

Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting for the
Scotia Community Services District
Tuesday March 17th, 2026, at 5:30 P.M.

A. CALL TO ORDER/ ROLL CALL/ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE at 5:30 PM

Paul Newmaker, President– Present

Delia Ansted, Director – Present

Nina Sellen, Director – Present

Susan Pryor Vice President- Present

Andrew Perkins -Present

Steve Coppini General Manager, Amber Sandum Board Clerk, Rhetta Vander Ploeg District Legal Counsel, Brandon Wishneff Crew Leader and Bruce Gehrke Operations

Public Members- Leslie (via zoom), Michael Whitney, Deborah Hart, Casey Easley, Nicole Mobley, Kyle Cooper, Courtney Yates and Rod Mikels.

B. SETTING OF THE AGENDA -On Consent Calendar items C3 an dC5 should be Columbia Bank. Clerical changes.

C. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes – Regular Meeting February 17th, 2026
2. Approval of RCB Check Registers February 1-28, 2026
3. Approval of Columbia Bank Check Registers February 1-28, 2026
4. Approval of RCB Mastercard Statement – January Statement
5. Approval of Columbia Bank Visa Statement – February Statement

No public comment

Motion: To Approve Consent Calendar

Motion: Sellen **Second:** Pryor

Motion Vote: Ayes Ansted, Sellen, Pryor, Perkins, Newmaker **Opposed:** None **Absent:** None **Abstain:** None

No Public Comment

Motion Carries

D. Informational Item-Update regarding water quality issues caused by recent storms

Just going to give a quick account of what happened and prepared some questions that have come up since then, I'll try to answer them as best I can and read as brief as I can. As we know, March 4th boil water advisory was issued as per the State Water Board. So essentially, sorry, I'm a General Manager, sorry, public speaking is not my strong bear with me. So essentially, after receiving multiple complaints, we did some looking into what was going on at the plant, we found excessive levels of

turbidity leaving the plant. This is not normal. I know there's been issues in the past, but this one's well above a normal incident. At that point, we called the State Water Board, told them where we were after verifying those turbid numbers, and thus the advisory was issued. First thing we did, is a process of elimination. I took a bacteria sample from our state mandated spot in the town to ensure that it wasn't bacteria related as well as turbid. Took that to the lab at the same time, the crew was inspecting the filters, trying find what happened. As old as our plant is, this is just unprecedented, this amount of turbine water entering system. So, we need to get to the bottom of this. We inspected filters, we drained and cleaned the sediment settling tank, perhaps that was too full from the winter. We didn't know at that time, and couldn't find anything to pinpoint exactly what happened with this, with the plant, further complicating matters within I can't remember what it was four or five hours the plant had self corrected, and it's spitting out good water again, which leads to an isolated incident, whether it was built up silt from past storms that just got caught up behind the filters and blew past it. I mean, that's a theory. It was definitely a special event, and so at that point the plan is correction. The only thing we can really do is start flushing the system through the hydrants.

Further complicating it, more were reports from around town. Customer A had excessively turbid water out there doing this for a day. Customer B, the water looked pretty good. Customer C their water is great. The problem is they all live in the same area, so we couldn't isolate. We just continued to backflush flush the system as much as we could to get that turbid water out of the system, because as much as the clean water is coming into and we got to get rid of this dirty water. So essentially, after a few days of doing this, we got back to the numbers. We had to see several more samples were taken to ensure that they were just turbid. These all came back clean. This was not a bacterial issue, thank goodness. The advisory was finally lifted on the 11th. Would have been sooner, but the tests that we took were 24-hour tests, and we couldn't release the advisory without those tests coming back. And so, because that was another complaint, it was like, hey, our water looks good. And so last couple of days, your water might have shown improvement, but we needed to make sure that it wasn't bacteria, and it wasn't, so we lifted the state mandatory advisory.

