



Marion Utilities

1540 N Washington St.
Marion, IN 46952
www.marionutilities.com

Service Board

BOARD MINUTES OF THE JULY 30, 2026 MEETING

The Marion Utility Service Board held their meeting on Thursday, July 30, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. in the L.E.A.D. Center, Building 101, at Marion Utilities, 1540 N. Washington Street, Marion, Indiana.

Roll was called and those board members present were: Robert Logan, Chair; Kristy Barney; Al Green; Herschel Lewis, Jayda Monteiro; and Bob Logan. Isaiah Fuller and Mike Graft were absent.

Also present at the meeting were: Robin Shrader, Director; Chad Guyer, Assistant Director for Operations & Maintenance; Kyle Persinger, Attorney; Tiffany Snyder, Accounting Billing Coordinator; Misty Humphries, Secretary; and Terri Couse, Safety Coordinator.

CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS

There were none.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Lewis moved, seconded by Reverend Green, to approve the minutes of the July 9, 2026 meeting. A roll call vote was taken. The votes were as follows: Ms. Barney, yes; Reverend Green, yes; Mr. Lewis, yes; Dr. Monteiro, abstain; and Mr. Logan, yes. Motion carried by majority.

UPDATE ON PROJECTS

Mrs. Shrader reported that there wasn't a lot to report. She did share pictures of the Clark Street site for the CSO 009 project. Mrs. Shrader said that she had shared a week ago that there were supposed to be shovels in the ground. The pictures were taken on Tuesday so Mrs. Shrader reached out to find out why there was another delay. The delay occurred because the manhole covers did not arrive. Construction trailers are there, and the site is fenced off. Mrs. Shrader said she was hopeful the project would start soon.

CUSTOMER REQUEST 38TH ST

Mrs. Humphries reported that a request had been received from Jon D. Madison, Attorney-at-Law, on behalf of his client that owns property on 38th Street with account ending in 333. The request was for removal of penalties. Mrs. Humphries said the Wastewater Committee met and reviewed the information presented by Mr. Madison. The Committee's recommendation was that the full balance including penalties remained due. Mr. Lewis moved, seconded by Reverend Green, to approve the Wastewater Committee's recommendation. A roll call vote was taken. The votes were as follows: Ms. Barney, yes; Reverend Green, yes; Mr. Lewis, yes; Dr. Monteiro, yes; and Mr. Logan, yes. Motion carried by unanimously. Mr. Logan thanked the Wastewater Committee for reviewing the request.



TRANSFERS & PAY REQUESTS

There were no transfer or pay requests.

SPONSORSHIP & DONATION REQUESTS

Mrs. Humphries said that several sponsorship and donation requests have been received.

The first is Cancer Services of Grant County for the Color Me Pink Cancer Walk on Saturday, October 3rd at Matter Park. The board has sponsored this in the past at the \$500 level. At the \$500 level, the logo would be placed on shirts, a color station sponsorship, photo booth sponsorship, logo on survivor bids, as well as an award sponsor.

Gilead Ministries has requested sponsorship of their Christmas in July Project 20/20. Mrs. Humphries said that everyone was getting started sooner with Christmas requests. The project asks families, churches, and civic groups and boards to assemble and pledge holiday gift bags to support local cancer and long-term illness patients. Groups typically sign up to provide 20 individual gift bags though smaller or larger amounts are accepted containing comforting items and cards of encouragement. We have sponsored Gilead in the past but not this particular event. Mrs. Humphries said that the sponsorships in the past have ranged from a high of \$250 to a low of \$100. Gilead did not specify the value of each gift bag or request a specific amount.

The Salvation Army has requested a donation to provide summer help for kids and adults, which includes food, energy assistance, childcare, activities, and more. There are three one-time donation levels suggested. Those amounts are \$135; \$170; and a \$200 level. The Board has not sponsored The Salvation Army events in the past because requests had not been submitted.

Meals on Wheels has served Grant County for almost 50 years. They provide meals, wellness checks, and company for those that might be homebound. There are four levels of donation suggested \$140; \$420; \$840; and \$1,680. Mrs. Humphries said the following slide would show how many meals each of those levels would provide.

The City of Marion has sent a sponsorship request for the Amplify Marion Music & Food Festival. They have several different sponsorship levels. The lowest level was \$1,000 and the highest was \$15,000. Mrs. Humphries said for the \$15,000 sponsorship, the Board could be a main stage sponsor; for \$10,000, they could be a Stage B sponsor; for \$7,500 a Stage C sponsor; a gold sponsor was \$5,000; vinyl sponsor was \$2,500; and the \$1,000 level was a cassette level sponsor. Mrs. Humphries said that the Board had never received a request for or sponsored this event. Of course, last year was the first of its kind.

