

Curran-Gardner Townships Public Water District
3384 Hazlett Road | Springfield, Illinois | 62707-2522 | 217.546.3981
***Monday, November 10, 2025 | 7:00 p.m. | Regular Board Meeting**

Members: Chair Mike Irwin, Vice Chair Eric Oschwald, Trustee Mark Lewis (excused), Trustee Bill Moss, Trustee Mark DiMarzio, Trustee Jim Mayes, Trustee Wayne Benanti, Operations Manager Aaron Smith, Engineer Max Middendorf, Business Manager Cherril Graff, Treasurer Stacy Stremsterfer and Secretary Jessica Ryg

Guests: Todd Folder, Jim Mitchell and Jordan Sestak

I. Call to Order

Chair Irwin called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

*This meeting was moved to Monday, November 10, 2025, instead of the regularly scheduled 2nd Tuesday of the month, in observance of Veterans Day on Tuesday, November 11, 2025.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Moment of Silence

A moment of silence was observed in honor of our Veterans, with special recognition of the United States Marine Corps in celebration of its 250th anniversary. Former CGTPWD Chairman Jim Mitchell was also recognized.

IV. Secretary (Ryg)

Trustee DiMarzio made a motion to approve the October 14, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes. Vice Chair Oschwald second the motion. The motion carried.

V. Guests/Visitors:

Mr. Mitchell inquired with Engineer Middendorf about the use of helicopters equipped with Airborne Electromagnetic (AEM) technology to survey the area. AEM produces detailed images, or 'slices' of underground layers including aquifers that can extend hundreds of feet below ground.

Engineer Middendorf noted that state and federal agencies are continually running regional groundwater and aquifer studies across central and northern Illinois, including areas in the Illinois River Basin and other key groundwater systems. Specifically, the AEM aerial surveys help with long-term planning of new wells in better locations, understand how pumping in one area might affect another, plan for contamination risks or delinking water levels, measure

possible drought resilience and protect water. Here are the current AEM results with additional updates possible:

- U.S. Geological Survey’s Illinois River Basin Mapping Video: <https://www.usgs.gov/media/videos/ngwos-aems-illinois-aerially-mapping-illinois-river-basin-ad>
- U of I Prairie Research Institute & IL State Geological (up to 600 ft. below surface): <https://isgs.illinois.edu/research/aquifer-mapping/>
- Illinois State Geological Survey (images): <https://hitem.isgs.illinois.edu/>
- U.S. Geological Survey on Illinois River Basin: www.usgs.gov/centers/cm-water/science/airborne-electromagnetic-aem-survey-2023-illinois-river-basin
- Catalog of Survey Results from Federal Government: <https://catalog.data.gov/dataset/airborne-electromagnetic-and-magnetic-survey-of-illinois-river-basin-2023>

VI. Treasurer (Stremsterfer)

The September treasurer’s report was tabled last month. The September report reflects 5 months or 41.7% of the FY26 budget.

Income:

Month End District Water Income:	\$174,859
Fiscal YTD Water Income:	\$891,468
Including other Income, Month End District Income	<u>\$203,920</u>
Fiscal YTD for All Income	\$1,006,042 (103%)

Expenses:

Month End Operating Expenses	\$177,470
Fiscal YTD Expenses of Operating Budget	\$920,197 (100%)
YTD Net Operating Income (Loss) Unaudited	\$117,953
Budgeted Debt Service & Short-Lived Assets (SLA):	\$46,650.00 transfers to debt service accounts/USDA Bonds
Capital Expenses for the Period:	\$0 (correct)
Net Income for the Period:	(\$22,108)

Trustee Oschwald made a motion to approve the treasurer’s monthly report pending corrections and audit. Trustee Moss second the motion. The motion carried.

The October treasurer's report reflects 6 months or 50% of the FY26 budget.

Income:

Month End District Water Income:	\$183,876.00
Fiscal YTD Water Income:	\$1,075,344.00
Including other Income, Month End District Income	<u>\$226,619.00</u>
Fiscal YTD for All Income	\$1,264,700.00 (105%)

Expenses:

Month End Operating Expenses	\$245,473.00
Fiscal YTD Expenses of Operating Budget	\$1,165,670.00 (106%)
YTD Net Operating Income (Loss) Unaudited	(\$18,854.00)
Budgeted Debt Service & Short-Lived Assets (SLA):	\$46,650.00 transfers to debt service accounts/USDA Bonds
Capital Expenses for the Period:	\$0 (correct)
Net Income for the Period:	(\$65,504.00)

Trustee DiMarzio made a motion to approve the treasurer's monthly report pending audit. Trustee Oschwald second the motion. The motion carried.