Another complaint we received was excessive chlorine. You might smell it or taste it in your water. This was also mandated by the State to up the level of chlorine for disinfection is just to be safe. It's precursory preventative, whatever you want to call it, well below mandated levels. It's safe, but you might notice that it will not continue to be that way. We will dial it back eventually. It was safe this morning, especially safe to make sure so if you do notice chlorine in water that will eventually go back to where you won't notice it quite so much. Another question that came up quite a bit, is this going to happen again? I'd be a fool to sit here and guarantee this isn't going to happen again. We learned some things through the process.

For instance, with the completion of Phase four, we now have the ability to use Hydrants to flush our system. This was not available in the past, before the construction, the hydrants were all fed by river water, just plain old, raw water. So, if this had happened back then, we would have probably been stuck for weeks, and possibly since it worked its way through its system, we wouldn't had a way to flush that we do now. So what we can also do with that knowledge is possibly a preventative maintenance schedule flushing regularly next winter when the storm hits. It's not going to prevent further issues, but we might be able to alleviate it a lot quicker, and this was only available to us in the last month with the completion of Phase four. So that was that was a positive to come out of that. So as far as Will it happen again? The likelihood is no, but again, we don't have that answer. Those were the main questions that had been presented since the incident. There was a couple of positives that came out of this, and I know people don't like to hear it, but there is a positive. So I mentioned our plant is exceedingly old solar to anybody in this room except me, Bruce. So the process has been in place for, well, I've been here almost two and a half years. It was before me to upgrade plant and get it

modernized. How do we go about that? We obviously can't fund it ourselves. We don't want to raise rates pay for it, so we're relying on grant funding. If your plant is good but needs to be replaced, you're at the bottom list because you don't have problems. We obviously have a problem, and so by all accounts, talking to the people in the know, it's not guaranteed by any stretch of the imagination, but the indications are good this, it'll really bump us up on that list, because we are nearly done with the design phase. We're hoping within the next six weeks, the design for a new upgrade to the plant will be completely procuring the funding to actually put a shovel in the dirt and get this plant fixed. How long does that take? We are at the mercy of the government, but hopefully this will help. We don't want this to happen like it did. Let's, let's take the good from and then this, this is just a side note, but I felt it was important to bring up. You know, living in Humboldt County, we're isolated all these small communities. My background is not water, it's wastewater. Completely different deal. But I've been involved in some emergency situations before. I'll tell you, finding a competent crew and a crew that actually cares about what they do is hard, very hard. I know this from experience, and we're lucky to have the guys we have. They did a great job went above and beyond after hours over the weekend, at one point, I made comment let's get some rest. The answer I got was, we're good let's get this done. That's rare, very rare. So, I just wanted to acknowledge the guys.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public Comment: Public Member-Courtney Yates- Had a couple of clarifying questions. Steve mentioned that they weren't aware of some situations that were going on with the water until it was mentioned, how often is the water monitored and tested, especially when we do have turbidity? Whenever the water gets turned up, when you have those issues. Is that something that you just kind of learned happens? How often do you guys monitor the water when that's going on? So that something like this doesn't happen.

President Newmaker-. If nobody knows what Phase Four was, it was the last subdivision section from the bridge all the way down to the park the homes down there. Thanked Steve and asked if there were any comments on the information that was just brought up.

General Manager-I'm not the lead operator Brandon is I can tell you that turbidity is monitored continuously at the plant. The State mandates what limits we can have that leave the Plant and that's monitored continuously.

Public Member-Courtney Yates- So something along the lines of you guys weren't aware of what was going on until this happened. I'm wondering what can happen in the future, to be monitoring it more regularly, or something, so this doesn't happen.

General Manager-For this to happen to this extreme. Let me clarify, what I meant by that was, my understanding is this, anytime there's a heavy storm here in town, the water gets turbid, the plant gets overloaded, and the water does get turbid and the plant just can't handle all the silt, because our source water is the river, but it's usually correctable very quickly.

Public Member- Courtney Yates- I guess, just kind of trying to figure out. You said it's monitored continuously, so you have to go and test it? Or is it a system that's in place? Or how is it monitored?