Mrs. Humphries reminded the Board that the annual budget was \$2,500 for sponsorships & donations combined. For 2026, the Board has sponsored a Babe Ruth Baseball Team for \$300 and Donated to the Veteran's Stand Down event in the amount of \$100. This leaves a remaining balance of \$2,100 available.

Mr. Logan asked if there were more requests that usually came in around Thanksgiving and Christmas time. Mrs. Humphries answered yes, that those usually come in during October and November for the Christmas season. Mr. Logan asked if Mrs. Humphries knew how much was sponsored or donated in the October and November Christmas seasons of the past. Mrs.

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BOARD ATTORNEY

Kyle Persinger

Humphries said that it has varied from year to year. In 2024, the Board received several new sponsorships that were requested and that included the 1812 Group request and some other organizations that were just getting started. Mrs. Humphries said that she didn't have a specific count with her, but she could get those numbers. Mrs. Shrader stated that it depends from year to year, who sends things in and when they send them. Mrs. Shrader added that it could be varied because the events change as well. Mrs. Humphries said that each year the \$2,500 budget is exhausted. Dr. Monteiro recalled that the board usually treated requests on a first come first serve basis because the budgeted amount is spent each year.

Dr. Monteiro said she understood the Meals on Wheels and Cancer Services requests. She was a little confused on the Gilead request. Dr. Monteiro asked who's putting the bags together, if the Board was to send a monetary amount, or are they expected to purchase the gift bags and fill them with comfort items. Mrs. Humphries said there wasn't a lot of information contained in the request as it was only one flyer. Mrs. Humphries said she and the Communication Specialist visited Gilead's website and social media posts for more information. The understanding was that Gilead would like us to commit to sending in 20 prefilled gift bags. Gilead would provide examples of what the families or patients might like to receive. Mrs. Humphries said by looking back at social media posts the items were usually general items. Mrs. Humphries said that she had not heard of this project before, and Gilead usually sends in a fall request for a donation for their long term illness and cancer care patients.

Dr. Monteiro noted that The Salvation Army request was for summer assistance, but kids were going back to school next month. Mrs. Humphries said that was correct.

Ms. Barney asked what the first request was. Mrs. Humphries said it was for the Color Me Pink Run hosted by Cancer Services. The run usually happens at Matter Park in October. Participants dress up, run through dye, there is a 10 a.m. registration and auction before the run starts at noon.

Dr. Monteiro asked if the motions should be done one by one or all together. Mr. Logan suggested doing the requests together so it would be easy to keep track of them. Dr. Monteiro motioned to sponsor Cancer Services at \$250. Mr. Lewis suggested taking the remaining \$2,100, consider each request, and divvy it up amongst those requests. Ms. Barney said that each request doesn't have to be awarded an amount. Ms. Barney said that in the past all of the requests were presented but it was up to the Board on whether or not to sponsor or donate and at what amount. Ms. Barney asked if that was correct. Mrs. Humphries said that Ms. Barney was correct. Mrs. Humphries explained that whenever a request was received, the sponsorship and donation policy was reviewed. If the request follows the policy, the request is brought to the Board for consideration. Mrs. Humphries said that there was another request received, but it was not brought to the Board as it violated the policy since it was for a specific individual. Mr. Lewis said that he could see not giving to all requests, but he would be in favor of giving something to Cancer Services. Dr. Monteiro reminded the Board that she made a motion. Ms. Barney seconded Dr. Monteiro's motion for \$250 to Cancer Services. A roll call vote was taken. The votes were as follows: Ms. Barney, yes; Reverend Green, yes; Mr. Lewis, yes; Dr. Monteiro, yes; and Mr. Logan, yes. Motion carried unanimously.

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Mr. Logan said the next request was from Gilead Ministries. Ms. Barney and Dr. Monteiro said that they would recommend passing on the request. Mr. Lewis said there wasn't enough information provided in the request.

Dr. Monteiro and Ms. Barney also suggested passing on the request from The Salvation Army as well. As for Meals on Wheels, Dr. Monteiro asked if \$140 was meals for one person during one month. Mrs. Humphries said that \$7.00 would provide lunch and dinner for one person according to the request. Dr. Monteiro said that would be one month at \$140 for one person. Ms. Barney noted that Meals on Wheels had received \$50,000 in funding recently. The group decided to pass on this request as well.

The final request was from the City of Marion for the Amplified event. Dr. Monteiro noted that the lowest level was out of the budget. Ms. Barney agreed and noted that sponsorship and donations usually ranged from \$50 to \$300. Mr. Logan commented that a lot of requests would also come in during the fall. The group agreed to pass on this request as well.