Bill List of Vendors:	\$228,416.46
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Trustee DiMarzio made a motion to pay the bills. Trustee Oschwald second the motion. The motion carried.

VII. Operations Manager's Report (Aaron Smith)

Operation Manager's Water Report for September 18, 2025 – October 17, 2205:

Amount of water treated and sent to the distribution system: 12,830,000 (30-day cycle)
Amount of water billed: 11,255,991 gallons
Amount of water loss: 1,574,409 gallons (12.2%)
Amount of water loss per minute: 36.4 gallons

DISCLAIMER: No water from CWLP, South Sangamon Water Commission or customer billings served by them had any bearing on the determinations made in this report.

The Illinois EPA field inspection report was received.

Also, the Illinois EPA's "Drinking Water Watch" report can be viewed by using the Curran-Gardner name or the PWS number (IL1675350) with this link:
<https://epa.illinois.gov/topics/drinking-water.html>

The Covered Bridge Road bact. samples passed and valves were opened.

Brotcke Well & Pump, Inc. finished the work on Well #1. Samples were taken and passed. The well was put back into service.

A Bomke Road customer was updated regarding the main extension project. This customer's project materials were delivered. The project is pending completion of a pending contract and payment. Once the construction permit is obtained, the District will proceed with construction.

Four more water services were installed at Centennial Pointe.

Preventative maintenance and service was performed on the excavating equipment,

Hydrant flow tests were performed in the Village of Berlin for the New Berlin-Island Grove Fire Protection District as required by the Insurance Service Office (ISO) evaluation.

The Farmingdale Middle School and Farmingdale Elementary School are receiving new meters and valves. The District met with the Superintendent for Pleasant Plains CUSD #8 to ensure minimal impact on the school. A boil order will be issued.

VIII. Business Manager's Report (Cherril Graff)

Insurance options were researched for next year. Business Manager Graff distributed a document that showed BCBS current coverage vs. renewal coverage increases. The BCBS rates will go up 10.6%

Per the union contract, The District does have an option to use the Teamsters' Local #916 benefit package. It was clarified that this health insurance plan will cover union employees and non-union employees. Also notable are the enhanced federal subsidies which are scheduled to expire at the end of 2025, so the *actual* monthly amount paid by many marketplace enrollees is projected to rise significantly. For example, the 2026 Affordable Care Act (ACA)-compliant individual market plans in Illinois, the IL Department of Insurance approved an average gross premium rate increase of roughly 24%–30%, depending on the enrollee's place of residence. This is relevant because the Teamsters Local #916 health care package will result in major cost savings for the District. Also, this package includes dental and vision as one package, so Delta Dental won't be paid separately as it's been previously listed on the annual budget.

The Board was introduced to the new office team member, Jorden Sestak. She brings prior experience from a health care setting and offers extensive customer service skills to the organization.

The 2026 Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) was announced at 2.8%. The Curran-Gardner Townships Public Water District uses Ordinance 59 to authorize annual water rate increases equal to the Social Security Administration cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) of 2.8% plus 0.5%. This notice will be included in the next newsletter.

IX. District Engineer's Report (Middendorf)

Engineer Middendorf stated that once the federal shutdown is resolved, work on the USDA capital projects contract can resume.

Treasurer Stremsterfer said there's a check for Rail Pros that will need follow-up.

The Lincoln Trail Loop has permit applications processing for the Illinois EPA and SHPO. The preliminary plans are complete and there's zero fee on the application.

The Curran Watermain Loop has permits processing with IDOT, Railroad and Illinois EPA.

The 2026 USDA Capital Projects have been impacted by the federal shutdown, but when US Rural Development staff are back into the office, a conference call/meeting will occur.

A Trustee inquired about the final QCQA (quality control, quality assurance) clearance and it was clarified that it should be 18 inches. The District adjusted the alignment and there's sufficient clearance.

