



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

Service Board

BOARD MINUTES OF THE MAY 7, 2026 MEETING

The Marion Utility Service Board held their meeting on Thursday, May 7, 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, Chairman; Al Green, Herschel Lewis, and Jayda Monteiro. Kristy Barney, Isaiah Fuller, and Mike Graft Lewis were absent.

Also present at the meeting were: Robin Shrader, Director; Pat Pinkerton, Assistant Director for Engineering & Solid Waste; Chad Guyer, Assistant Director for Operations & Maintenance; Kyle Persinger, Attorney; Tiffany Snyder, Accounting Billing Coordinator; Misty Humphries, Secretary; Erika Devine, Council Liaison; and Gary Fordyce, City Council.

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 April 16, 2026 meeting. A roll call vote was taken. The votes were as follows: Reverend Green, yes; Mr. Lewis, yes; Dr. Monteiro, yes; and Mr. Logan, yes. Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIALS

Mrs. Snyder presented the March, 2026 financials for approval. Mrs. Snyder stated that the sales remained at or above prior years across all Utilities. Water's revenue increased with the January 1, 2026 rate adjustment so the increase was expected. The Operations and Maintenance expenses were stable or lower than prior months. The Water Utility had lower chemical expenses in March due to the timing of February lime deliveries. As for the cash position, Mrs. Snyder explained that the Water Utility operating balances remained below the desired minimum levels and without the \$1.8 million Wastewater loan provided in September 2025 operating expenses would not be met.

As for the Wastewater financial activity, there was a \$10.5 million bond issued in December, 2025 through the Indiana Bond Bank Community Funding Resource Program. Those bond proceeds remain in the Wastewater Construction fund. Mrs. Snyder said overall, all Utilities reported a net gain except for Solid Waste. Solid Waste did not see a net gain because of the annual lease payments made in March. Mrs. Snyder concluded by stating that March was a lower expenditure month. Mr. Lewis moved, seconded by Reverend Green to approve the March financials as presented. A roll call vote was taken. The votes were as follows: Reverend Green, yes; Mr. Lewis, yes; Dr. Monteiro, yes; and Mr. Logan, yes. Motion carried unanimously.

UPDATE ON PROJECTS



Mr. Pinkerton reported that the sewer connections for the lime sludge lagoon were completed. The CSO 009 project will have a meeting next week to discuss contaminated soils on site. Mr. Pinkerton said we knew there were some, but there may be more so we have to iron that out with the contractor. In the meantime, Engineering was working on some cured-in-place sewer and manhole lining projects. Mr. Green asked Mr. Pinkerton to explain the contaminated soil issue. Mr. Pinkerton said a foundry, Marion Stoveworks, used to set on the site of the CSO 009 project. When the soil borings and testing were performed on the project site, arsenic was found onsite. Arsenic is natural to Indiana soil, but the levels were at a higher limit than what would be natural. Mr. Pinkerton said according to the report, the higher levels were found more on the residential site than on the industrial site. Regardless, this would have to be addressed. Mr. Pinkerton added that the contractor was planning to haul some soil off to a landfill but they may have to haul more than originally planned. Mr. Lewis asked what the name of the foundry was and where it was located. Mr. Pinkerton said the name was Marion Stoveworks and it was at 20th and Clark along the railroad tracks. Mr. Logan said he thought he had seen a picture of it at one time. Mr. Pinkerton added that he thought the foundry burnt down in the 20s and that if someone has a cast iron skillet with Marion on it, the skillet would be collectible.

TRANSFERS & PAY REQUESTS

Mr. Pinkerton presented the first and final pay request for the sewer connection at the lime lagoon to Keith Sullivan in the amount of \$115,981.31 with retainage of \$6,100. Reverend Green moved, seconded by Mr. Lewis, to approve the pay request. The votes were as follows: Reverend Green, yes; Mr. Lewis, yes; Dr. Monteiro, yes; and Mr. Logan, yes. Motion carried unanimously.

