security office in Joplin for acceptance, evaluation, and awarding of funds. Ludwig noted the fund is open and they are now collecting money and that applications would open in the future.

Economic Development Manager Howard thanked the crews who spent time with Schreibers over the holiday weekend helping them with an internal issue. She also thanked the employees

who recently assisted one of the Leggett & Platt branches locate a water leak in the basement of their facility.

Dir. of Power Services Emery noted several linemen will be heading to Jefferson City on Monday, April 13, to celebrate Missouri's Lineworker Appreciation Day.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

President Collier applauded the recent RP3 designation and thanked staff for their hard work with the budget. He also noted the budget will be presented to the council budget committee on May 13 and encouraged everyone to attend.

At 5:40 p.m. a motion was made by Schmidt and seconded by Teel to adjourn the meeting.

President – Darren Collier

Secretary – Sid Teel