A Trustee asked about a possible credit balance from USDA. Engineer Middendorf will research this topic and get back to the Board. CGTPWD paid for construction permits for everything but the tank modifications.

A Trustee questioned if we're 4 weeks behind with the USDA project due to the shutdown? The answer was, "Yes." It's possible these projects will fall into the next fiscal year.

Engineer Middendorf said an additional environmental review is required on federally funded projects because of the elapsed time since the previous review.

X. Chair, Vice Chair and Committee Reports

- A. Chair (Irwin): Chair Irwin gave an update on the 1926B case. Magistrate Judge Quivey and his court received CGTPWD's settlement proposal for consideration. The City did not have a proposed settlement for CGTPWD. The judge concluded that the chances of possible settlement at this point are so remote that a settlement conference on November 3rd would prove ineffective. He entered an order to cancel the settlement conference. He thought a settlement conference should be conducted *after* the District Judge assigned to the C-G v. Springfield case ruled on various matters.

- B. Vice Chair (Oschwald): Vice Chair Oschwald updated everyone about the upcoming annual audit. He is in contact with the audit company and will keep the Board posted on the next step.
- C. Finance Committee (Oschwald/DiMarzio/Lewis): no report.
- D. Planning Committee (Moss/Mayes): no report.
- E. Personnel Committee (Lewis/Moss): no report.
- F. Systems Oversight Committee (Irwin/Benanti): no report.
- G. Policy and Procedures Committee (Benanti/Lewis): no report.
- H. Ordinance Committee (DiMarzio/Oschwald): no report.

XI. New Business

A. Budget Amendment #3

Trustee Oschwald moved to table the Budget Amendment #3. Trustee DiMarzio second the motion. Chair Irwin took a roll call vote:

Chair Irwin: Yes
Vice Chair Oschwald: Yes
Trustee Mayes: Yes
Trustee DiMarzio: Yes
Trustee Moss: Yes
Trustee Benanti: Yes
Yes With six yes votes, the motion carried.

B. Pleasant Plains Intergovernmental Agreement

Vice Chair Oschwald made a motion to have the Chair and Secretary sign the Pleasant Plains Intergovernmental Agreement. Trustee DiMarzio second the motion. It was noted that the Village of Pleasant Plains had already signed the agreement. Chair Irwin took a roll call vote:

Chair Irwin: Yes
Vice Chair Oschwald: Yes
Trustee Mayes: Yes
Trustee DiMarzio: Yes
Trustee Moss: Yes
Trustee Benanti: Yes

With six yes votes, the motion carried
Chair Irwin publicly expressed appreciation to Mr. Folder for his exceptional assistance with this intergovernmental agreement. He also recognized Operations Manager Smith for his contributions.

C. System Enhancements – Loops, Mains, etc.: no report.

D. Future Compensation for Trustees

Trustee Mayes said any actions agreed upon or approved cannot be implemented until the next fiscal year, beginning in May 2026. It was clarified that funding that was budgeted for this initiative was included in the current year's budget; however, the matter will be revisited during the spring budget process.

(7:32 p.m.)

XII. Visitors and Guests: none.

XIII. Executive Session:

Chair made a motion to go into Executive Session. Vice Chair Oschwald second the motion.
Chairman called for a roll call vote:

Chair Irwin: Yes
Vice Chair Oschwald: Yes
Trustee Mayes: Yes
Trustee DiMarzio: Yes
Trustee Moss: Yes
Trustee Benanti: Yes
Yes With six yes votes, the motion carried

(Board exited at 7:34 p.m.)

Trustee DiMarzio made a motion to go back into regular session. Trustee Mayes second the motion. Chair called for a roll call vote:

Chair Irwin: Yes
Vice Chair Oschwald: Yes
Trustee Mayes: Yes
Trustee DiMarzio: Yes
Trustee Moss: Yes
Trustee Benanti: Yes
Yes With six yes votes, the motion carried

(Board returned at 8:38 p.m.)

XIV. Return to Open Meeting – none.

XV. Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, December 9, 2025 at 7:00 pm.

XVI. Adjournment

A motion was made by Trustee DiMarzio to adjourn. Trustee Mayes second the motion. The motion carried. The CGTPWD Board adjourned. **8:39 p.m.**