Brandon Wishneff-Continuous reads are done at the turbidity reader at the Water Plant. Will get a call if there is an alarm.

Public Member-Courtney Yates- So I understand that part, but I guess maybe I'm not be super clear on

my question. I apologize. The monitoring part of it that's done by a machine that tells you guys, and then does that send a notification at all hours? Or is it just when you read it, or it sends notifications somewhere. So it will send an alarm when it reaches a certain amount, so you guys will know at all hours of the day and night what the readings are? Another question I had was there was flushing that happened with the hydrants, and that did cause some water pressure issues for most of the town. Was there a notification that went out that some people just missed, or did you guys not notify anybody? And how can that change in the future so people are aware when all of a sudden they just don't have any water pressure?

General Manager-. I wasn't aware that a lot of pressure had come up. We did go out and we were flushing as much as we could . Didn't take water pressure into account. In the future, if we're doing preventative maintenance, we don't have to flush all these hydrants at one time, we can do it much slower, and it shouldn't hurt water pressure, but because we were going, you know, as fast as we could, to get as much water as we could.

Courtney Yates- Without this being the first time of having capabilities of using the hydrants, what prompted that change, and how would that possibly affect us in the future, with if there was, God forbid, knock on wood, a massive fire that depleted a lot of our water in our treated water that's no longer just coming from the river, what potentially would that have effects on the town.

Brandon Wishneff- I can manually turn the pumps on whenever if needed.

Public Member Courtney Yates- If you have to flush the hydrants in the future, would you be notifying the town via email if there is going to be low water pressure?

General Manager- this is something we can possibly look into. I can't give a direct answer now, but it definitely feasible to look into.

Public Member Courtney Yates-To also touch on the chlorine situation, I have noticed over time that the water sometimes does smell very strongly of chlorine, not always when it's determined. Is that something that you guys are monitoring, and it's like, hey, you need to use a little extra chlorine. So let me put a little extra chlorine in here. Is that something, when you put a certain amount that you could notify people, like, Hey, if you notice a little extra chlorine. This is why, instead of just all of a sudden, the water smells or tastes really strong, is that something that maybe there could be more communication with so we're not all wondering.

Brandon Wishneff- I would say, unless you hit the MCL, which is like four milligrams. Per liter, which it almost smells like pool water. We weren't even close.

Public Member Courtney Yates-I understand the necessity of it. What I'm wanting is communication when they have to add more so that we're kind of prepared. Notification if your water might smell or taste a little bit more like chlorine.

Bruce Gehrke-You might want to change it sometimes daily, it's continuously monitored as well. If we slow the plant down or speed it up, that affects the dosing of the chlorine.

Public Member-Nicole Mobley-So, how do we know? As a resident, is what she's asking. Where's the communication? Your guys come around every Thursday to check our water meters, and, you know, do that. So why can't they put a notice on the door? I think it's every Thursday. Is that right? Or every other Thursday? Why can't there be some sort of notification system? It just doesn't make sense. As a

resident, we have babies here. If you guys aren't local, like, we get that, like, I completely understand. But we're local. We have pets, we have babies, we have, you know, ourselves that we haven't found her to the podium. Sure, sorry, maybe I apologize My name is Nicole. Sorry. I didn't mean to overtake Courtney we're local here. We have elderly residents who don't have access to their emails and don't go to the post office to get the notification. There was nothing on our doors for when this happened. There's nothing on our doors for when this big event happened. And of course, this is kind of like not unprecedented, but it's very rare that this happens. And I completely respect you as general manager, like what you did and how fast your team act and of everything, but there was no real notification. I mean, my husband got a Gmail notice. I didn't get one. I got nothing, and my elderly neighbor didn't get anything. We walked over with water like it just doesn't it doesn't make any sense for us not to be notified. I mean, again, we have babies here that are bathed every day. We have pets here. If the long-term repercussions turn out to be something more vast, it's going to be a bigger problem. I'm just wondering, we all are wondering, why aren't we notified in changes in chlorine. This is huge the event that happened. Thank you for that, but it was chaotic. I mean, we were all we had to go to Fortuna to get water because we, none of us trusted Hoby's with their filtration, you know, over here, with their what is it? It's not Alhambra, but whatever it is over here, so none of us trusted it. It's like we're not only taking time away from our days. We're spending money that we already spend so much on water here. I mean, we have a family of two with two dogs, and we pay 215 on average, not even on average, that's for our regular bill every single month on water, 215 like it's insane.