POSITION DESCRIPTION UPDATES

Mrs. Shrader said the Personnel Committee met this week to discuss position descriptions. The overview of that discussion is as follows. There were two job descriptions discussed making some adjustments to. The first is the Assistant Director for Engineering. In looking to advertise this position in the future, it was felt like some changes were needed. The changes were highlighted in yellow, red words were additions, and strike-throughs were deletions. A recommended change was to the title which would become Assistant Director of External Operations.

The next job description was the Vehicular Maintenance Coordinator. Mrs. Shrader said this is a specialized position and the range needed to be adjusted to impart or to reflect the level of work that's actually being done. Mrs. Shrader said should there be a need to ever replace this person, the suggested range would be more appropriate. The recommendations were also in yellow.

Mrs. Shrader said the other two discussions had regarded purely title changes. The first one because of the Assistant Director for Engineering title change. It necessitated a change in the Assistant Director for Operations' title. This is Mr. Guyer's position currently. Mrs. Shrader said the recommendation was to make that Assistant Director of Internal Operations. The other recommended title change was to Mrs. Humphries' position. Currently, the title is Executive Assistant/Administrative Manager. Mrs. Shrader stated that the title the Personnel Committee had landed on was Assistant Director of Administration.

Dr. Monteiro moved, seconded by Ms. Barney, to approve the recommended changes as described. A roll call vote was taken. The votes were as follows: Ms. Barney, yes; Reverend Green, yes; Mr. Lewis, yes; Dr. Monteiro, yes; and Mr. Logan, yes. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Logan thanked the Personnel for their due diligence regarding this matter.

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SENIOR LEADERSHIP REPORTS

M. Humphries, Executive Assistant/Administrative Manager

Mrs. Humphries said the State Board of Accounts Exit Conference was scheduled for August 4th. This will be the first time that the Exit Conference for the City and the Utilities will be held at the same time. Mrs. Humphries said that the Communications Specialist has shared a post on social media encouraging people to sign up for e-statements as our monthly printing and mailing costs are over \$10,000 which brought Mrs. Humphries to the update on the new software transition. The customer service and administrative workgroups are continuing with training. Frey, Invoice Cloud, and our team will be having a kickoff call for data gathering within the coming weeks. We are trying to coordinate schedules now.

C. Guyer, Assistant Director for Operations & Maintenance

Mr. Guyer said that the Water Maintenance crew had a busy week last week mining lime from the east lagoon. They worked 10-12 hour days. The crews filled up all the drying yards and were ready to distribute some lime to farmers so that we can switch lagoons on time.

R. Shrader, Director

Mrs. Shrader said she went before Council last week on Tuesday, the 21st to provide updates. Mrs. Shrader explained that back in the winter during the rate case discussion, she had made a commitment to the City Council to come more frequently just for the purpose of providing updates. Mrs. Shrader said she first shared the May financial report which the Board had already heard. The other items were not going to be brand new to the Board, but Mrs. Shrader wanted to make sure that she shared exactly what she shared with the Council.

As far as significant happenings, Mrs. Shrader said that we're in the process of determining the next steps for the old lime lagoons at 11th Street and Bush Lane which is behind the First Pentecostal Church on Pennsylvania Street just south of State Road 18. are not new, but she wanted to let the Board know what was going on. The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) and Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) have competing interests in how this should be handled and resolved. Mrs. Shrader said she was waiting to see what they will collectively determine.

The Water rate case from earlier this year is still in process. Mrs. Shrader stated that she, Mr. Pinkerton, and Mr. Guyer have been working on it with our attorneys and eagerly await the next steps with the IURC.

Regarding personnel, there have been two retirements in the last four months, and we anticipate at least two more in the near future. None of those represent entry level positions. Mrs. Shrader shared with the Council that that often leads to upward movement from within, but it can also require additional conversations and recruiting efforts.

Mrs. Shrader stated that current projects included taking inventory of the new water meters recently installed. It's a slow process but necessary. This allows us to confirm each meter is correctly identified, matched to the right customer account, and is functioning as designed. A college intern is doing a great job with that. Mrs. Shrader said that crews were also continuing

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to install additional meters that the contractors could not for example, those that might be found in a basement, those requiring a full meter pit replacement, or those which couldn't initially be located. Mrs. Shrader added that earlier in the week, crews came in early to complete a nursing home install.

Mrs. Shrader said the large combined sewer overflow project at Clark Street was mentioned earlier. Mrs. Shrader mentioned the large change order presented at last meeting to Council.

