The Commissioners of Ward Two Water District of Livingston Parish met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, October 20, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at their Administration office on Carter Drive in Denham Springs, La.

The regular meeting was called to order by Chairman, Shevis Ball
Present – S. Ball, S. McDaniel, C. Taylor, W. Avara, J. Martone, J. Easterly, M. Bennett
Absent - none
Guests - Agnes Killcrease, Administrative Director
Toby Fruge of Owen & White
Legal Counsel, Blayne Honeycutt
Devyn Bergeron Employee of the District
Public-John Easterly Jr.
Prayer was offered by Administrative Secretary.
Pledge of allegiance was led by Jeffrey Martone.

Chairman noted that anyone in the public may comment on any agenda item during this meeting.

There were no further public comments and Chairman moved agenda item for discussion.

Motion to accept the minutes from regular meeting held on September 15, 2026, as mailed with one wording change with no public comment by J. Easterly seconded by W. Avara Vote passed Yeas-7 Nays-none Absent-none

Legal Counsel noted that there have been many public records requests since last month. He also explained the constitutional amendment #7 on the upcoming election ballot and noted that the Attorney General opinion approved this initiative. He stated that this amendment allows public utilities to change or modify piping on private property for the improvement of the public system. Toby Fruge, Engineer, shared that lead and copper piping installed prior to 1988, is now a requirement for change out action. He recommends that the District records be verified to comply. The Administrative Director shared past research on piping status. John Easterly shared views on how this amendment would help the District.

Engineer, Toby Fruge, gave an update on the well maintenance services contractor who will begin mobilization in the first week of November and that a well site has been located..
*He reported that a recommendation is not ready as of yet, but factors are being studied regarding main line sizes. He is researching improvement costs and rough estimates total around 5 million dollars over the next 10 years.
*He covered items regarding the Meadow Lane bridge replacement project (near Oak Hills). It was noted that the Parish is replacing the bridge which requires one water line relocation which will be the cost to the District if in the public ROW. The location will be verified as either inside a private ROW or a public ROW before this re-location can proceed. Board consensus agreed to direct engineer to begin work on this re-location planning and research.*Engineer reported on the bid tabulation for contract 26-1475-10 (Chandler Bluff Waterline). It was noted that 9 bids were received and tabulated with a low bid from Jose Serra Construction LLC for $134,750.95 which he recommends to award.

Motion to award contract 26-1475-10 to Jose Serra Construction LLC for the Chandler Bluff Waterline Project for the price of $134,750.95 with no public comment by J. Easterly seconded by S. McDaniel Vote passed Yeas -7 Nays-none Absent-none

Motion to authorize Chairman to execute contract 26-1475-10 documents for the Chandler Bluff Waterline Project with no public comment by C. Taylor seconded by S. McDaniel Vote passed Yeas -7 Nays-none Absent-none

Engineer reported that the Juban Road Waterline Extension is awaiting approval from the LDH before seeking quotes.

Administration Director reported that the District had a 5 customer loss in September bringing total customer level to 26,291.
She reported on the AMI Project progress with around 1504 meters not reading, 1649 meters with marginal reading, and 157 cellular units not reading.

Administrative Director stated that 17 taps were pending, but ready to be made as of the end of the month.

Motion to advertise for bids for plumbing supply purchases for a six month period ending 6-30-27 with no public comment by J. Easterly seconded by M. Bennett Vote passed Yeas-7 Nays-none Absent-none.

Administrative Director reported on the unclaimed funds identified needing to be sent to the Louisiana Treasurer's Office.

Motion to approve the disbursement of $9,471.62 of unclaimed funds identified and as presented to the Louisiana Treasurer's Office with no public comment by W. Avara seconded by J. Martone Vote passed Yeas-7 Nays-none Absent-none

Motion to ratify the purchase of electric gates installed by Scott Fencing in the amount of $10,620 at the Maintenance Office site with no public comment by J. Martone seconded by M. Bennett Vote passed Yeas-7 Nays-none Absent-none

Administrative Director shared information on plans for proposed new office administration building. She shared the need to scale down the square footage due to rising cost estimates and shared ongoing research on the building needs.

A financial report for the September, 2026, period of operations was presented by the Administrative Secretary to the Board of Commissioners for their review noting budget line-item comparisons to actual spending and revenues.

Chris Taylor of the Insurance Committee reported on the Brown & Brown renewal and the new forecast by Dale Erdey Insurance Agency. He presented the total premium costs ($319,000) by Brown & Brown with a potential reduction of $10,000. It was noted that Dale Erdey Insurance Agency will have the same coverage and premiums.

Board discussed at length the agency selection and premium costs as forecasted.

Motion to select Brown & Brown as insurance agent for the renewal process for 2026-2027 insurance coverage as per the Insurance Committee's report with no public input by W. Avara seconded by J. Martone Vote passed Yeas-7 Nays-none Absent-none

Chairman led discussion on the potential of raising basic water rates. Several options and reasoning strategies were discussed fully with each commissioner voicing opinions. Administrative Director shared that in the near future, the debt service ratio may fall in the range of non- compliance due to capital outlay for upcoming upgrade type projects (building, waterlines, wells, etc.). She explained the required process and timeline of raising rates before actual adoption per motion. Board discussed the justification of raising rates with a plan for funds. It was noted that recent financial results of the District as reported in the past few years reveals a large grant income from water sector fund sources as an unusual revenue item and may be misinterpreted by the public. Jeffrey Martone commented on the continuing rising costs of operational functions. Engineer made comments on the future strain upon cash reserves with capital outlay disbursements. Board discussed one option that would change the base rate from $13.50 to $16.50 and varying views were voiced.
Chairman recommended that the board review the future listings of projects assembled before the next meeting and that an Agenda Item be placed for further discussion.
After full discussion, Board consensus agreed to proceed with one of the options presented for a base rate increase.

Motion to approve moving forward with the timeline for exploring a new rate ordinance setting the base water rate from $13.50 to $16.50 with no public comment by S. McDaniel seconded by M. Bennett Vote passed Yeas-7 Nays-none Absent-none

Under board comments, John Easterly addressed the board thanking them and the employees for the working relationships over the past three plus decades as a commissioner. He tendered his resignation from the board and stated his appreciation for the accomplishments made at Ward Two Water. Chairman, full board, and those in attendance thanked Mr. Easterly for his great service to the District.

Motion to pay the operational bills as presented for October 2026, period with no public comment by J. Martone seconded by M. Bennett Vote passed Yeas-7 Nays-none Absent-none.

Motion to pay 2025 water system expansion bills as presented for October, 2026, period with no public comment by C. Taylor seconded by J. Martone Vote passed Yeas-7 Nays-none Absent-none.

Motion to pay 2024 Emerging Contaminants Well Replacement bills as presented for October 2026, period with no public comment by S. McDaniel seconded by M. Bennett Vote passed Yeas-7 Nays-none Absent-none

Motion to adjourn the meeting with no public comment by J. Easterly seconded by S. McDaniel Vote passed Yeas-7 Nays-none Absent–none

Randall Smith

Randall Smith Administrative Secretary

Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 17, 2026 at 7 PM