President Newmaker-Small Districts have higher rates we did not set the rates. I understand your concern. As far as touching on how to notify you guys, maybe we can put something in place.

Public Member Courtney Yates-The last question does have to do with communication, with the email and then some of the social media that somebody I think from the board, had put on there. The only thing that I wanted to add to that is to have kind of a process that may be put in place for future emergency services or something like that happens. You know, this obviously doesn't happen every year. There are a lot of people that may rent from owners here. The owners are getting emails, the owners are getting the notifications the people that are renting aren't. The Town of Scotia did put flyers out. People asked, "How come I didn't get one? That paints a really bad light on you guys, which you know it, shouldn't necessarily, it's people who don't understand that there's more than one entity in this, you know, so all eyes go on you guys all the time. So, this is just something more of food for thought, but the question is, figure out some way to try. Even if there is a volunteer board that comes in and helps out. For people that want to be more involved or to help get that stuff out, and if we have an emergency. Maybe like the fire department. Just kind of thoughts. I appreciate it. Thank you for your time. Thanks for the explanation.

Public Member Deborah Hart-I just moved here less than a year ago, and it was cloudy for weeks. asked the neighbors, and nobody said, Oh, it's just dirt from the river. . So you everybody's talking about bleach and it kills this and that but, when I was doing some research, I have a hard time pronouncing this word, bleach doesn't touch it. So what do you guys do about that?

General Manager- That was the whole point of the advisory boiling your water because of that one strain. I'm no scientist either. Bruce understands it a lot better, but that is the main reason why there was an advisory because of that one strain of bacteria, and that's why we took several samples to make sure that it was still absent. We hit it with chlorine, and we treat it and we filter, and it was still absent in the system. That's why we took samples.

Public Member Deborah Hart-So I'm asking, how many years has this been going on? Because I'm hearing different stories. This isn't the first or second year. Is it? How many years has who's been here

the longest and knows how long this happens every year. not blaming my problems, I'm saying it happened then and now. I'm not saying it, but you can't say it doesn't didn't happen either. If you're not a doctor, I was talking to my doctor. You can say maybe it was, or I can say maybe it wasn't, or was it wasn't, you know that's, but I am going to be contacting some people because I'm frustrated. It's not fair. I pay a lot of money. I'm not rich, and I understand. We're a smaller city. like I said, I just want to know how, how many times I've heard this and that, how many times over the limit it was and it shouldn't have been. I wasn't told about boiling water or anything. Somebody finally told me to boil it in a microwave because I can't afford a stove That's rough. And having to drive, you know, to get a shower somewhere is ridiculous.

President Newmaker- Only talking about what is on the agenda. We are trying to clarify what happened and what were going to do about it in the future. Completely understand your concern, not going to go back and forth.

Legal Counsel-honorary president, if I may help, sure, I'm the CSD attorney, and I understand the frustration that's being spoken of, but this board is regulated by agenda rules, and we have really stretched what's allowed. It's supposed to be three minutes of comments by the public. The board listens to your comments. There's no requirement that they have to respond to them tonight. They have done a very they've broadened their authority beyond what is legally normally considered best practices by entertaining all these questions and questions and answers. But this should be just comments limited to three minutes that the board can take. This can be agendized again in the future for more of a Q amp a session, but this was a chance for the general manager to give you information and for the public to speak. And as the agenda notes, you are limited to three minutes. So I just caution this board is going very far to accommodate the public due to the frustrations, but they also are obligated to honor the rules of agendized items, so rates and everything else is not on the agenda and is not to be discussed, because that's unfair to the rest of the public who's not there, who might want to speak to it. So this is specific to the situation that happened with the water due to the storm. That's what we're here for tonight. And I know it's frustrating, especially if you haven't been to one of these meetings before it's, it's, it's eye opening, but they are definitely limited on how much they can go so I just, I just want to do that so that the public is aware that the board is not trying to shirk from their responsibilities. But they are limited.

