

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2026**

Minutes of the 900<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Metropolitan Water District of Salt Lake & Sandy Board of Trustees held Monday, February 23, 2026 at 4:37 p.m. at 3430 E Danish Road, Cottonwood Heights, UT 84093.

The following trustees attended the board meeting:

Tom Godfrey	-Chair
John Kirkham	-Vice Chair
Patricia Comarell	-Secretary
Ralph Becker	-Trustee
Florence Reynolds	-Trustee
Daniel Salmon	-Trustee

The following trustee was excused from the board meeting:

Cindy Cromer	-Trustee
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The following staff and guests attended the board meeting:

Gordon Cook, Assistant General Manager/Chief Operating Officer  
Eric Sorensen, Water Resources Manager  
Jeff Matheson, Lab Manager  
Nathan Scown, Operations Manager  
Ammon Allen, Engineering Manager  
Darin Klemin, IT Department Manager  
Michael Whiteley, IT Cybersecurity Manager  
Josh McDougall, IA&E Manager  
John Baer, Controller  
Sonya Shepherd, HR Manager  
Josh Croft, Accountant  
Breana Jackson, Executive Administrator  
Elizabeth Woodall, Administrative Assistant  
Dani Cepernich, Spencer Fane  
Tom Ward, Sandy City Public Utilities  
Jesse Stewart, Salt Lake City Public Utilities  
Dan Hartman, HMG, Inc.  
Dave Faux, Provo River Water Users Association  
Jim Anderson, Water Wise Solar Solutions

**Closed Session Agenda**

1. Discussion regarding deployment of security personnel, devices, or systems.

**Board Meeting Agenda**

2. Call to order
3. Public comment
4. Legislative update by Dan Hartman
5. Consider approval of Board Meeting minutes dated January 26, 2026
6. Consider acceptance of financial reports
7. Reporting/Scheduling items
  - a. Water supply and demand update
  - b. Capital Projects report
8. Other business
9. Items to be discussed at future meetings
10. Closed Session:
  - a. To discuss pending or reasonably imminent litigation
11. Adjourn

**Closed Session**

**To discuss deployment of security personnel, devices, or systems**

Mr. Kirkham motioned to go into closed session to discuss deployment of security personnel, devices, or systems. Ms. Comarell seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

All board members were present except Ms. Cromer, who was excused. The following staff were also present: Mr. Cook, Mr. Klemin, Mr. Whiteley, Ms. Jackson, and Ms. Cepernich.

Mr. Kirkham motioned to go out of closed session. Ms. Reynolds seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

## Board Meeting

### Call to order

At 4:37 p.m. the Chair, Mr. Godfrey, called the meeting to order and welcomed board members, staff, and visitors. Ms. Cromer was excused.

### Public comment

No public comments were made.

### Legislative update by Dan Hartman

Mr. Hartman commented on property taxes and the growing legislation under Truth in Taxation. He provided an update on HB236, noting it is currently in the Senate. The bill would require the taxing entity to declare the need to increase the budget earlier, rather than notifying taxpayers toward the end of the fiscal year. Mr. Hartman noted it would also require approval of alternate tentative budgets, one if the increase in taxation was approved, and another if the increase was not approved.

Mr. Hartman referenced SB97, which would not allow a final budget amount of additional tax revenue to exceed 5% of the previous year's property tax budgeted revenue.

Mr. Hartman explained HB348, which allows the State Engineer to prioritize the processing of a dedicated water application, deny applications, and regulate annual reporting regarding the intent of use for the application.

Mr. Hartman mentioned HB556, which states that members of special districts' board of trustees who are not elected officials cannot vote on a proposed increased assessment. The bill would require the appointing authority to assign alternate board members to consider and vote upon any proposed assessment increases. Mr. Godfrey asked what prompted the bill. Mr. Hartman expounded on the driving forces behind Truth in Taxation bills. Mr. Godfrey asked about the overall goal of the bill. Mr. Hartman explained the heavier requirements on the entities will help justify the due diligence process to the public. Ms. Comarell queried how to respond to claims of negligence even though increases are discussed and publicized years in advance. Mr. Hartman explained increased efforts could better the system overall, but specific steps have yet to be determined. Mr. Becker said regular transparency efforts could help with public understanding. Mr. Godfrey shared feedback that smaller, more frequent increases are preferred over large, infrequent increases. Mr. Hartman discussed the probability of the bill moving forward.

Mr. Hartman mentioned HB551 which would affect GRAMA requests. Ms. Cepernich explained an individual who is the subject of a record request cannot be involved in fulfilling, classifying, or participate in the appeal of a records request. The bill also states that a person who authored, signed, or had other direct involvement in creation of the record cannot make the final decision regarding the record's classification.

### Consider approval of Board Meeting minutes dated January 26, 2026.

Mr. Kirkham motioned to approve the Board Meeting minutes dated January 26, 2026. Mr. Becker seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

### Consider acceptance of finance reports

Mr. Kirkham motioned to accept the December 2025 financial reports. Ms. Comarell seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

### Reporting/Scheduling items

Mr. Sorensen provided a water supply and demand update. He discussed precipitation levels and the current snow/water equivalent (SWE). He commented on the recent storms and noted an additional five inches of SWE. Mr. Sorensen shared the SWE for Snowbird and Trial Lake, the current reservoir levels, the soil moisture levels, and the climate outlook.

Mr. Godfrey welcomed any questions regarding the capital projects report. Mr. Kirkham asked for an update on the active construction projects. Mr. Allen provided an update on the shutdown of the Salt Lake Aqueduct and the new construction team from Whitaker Construction.

### Other business

Mr. Godfrey welcomed new employees Erin Kuhlmeier, Taylor Willes, and Elizabeth Woodall. He congratulated Jake McGill on his promotion and Scot Collier on his 20<sup>th</sup> service anniversary.

### Items to be discussed at future meetings

There were no other items discussed.

Closed Session

To discuss pending or reasonably imminent litigation


Mr. Kirkham motioned to go into closed session to discuss pending or reasonably imminent litigation. Ms. Reynolds seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

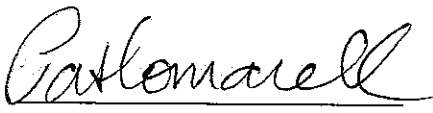
All board members were present except Ms. Cromer, who was excused. The following staff were also present: Mr. Cook, Mr. Allen, Ms. Jackson, and Ms. Cepernich.

Mr. Kirkham motioned to go out of closed session. Ms. Comarell seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Adjourn

At 5:25 p.m. the board meeting adjourned.

  
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Tom Godfrey, Chair

  
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Patricia Comarell, Secretary