Meeting Minutes

BOARD FOR FINANCING WATER PROJECTS

May 20, 2026

9:00 am

Bonnie B. Bryan Conference Room
901 South Stewart Street, 1st floor
Carson City, NV 89701

Held virtually using Microsoft Teams:
Meeting ID: 217 707 950 084 88

Members present:

Bruce Scott, Chair

Andrew Belanger, Vice Chair

Jeremy Hutchings

Mike Workman

Abbe Yacoben

Brendon Grant

Legal counsel present:

Katie Armstrong, Deputy Attorney General

Public present:

Cody Black, Shaw Engineering

Derek Starkey, Shaw Engineering

Tom Scott, Bureau of Land Management

Bridget Harris, RCAC

Elise Reynoso, Esmeralda County

Susan Dudley, Esmeralda County

Raymond Khoury, Coyote Crossing Water Well Association

NDEP staff present:

Benjamin Miller

Sheryl Fontaine

Melissa Starr

Matt Livingston

Chris Flores

Relinda Hawxhurst

Daniel Morgan

Ross Cooper

Cara Miller

Karrie Bennallack, Coyote Crossing Water Well Association

Joe Davis, Moapa Valley Water District

Stephanie Salleroli, City of Henderson

Nate Cardinal, Nye County School District

Tina Rodriguez, Orovada GID

Don Mertens, Orovada GID

Mike Anderson, Esmeralda County

Adrian Roberts, Esmeralda County

Rachael Holt, Esmeralda County

Board for Financing Water Projects regular meeting

1) Call to order

Chairman Bruce Scott opened the meeting. Chairman Scott invited introductions from board members and the public.

2) Establish quorum

Chairman Scott established a quorum as the required number of board members were present.

3) Public Comment

There was no public comment.

4) Approval of minutes from February 18, 2026, regular meeting

Board Member Hutchings asked that his last name be corrected in the minutes. Vice Chairman Belanger moved to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Board Member Yacoben. The motion carried unanimously.

5) Capital Improvements Grant Program Funding Update

Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) representative Benjamin Miller reported that as of May 4, 2026, the Capital Improvements Grant Program held $17,432,085.98, with $26,801.50 reserved for administration and $17,963,251.44 committed to open projects. The program is over committed by $557,966.96; the over commitment will be resolved by Treasurer's Interest received and potential de-obligation of project funds. A bond issuance request in the amount of $16,200,000 has been submitted for SFY 2027. NDEP estimates receiving $745,907.63 in Treasurer's Interest through December 2026. The program will have an uncommitted balance of $16,387,940.68 in December 2026. A list of applications has already been received for the Board's consideration later this year.

Chairman Scott asked about the City of Henderson grant and when draws will begin. Mr. Miller explained that draws are required quarterly and the first draw is expected in July 2026. Chairman Scott pointed out that the staff report reflected an agreement date of 2025, but it should be 2026.

6) Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Update

Mr. Miller stated that as of May 4, 2026, the DWSRF held $142,165,924 in the state's account, had $105,656,771 in federal grant funds available to draw, and $28,474,720 in pending grant applications. Of that, $6,966,675 is held in reserve to satisfy bond debt service requirements, giving the fund $269,330,740 in cash available for loans. Existing commitments total $150,584,999, with $5,165,270 on this meeting agenda and $54,327,105 in projects under discussion, resulting in $210,077,374 in committed and potential projects.

EPA has requested that Nevada de-obligate grant funds for the Lead Service Line Program that are not committed or being spent. The State is planning to de-obligate the majority of the grant funds, retaining enough for the one project that is on the DWSRF priority list.

Vice Chairman Belanger asked about the cash flow model in the staff report, noting that incoming grant funds are significantly reduced in upcoming years. Mr. Miller explained that FFY 2026 is the last year of grants from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). The base grants will continue, but with Congressionally Directed Spending being taken off the national SRF base allocations, NDEP anticipates a potentially significant decrease in grant funding.

Chairman Scott asked if there was any information from EPA about additional emerging contaminant funding. Mr. Miller explained that there have been no indications that EPA will extend the funding at this time.

Chairman Scott asked if there had been any changes to the types of projects the lead service line grants can fund. Mr. Miller explained that there have been no changes to the definition of a lead service line.

7) Nevada Drinking Water Priority List – Effective May 2026

Mr. Miller presented the DWSRF Project Priority List - Effective May 2026. The ranking reflects the policies and goals of NDEP regarding the use of the DWSRF.

The priority list currently includes 183 projects; 10 new projects added and 18 removed due to completion. There are 150 projects designated as disadvantaged and 151 considered small systems.