PUBLIC COMMENT & WRITTEN COMMUNICATION –Public Comment Written communication read by Board Clerk see attached written communication submitted.

Legal Counsel-So the agendized items, you've taken public comment, and I believe you've closed the public comment on the agendized item, which was informational item for the storm. Now we've gone to, if I'm following you correctly, we've gone to public comment for non agendized items, which you cannot take action, and you really should, at best, briefly clarify if it's a question for clarification, but for the benefit of your of your public, if it's not agendized, then the rest of your public is not going to benefit from what you're saying tonight. To get something on the agenda, any of the public can ask this board to agendize something for the future, but if it's not on the agenda tonight, you can take comments, but it should really just be receiving comments and clarification at best.

Director Sellen-So when you say clarification. If we didn't understand the question, we could ask the speaker, the public person, would you please clarify your question.

Legal Counsel-Yes, you want to know what their comment is. If the comment is not something that's clearly understood.

Director Sellen- So each speaker has three minutes

Public Member Nicole Mobley- I would just like to have on the agenda the water discount for this month. Then also have on the agenda the \$300 a month that we pay or not a month, excuse me, a year to pay per resident in August. I don't know if it's homeowner or renter. I think it's just homeowners. I'm not sure. And why is water not being prioritized over like the theater that isn't even active, or the museum. I was reading minutes from the last meeting, and it was just talking about the theater. Then it said that phase four, which chair had mentioned. Just wondering what update on that was as well, because it's kind of seems like they're repetitive. That's why I just wanted to put it on the agenda. Thank you very much.

Legal Counsel-And if I may, on that for the public, because it does seem like this is new for some folks. The agenda has to be published in advance. So if this is something you want to know, please take advantage of that. Look at the agenda. It's published, I believe, 72 hours in advance, if not more, and you can see if the item is on the agenda before, before the meeting happens. So I just recommend, in general, you should look at the agendas in advance.

General Manager-Mentioned that a lot of the items he is open to discussing don't necessarily have to be on the agenda. I would only say it has to be agendized, to be something I can't answer. So as far as your discount, obviously, I can't your other issues, please feel free. I'm more than happy to do what I can.

E. CLOSED SESSION: NONE

F. PUBLIC HEARING – None

G. BUSINESS

1. New Business – None

2. Old Business – None

H. REPORTS –

1. President's Report: Nothing to report

2. Board Director Reports:

3. General Manager's Report: There are signs that have been posted in the community forest area not authorized to maintain for recreational uses as we discussed. I put up three to see if they get vandalized. Got a couple set aside, but they're easy to get inexpensive. We can get more if we need to.

Baseball Park: We had a couple baseball games down at the Baseball Park, big crowds, whatever. We had a third game scheduled; it has been canceled. So right now, we don't have any pending high

school games, hoping to change that here shortly, but there are youth, youth groups down there this week, youth teams down there practicing on the field. But as far as scheduling another game, working on it. I still have hopes that we'll have set several 76 games later this summer. But as far as high school is concerned, we did have two, and it was during the advisory, so we missed it, that's it for me.

Theater- ramp is pretty much done

4. **Board Clerk's Report: Nothing to report**
5. **District Legal Counsel's Report: Nothing to report**
6. **Engineer's Report: None**

I. **BOARD TRAINING: None**

J. **ADJOURNMENT at 6:26 PM**

Approved:

Paul Newmaker

Paul Newmaker, President

Board of Directors

Scotia Community Services District

Date

4/21/26

Attest:

Wanda Jundrum

Board Clerk

Scotia Community Services District

Date

4/21/2026