CUSTOMER REQUEST

Mrs. Humphries said that a customer has requested a review of their sewer connection and charges. Mrs. Humphries asked that this request be assigned to the Wastewater Committee for further discussion and review. Mr. Logan assigned the request to the Wastewater Committee for review.

DONATION & SPONSORSHIP REQUESTS

Mrs. Humphries said that there was one donation and one sponsorship request. The Grant County Rescue Mission sent in a donation request. Currently, a generous friend of the Mission has provided a \$5,000 Matching Challenge to help those in need. The Board usually sponsors the Walk-A-Mile event at \$250 each year. We did not receive a request for that event this year. Mrs. Humphries said that this request was brought to the Board to see if they would like to donate to this in place of the Walk-A-Mile event. There are three suggested levels \$175 for critical support, \$250 for shelter and care, and \$425 to service neighbors in need. The gift would then be doubled during the Matching Challenge.

The second request was from The Training Center. The Training Center will be hosting their Night of Sweet Dreams on July 25, 2026 at the Hart Celebration Event Center. Their goal is to raise \$50,000 to help students achieve their dreams academically and socially. This year's theme is Honoring Champions for Brighter Futures. This is an event that the Board has sponsored for the last couple of years at a \$200 level. Mrs. Humphries said she believed the \$200 level has now become a \$300 Belief Sponsorship which would provide for the logo on the slideshow, website, and social media.

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BOARD ATTORNEY

Kyle Persinger

Mrs. Humphries recalled that each year the Board has \$2,500 budgeted for sponsorships and/or donations. Out of the \$2,500 budgeted, the Board has donated \$400 year to date. Dr. Monteiro asked if Mrs. Humphries could remind her of the donations/sponsorships already awarded. Mrs. Humphries said the first was \$300 to the Babe Ruth League for a baseball team sponsorship. The second was a donation to the Stand Down event at \$100. Mrs. Humphries said the Stand Down event was a first time sponsorship. Mr. Logan summarized the requests and asked if any member had thoughts on the two. Mr. Lewis recommended supporting the organizations as the Board had previously. Dr. Monteiro moved, seconded by Mr. Lewis, to donate \$250 to The Grant County Rescue Mission and sponsor The Training Center’s Night of Sweet Dreams for \$300. The votes were as follows: Reverend Green, yes; Mr. Lewis, yes; Dr. Monteiro, yes; and Mr. Logan, yes. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Logan reminded everyone that there would be more requests as the year continued.

SENIOR LEADERSHIP REPORTS

M. Humphries, Executive Assistant/Administrative Manager

Mrs. Humphries said she wanted to let the Board know about some changes being made to help improve customer service. Currently, a CSR is located at the 1400 Building to assist customers. The Administrative Assistant will move to the 1400 Building, and the CSR will move back to the customer service office. This would allow all Solid Waste Services to be house at one location. Instead of customers having to come to the administration building to purchase a toter, buy large item tags or a mega bag, they will be able to do that at the 1400 Building. This will also assist crews who currently have to bring daily paperwork back and forth for entry. The crews are located at the 1400 building so this will be more convenient for them. Mrs. Humphries said that a notice would be posted on the doors of both buildings, on the website, and social media.

Mrs. Humphries then shared some billing statistics that the Accounting Specialist, Colleen Adkins, was so kind to gather. We generated 12,573 bills in April. Out of those, only 1,957 were e-bills. Mrs. Humphries said she brought this to the Board’s attention because as discussed previously, we are going to try and increase e-bills as we move to the new software system, and we thought it would be good to know where we are starting. Mr. Lewis asked if there would be a push for e-bills. Mrs. Humphries said that would be the preference only due to the delays being experienced with the postal service. Mrs. Humphries said that she just received a returned check for a customer that was post marked three years ago. Unfortunately, more delays are being seen since the processing was moved to Indianapolis and not done locally. Additionally, there’s going to be another postage increase, which would not only impact the sending of the bills, but also customers who mail payments to us.