Board Member Yacoben asked if there was anything that staff felt was inefficient or if a project was in the wrong order based on the current ranking. Mr. Miller explained that the ranking criteria were updated in 2022 with the introduction of the IIJA grants and that projects are ranked appropriately based on their specific category and their disadvantaged status.

Chairman Scott asked whether there is any regulatory mechanism to move the Class I and II projects into the program for financial assistance and if there is anything the Board can or should be doing differently in that regard. Mr. Miller explained that most projects in those categories are already receiving funding from the program and staff continues to work with the entities that are not to secure funding for the remainder. The program does offer technical assistance to entities to assist with meeting the requirements to come into compliance and qualify for funding.

Board Member Yacoben moved to approve the Nevada DWSRF Priority List - Effective May 2026. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Belanger. The motion carried unanimously.

8) Nye County School District – Amargosa Elementary School Arsenic Treatment

NDEP staff recommended that the Board approve a $1,369,900 project loan commitment to Nye County School District for the Amargosa Elementary School Arsenic Treatment System. Matthew Livingston presented the staff's technical recommendation and Chris Flores presented the staff's financial review. The estimated project cost is $1,369,900 to be funded as a principal forgiveness loan. Mr. Miller brought to the Board's attention that they have previously approved funding for this system and that those funds were de-obligated because the chosen treatment method was causing issues with the school's septic system.

Chairman Scott for asked for an explanation from the system. Nate Cardinal, a representative of Nye County School District, explained that there are approximately 140 students and 20 staff members associated with the school. The connections include five modular buildings and four stick-built buildings. Chairman Scott asked about the arsenic level; Mr. Cardinal stated the arsenic levels are between 15 and 20 parts per billion. Chairman Scott asked if there were any meters on the system; Mr. Cardinal stated there were no meters as the system only serves the school.

Board Member Hutchings asked whether the intertie on the system was for fire-flow. Mr. Cardinal explained that the intertie between the school and one of the county buildings is for fire-flow and redundancy.

Chairman Scott expressed concern about a 100% principal forgiveness loan, and stated that the Board may discuss this at length in a future meeting.

Board Member Workman expressed concern about the technical capacity of the system and if they had back up operators available when necessary. Mr. Cardinal stated that they had a contract operator that could assist when necessary, as well as other operators out of Pahrump and Las Vegas if needed.

Vice Chairman Belanger moved to approve Resolution D08-0526 Nye County School District for the Amargosa Elementary School Arsenic Treatment System Loan Commitment. The motion was seconded by Board Member Yacoben. The motion carried unanimously.

9) Orovada General Improvement District – Tank and Transmission Line

NDEP staff recommended that the Board approve a $1,499,974.44 project loan commitment to Orovada General Improvement District (GID) for their tank and transmission line project. Mr. Livingston presented the staff's technical recommendation and Ms. Flores presented the staff's financial review. The estimated project cost is $1,499,974.44 to be funded as a principal forgiveness loan.

Chairman Scott asked if Orovada GID was separate from Humbolt County or if Humboldt County was managing the system. Ms. Flores stated that the GID was a separate fund within Humboldt County. Chairman Scott also observed that the staff report lists unrestricted cash and suggested that the Board would like to see restricted cash listed in the staff report as well, to ensure they have reserves for equipment replacement.

Chairman Scott expressed concern about meters that are not read year-round or tracking water use accurately. Vice Chairman Belanger concurred with the statement regarding meters. Vice Chairman Belanger also noted the importance of the community notifying their congressional representatives of the importance of this funding.

Tina Rodriguez, a representative of Orovada GID, commented that they do have a plan to replace the meters, and that there are meters that are not read in the winter months when they are frozen, but they do calculate the usage at the next meter read and bill for the appropriate usage at that time. Ms. Rodriguez thanked the Board and staff, as well as Rural Community Assistance Corporation, for all of their assistance in bringing this project forward.

Tom Scott, a representative of the Bureau of Land Management, stated that they will be providing an impact fee to Orovada GID for the water to be provided to the new fire house.

Board Member Workman moved to approve Resolution D09-0526 Orovada General Improvement District for their redundant tank and transmission line loan commitment. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Belanger. The motion carried unanimously.

10) Esmeralda County – Goldfield Town Water Transmission Line Replacement and Tank Rehabilitation

NDEP staff recommended the Board approve a $2,230,562.27 project loan commitment to Esmeralda County for the Goldfield transmission line replacement and tank rehabilitation. Mr. Livingston presented the staff's technical recommendation and Ms. Flores presented the staff's financial review. The estimated project cost is $2,230,562.27, to be funded as a principal forgiveness loan from the DWSRF.