Mrs. Shrader stated that she covered noteworthy or the next big projects on the horizon with Council. The good news was that we're nearing the end of the Long-Term Control Plan mandated projects. The project at Home Avenue is the second to last. The bad news is that the last project is going to be the largest and the most expensive to complete. For a brief historical review of that, in 1972, the EPA implemented the Clean Water Act, which focused on regulating wastewater treatment facilities with the goal of making water as fishable and swimmable as possible. This was followed by the Combined Sewer Overflow policy in 1994, and the Wet Weather Water Quality Act in 2000. As a result, many cities entered consent decrees, agreed orders, and judicial statements to work toward mandatory compliance. These agreements often require specific construction projects, schedules lasting 15 to 25 years, annual reporting, and stipulated penalties. are lengthy and expensive. Mrs. Shrader stated that Marion Utilities Long-Term Control Plan then is the result of a state judicial agreement for us and serves as a binding roadmap for us to achieve and demonstrate our compliance for these things.

The last mandated project requires significant reduction of combined sewer overflows at Spencer Avenue, which is the one that's just right next to the new splash pad downtown, and at Bond Avenue, which is just across the street over here at the intersection.

As with our other CSO projects, this typically means constructing something to capture and temporarily hold additional flow during wet weather events. Marion Utilities, as you know, is working with Commonwealth Engineering to determine the best and most cost effective way to meet the requirements of this federal mandate.

Generically speaking, adding storage capacity at our treatment facility here on this site thus far makes the most sense. That said, there are a couple of caveats that we need to note. First, there is no location in the vicinity of Spencer Avenue to build a tank large enough to meet the parameters that have been assigned to us so that is one thing that justifies looking here. However, the other portion of this is the original portion of the South treatment facility is 88 years old. According to the contractors and engineers, that is approximately 40 years past its useful life. Unfortunately, our options for ongoing repairs are becoming more and more limited. Mrs. Shrader said the questions were what does this mean and what will it cost.

Commonwealth is currently evaluating project designs based on the following criteria: they're looking at adaptability; technologies that have been solidly proven and deemed acceptable by our regulatory agencies; how operator and maintenance friendly is it; how energy efficient is it; will it fit within current sizing constraints; and will it be capable of providing the required treatment. From this Commonwealth is assembling a proposal that will include something like a total cost of ownership analysis for the options they fell will most effectively meet our mandated Long-Term Control Plan requirements. An early and hopefully inflated cost estimate is

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between \$100 million and \$200 million. As we move forward, we're also considering all opportunities for project phasing and funding as well. Mrs. Shrader said her hope was to have more information to share at the end of August or beginning of September so we can make the best decision possible for the City of Marion.

Mrs. Shrader said she wanted to put that in front of the community because those numbers that she shared are enormous. We're going to be doing some financial analysis alongside of the Commonwealth research that is coming in. Mrs. Shrader told the Board they would be the first to hear when we're at a place of beginning to make some final decisions to get there. The Board's Long-Term Control Plan Committee would be involved in that process. Along the way, Mrs. Shrader thinks it would also be wise for us to allow people to see this for themselves. Contact with the City Council and the Board would be made along with anyone who wants to see this is welcome to come and see it. Mrs. Shrader said special invitations would be made for those wanting to come and walk across the facility to see what's being discussed because it's an incredible visual when you can look at it for yourself.

Mr. Logan added that the current Long-Term Control Plan was something entered into about 2011 and a \$2.00 per month per year rate increase was needed. The idea was to wait until the end of that period, 15 years, and then re-evaluate where we are. Guess what? We're now at the end of that 15 year period. Mrs. Shrader added that the last increase from that decision in 2011 went into place January 1st of this year. Mr. Logan thanked Mrs. Shrader for a very good and very detailed report. Mrs. Shrader provided the Council and the Board with a picture of what they are facing. Ms. Barney commended Mrs. Shrader on her presentation and representation of the Utility at the City Council meeting. Mrs. Shrader did a phenomenal job.

BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

There were no Board member comments.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Mr. Logan said this was his final meeting. In the immediate future, Ms. Barney would be the leader. Mr. Logan said it had been a great run. He had served 36 years on the Board with the last 24 serving as the Board President. The gavel was being turned over to a very capable and qualified individual. Mr. Logan said this was a great group of people to work with. This included great staff, good leadership, and great employees. There have been a lot with long-term careers here. We've developed a very attractive place for people to work. They want to be here. We want to give them every reason to work here and not any reason to leave here. We've tried to create an environment with a level of leadership that is very conducive and conducive for them to be here.

The next meeting was scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, August 6, 2026.

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Lewis moved, seconded by Ms. Barney, to adjourn the meeting. A roll call vote was taken. The votes were as follows: Ms. Barney, yes; Reverend Green, yes; Mr. Lewis, yes; Dr. Monteiro, yes; and Mr. Logan, yes. Motion carried unanimously.

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Meeting adjourned at 6:04 p.m.

Kristen Barney, Chairperson
Marion Utilities Service Board

ATTEST



Misty Humphries, Its Secretary

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