In April, Mrs. Humphries said there was a small increase in illegal usage from March. March had 14 and April had 17. Mrs. Humphries said this was still far less than the numbers before the new meters were installed. As far as frozen or busted meters, there were 28 from January through April 2, 2026. Three of those had the lids accidentally knocked off by snow plows which caused the freezing. Mrs. Humphries said she hoped to be able to issue more reminders when the cold weather sets in about insulating meter pits in an effort to bring that number down.

P. Pinkerton, Assistant Director for Engineering & Solid Waste

Mr. Pinkerton reported that the rains in the spring were heavier than normal. At Indiana and Sherman, there was water coming down Sherman and then running down Indiana. We want to add a couple larger inlets with directional veins that will handle the debris and the volume of water a lot better in that area to help customers. The other area of concern is on Ivanhoe and mainly the

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residents on the east side that have a problem. The problem is actually in someone's back yard. A customer sent in a video of a "river" flowing down Ivanhoe. The inlets may not be too bad but Ivanhoe may cost more. If it does, it will be brought back to Board for budgetary conditions. Mr. Pinkerton then reported that Troy Phillips, the Solid Waste Supervisor, was retiring at the end of June. The Lead Technician, Sabastian Smith, has been hired as the Supervisor. Driver Jacob McMurray has been hired for the Lead Technician, which then opened a driver's position. The position opening closed yesterday and an interview was done today. Mr. Pinkerton said it was nice to have the extra time to get everyone hired and trained. Mr. Pinkerton also reported that the Environmental Coordinator, Pam Kirklin, would be retiring in September. Mrs. Kirklin also oversees the recycling that happens on Mondays and Fridays. With Mrs. Kirklin retiring, those duties would gravitate towards the Solid Waste group. Since the Solid Waste group is not here on Fridays, Mr. Pinkerton said the hours of the Recycling Center would need to change the days of operation from Monday and Friday to Monday and Thursday. The hours of operation would be the same. Mr. Logan asked if the change in days would start in September or sooner. Mr. Pinkerton said it would start in June while Mrs. Kirklin was still here because there were still a few things to learn. Mr. Logan asked if there would be an effective way to communicate the change to the public as many are ingrained to recycle on Monday and Friday. Mr. Pinkerton said that the changes would be posted at the Recycling Center and on social media. Dr. Monteiro said that when employees were identified as moving into the next level of leadership, she would assume those positions were advertised internally and did interviews. Mr. Pinkerton said yes, a position is advertised internally only first to see if there were applicants. Any applicants would be interviewed. The position would be advertised externally if there weren't any internal candidates or if those candidates that applied were not selected.

C. Guyer, Assistant Director for Operations & Maintenance

Mr. Guyer said that he wanted to provide some updates on the tank work. The Butler Street Tank warranty work was completed and returned to service on April 27th. Expenses for inspection services of \$17,486.39 were not covered under warranty. The Meridian Street Tank was due for its one year anniversary inspection on May 1st so it was drained. Upon inspection they found the same issues that were identified at the Butler Street Tank existed at Meridian. The tank will be out of service for approximately 2-3 weeks. The issues revolve around the riser pipe and knuckle area of the tank which had severe pitting that was addressed during the rehab with the use of pit filler which is an epoxy material that is applied then cured and sanded down. The profile of the pit filler was not adequately reduced to allow for even coverage of the paint coatings.