Cody Black from Shaw Engineering, representing Esmeralda County, stated that this is the final section of the pipeline that needs to be replaced, and the tank rehabilitation is needed due to the age of the tank.

Commissioner Holt from Esmeralda County thanked the Board and staff for their assistance in funding this project.

Board Member Yacoben moved to approve Resolution D10-0526 Esmeralda County for the Goldfield transmission line replacement and tank rehabilitation loan commitment. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Belanger. The motion carried unanimously.

11) Coyote Crossing Water Well Association – Booster Pump

NDEP staff recommended the Board approve a $64,832.92 project loan commitment to Coyote Crossing Water Well Association for their booster pump. Mr. Livingston presented the staff's technical recommendation and Ms. Flores presented the staff's financial review. The estimated project cost is $64,832.92, to be funded as a principal forgiveness loan from the DWSRF.

Chairman Scott asked for clarification on the source of water; Mr. Livingston confirmed that the source is a well.

Coyote Crossing representatives Raymond Khoury and Karrie Bennallack provided an overview of the system at the request of Chairman Scott.

Vice Chairman Belanger asked if any consideration was given to consolidation with the municipal system. Daniel Morgan, with NDEP, commented that Las Vegas Valley Water District does have water lines in the area and recommended that Coyote Crossing stay an independent system at this time. Vice Chairman Belanger asked if Coyote Crossing had revocable or irrevocable water rights; staff did not have an answer but will look into this matter.

Chairman Scott asked for clarification about the planned use for the requested funds; Mr. Khoury clarified that the funds are to bring the system in compliance. Brendon Grant, with NDEP's Bureau of Safe Drinking Water, confirmed that the work being proposed will bring the system into compliance.

Vice Chairman Belanger asked for clarification regarding why the funds are designated as principal forgiveness; Mr. Miller clarified that the project was designated as principal forgiveness due to the relatively small project cost, and that underwriting a traditional loan would raise the cost substantially. The project was moved forward with a technical memo as a preliminary engineering report would exceed the cost of the project. Any future funding requests would require a preliminary engineering report with consolidation being an alternative that is evaluated.

Mr. Grant commented that there are other found systems in the Las Vegas Valley. The Board asked staff to work on a long-term plan to address potential consolidation options for future found systems.

Board Member Workman moved to approve Resolution D11-0526 Coyote Crossing Water Well Association for their booster pump loan commitment. The motion was seconded by Board Member Yacoben. Vice Chairman Belanger abstained from the vote. The motion carried unanimously.

12) Capital Improvements Grant Match Scales

NDEP staff recommended the Board approve the Capital Improvements Grant Eligibility Scales. Mr. Miller presented the staff's recommendation. The grant eligibility scales were updated at the Board's request to simplify the calculations and make it easier for recipients to determine their eligibility amounts.

Chairman Scott asked for clarification about the program the eligibility scales apply to; Mr. Miller clarified that the eligibility scales only apply to the Capital Improvements Grant Program.

Vice Chairman Belanger asked if the point deduction listed in the scales is based on past Board policies. Mr. Miller confirmed that the possible deductions are based on past Board policies and on verifiable facts, and therefore would not be considered subjective. Vice Chairman Belanger further asked if bias was built into the formulas for mean household income as southern Nevada heavily influences the state's mean household income. Ms. Flores clarified that the revised points ratios were kept consistent with the previous scale. Mr. Miller further clarified that the mean household income is based on the project area not the entity's service area.

Vice Chairman Belanger asked for additional clarification regarding the Board's authority to require match for eligible recipients and irrigations districts as it is not specifically stated in statute. Katie Armstrong, with the Attorney General's Office, confirmed that the Board has authority to require a match.

Vice Chairman Belanger moved to approve Resolution G12-0526 Capital Improvements Grant Eligibility Scales. The motion was seconded by Board Member Workman. The motion carried unanimously.

13) Board comments

There were no further board comments.

14) Public comments

Mr. Miller commented that the August 19, 2026, meeting may need to be rescheduled due to conflicts that have arisen, staff will seek the Board's availability to move the meeting if it becomes necessary.

Chairman Scott asked Sheryl Fontaine about the June 3, 2026, Board meeting. Ms. Fontaine confirmed that the meeting should be brief as it only addresses the pending regulatory changes. Mr. Miller confirmed the start time of the meeting as 9:00 am.

15) Adjourn the Board for Financing Water Projects meeting

The Board meeting adjourned at 10:52 am.

Attachments