



Final Minutes
Legislative Advocacy Committee Meeting
Wednesday, February 11, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.
Meeting Location: Zoom

Call to Order / Roll Call

General Manager Dave Stoldt called the meeting to order at 10:11 a.m. and chaired the meeting.

Committee Members Present

Karen Paull
George Riley

Committee Members Absent

Ian Oglesby, Chair

District Staff Members Present

David Stoldt, General Manager
Mike McCullough, Assistant General Manager

District Staff Members Absent

Sara Reyes, Board Clerk

District Counsel Present

Michael Laredo, De Lay & Laredo

Additions and Corrections to the Agenda

None

Comments from the Public

No members of the public were present.

Action Items

General Manager Stoldt introduced this item.

1. Consider Adoption of Committee Meeting Minutes from November 19, 2025

On a motion by Paull, seconded by Riley, the minutes of the November 19, 2025 committee meeting were approved by a vote of 2 Ayes (Riley and Paull), 0 Noes, and 1 Absent (Oglesby).

Discussion Items

General Manager Stoldt introduced this item.

2. Report from The Ferguson Group on Federal Legislative and Regulatory Activities

Roger Gwinn provided a brief overview of federal legislative activity, noting that Congress is nearing completion of FY 2026 appropriations, with the Department of Homeland Security bill remaining under a continuing resolution. He noted that the District continues to pursue FY 2026 Environmental Infrastructure funding through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and is coordinating with the Corps and the congressional delegation. Mr. Gwinn also discussed ongoing efforts related to the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) 2026 and other federal water legislation affecting the District.

Chris Cummins added comments regarding the More Water Act and other federal water legislation and referenced the legislative tracker.

Chris Kearney added comments regarding the federal legislative environment, noting that an unusually high number of congressional retirements has contributed to evolving coalition dynamics

impacting legislative decision-making. He reported that water infrastructure and permitting reform continue to receive bipartisan attention, with potential activity on WRDA and related legislation, while cautioning that calendar constraints and federal agency staffing challenges may affect the timing of funding and program implementation.

Roger Gwinn noted that staff and consultants will continue federal advocacy efforts, including pursuit of Corps Environmental Infrastructure funding, WRDA priorities, and potential grant opportunities as the FY 2027 appropriations process begins.

3. Report from JEA & Associates on Legislative Status and Bill Tracking

John Arriaga reported on state legislative activity, noting a highly active start to the second year of the legislative session, ongoing committee hearings, and the Governor’s proposed budget. He discussed budget constraints, recent Senate leadership changes, and continued coordination with District staff on potential legislation, and introduced Laurie Johnson for additional detail.

Laurie Johnson provided an overview of the state budget outlook, noting ongoing deficits, election-year constraints, and limited flexibility for new spending. She reported that bond funding is primarily being used to maintain base-level water and climate programs, with increased emphasis on wildfire mitigation, and noted continued advocacy efforts related to water recycling and storage funding.

4. Update on Non-Functional Turf

General Manager Stoldt provided an update on implementation of non-functional turf regulations, noting ongoing questions regarding enforcement authority for special districts and recent discussions with legislative offices. He reported that staff is evaluating whether to proceed under existing authorities while monitoring potential legislative changes and will report back to the Water Demand Committee. Stoldt also noted continued efforts to advance modifications to the District’s CDO, with recent indications of progress at the State Water Board.

Suggest Items to Be Placed on a Future Agenda

No items were suggested.

Adjournment

General Manager Stoldt adjourned the meeting at 11:54 a.m.

/s/ Sara Reyes

Sara Reyes, Board Clerk to the
MPWMD Legislative Advocacy Committee

Approved by the MPWMD Legislative Advocacy Committee on May 26, 2026.

Received by the MPWMD Board of Director’s on June 15, 2026.