Mr. Guyer then provided some more detail on the lime sludge lagoons and the Water Plant NPDES IN0041319. The project to connect the outfall of the lime lagoons to the sanitary sewer was substantially completed and put into service the last week of April. We have asked IDEM to proceed with the termination of the NPDES permit. The issue of maintaining compliance with the NPDES permit has been an issue for 20 plus years, but there has not been any major violations. Mr. Guyer explained that the permit holds us to a limit on a PH level of 9.0 max. The outfall is regularly over that limit usually around 9.5-10 when tested directly from the discharge pipe. Our permit stated that we could test in the stream at a point before it enters the Mississinewa River. So, for years we have taken our sample from the stream where it mingles with the wastewater outfall just before entering the river. This procedure has always produced a

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below limit sample. IDEM changed their view of our sampling procedure and stipulated that sampling must be directly from the discharge pipe which when we are discharging puts us over the limit for PH. The options for compliance were to install a treatment facility specifically for the lagoon discharge or discharge to the sanitary sewer on Meridian St.

In closing, Mr. Guyer reported that there were two new employees joining us. Kiera Rosenow has taken a position as Wastewater Operator, and she started May 4th. Joseph Eppley will be a Distribution Technician and will join us on May 11th.

R. Shrader, Director

Mrs. Shrader said that work on the IURC Rate Case continued. Senior leadership had been in regular contact with our attorneys to compile the necessary testimony for the water rate case. Tomorrow, our meeting will also include Jennifer Wilson of Crowe to make sure we're all on the same page. We're hopeful that we'll be able to submit this paperwork within the next couple weeks. It seems like things are moving slowly, but in reality, I believe we're progressing as fast as possible.

In preparation for our final LTCP project, which will include a significant makeover for our Wastewater plant, a group of employees has been and will continue to visit nearby plants. Mrs. Shrader explained that the purpose of these visits was to help us determine what kind of treatment process and design will work best for us and to ask fellow operators what they like, dislike, would recommend, or would change given the opportunity. This is insight that can't be obtained by merely listening to engineers, no offense to Mr. Pinkerton, describe our options while sitting around a table. Mrs. Shrader said our hope is that toward the end of this summer we will begin to have some budgetary estimates for this last project so we can begin the necessary rate discussions with the City Council prior to year end. There are plenty of boxes to check between here and there, though, so we'll hold that timeline loosely.

Mrs. Shrader then reported that this morning we were able to enjoy our employee appreciation breakfast. Mrs. Shrader said thank you again, on behalf of everyone who was able to attend. The food was great, as usual, we enjoyed a good-natured Utility superlative selection, and we congratulated 6 employees with longevity awards: Larry Steely, 40 years; Tim Bolden, 25 years; John Rumble, 20 years; Joe Turner, Jr., and Herik Martinez, both at 15 years; and Ned Neubauer, 10 years. Thank you for allowing us to keep that tradition. Mr. Logan stated that he thought it was a great gesture to do that as recognition is appreciated.

BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Dr. Monteiro asked about the docket. Dr. Monteiro said that she thought she was understanding what was done but wanted to be sure before she signed. She noted that there were two checks issued to two individuals and then the check was voided. Mrs. Humphries asked if they were payroll checks. Dr. Monteiro said yes. Mrs. Humphries said that there were two individuals that retired and with PERF when severance payments are made, PERF is only paid on the first \$2,000. Mrs. Humphries said that this was the first time that a payroll with severance had been paid with new positions and people assuming those responsibilities. In completing the payroll, the error was noticed so the original check was voided and re-ran. Mrs. Snyder added that State Board of Accounts requires transparency so both of those checks have to be listed on the check register. Dr. Monteiro said she just wanted to make sure that she understood what she was signing. Mr. Lewis noted that today was his one year anniversary. Everyone congratulated him and wished him continued wellness.

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CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Mr. Logan said that Earth Day was a great day. There were lots of people attending. It was a great way to represent the Utilities.

The next meeting was scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 21, 2026 which would lead into Memorial Day weekend. Mrs. Shrader asked that if anyone was planning to be gone, to please let us know in order to determine if a quorum would be available.

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

Robert Logan, Chairman
Marion Utilities Service Board

ATTEST



Misty Humphries, Its Secretary

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