



**KERN RIVER VALLEY CEMETERY DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
MINUTES**

**Regular Meeting
Tuesday July 14, 2026 @ 9:00 AM
Kern River Valley Cemetery District
8441 Burlando Rd
Wofford Heights, CA 93285 County of Kern**

PRESENT: Mike Ryan, Chair/President - Board of Trustees
Kathy Agapiou, 1st Vice Chair/1st Vice President (*attended remotely*)
Deborah Hess, 2nd Vice Chair/2nd Vice President
Esteban Olivares, Treasurer
Teresa "Kat" Barnum, Secretary
Orion Sanders, District Manager

- A. CALL TO ORDER:** President Ryan called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM
- B. ROLL CALL OF THE BOARD:** All five trustees were present with Trustee Agapiou attending remotely from 11208 Sheldon St. Sun Valley, CA 91352 due to a health recovery.
- C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE and MOMENT OF SILENCE:** President Ryan led the pledge of allegiance and moment of silence.
- D. PUBLIC REQUESTS, COMMENTS or PRESENTATIONS:**

Kitt Helibron: Keepers of the Kern/Historical Society – Commented about upcoming event for fundraiser for the Wrought Iron Fence at the Museum. All funds will go into a separate sub account at Alta one.

Spencer Shepard, Reporter from the Kern Valley Sun, was also in attendance.

- E. CONSENT AGENDA:**
 - 1. Regular Board Meeting Minutes – June 9, 2026**
 - 2. Cemetery Monthly Payment Report – June 2026**
 - 3. Authorize Transfer of Funds from 42012 to 42010 for Pre-Need Services Executed**

Action: Trustee Hess moved to approve consent agenda, seconded by Trustee Barnum and passed unanimously with five yes votes: Ryan, Agapiou, Hess, Olivares, Barnum.

F. FINANCIAL REPORT – Esteban Olivares, Treasurer

Trustee Olivares reviewed June 2026 account balances. Kern County has still not finalized FYE 2026 account balances. Financial situation is looking grim and concerning through end of the year when property tax money is allocated. Funds are available for strictly operational purposes. Trustee Agapiou comments about the district doing a promotional video to increase sales.

Action: Trustee Barnum moved to accept financial report, seconded by Trustee Olivares and passed unanimously with five yes votes: Ryan, Agapiou, Hess, Olivares, Barnum.

G. AUDIT REPORT: FISCAL YEAR 2024-25 – Kevin Brejnak, Auditor

Auditor Brejnak is finalizing the FY 2024-25 audit and should be ready by next regular board meeting. Item is tabled until next meeting.

H. MANAGER’S REPORT – Orion Sanders, District Manager

1. **FEMA/CalOES A&E Project Status:** Manager Sanders reports that WZI will completed work to be scheduled this month at Historical Cemetery. Architectural design will be completed by October.
2. **WELL PROJECT:** Currently under county consultation; water well rehab video survey was submitted, and Manager Sanders presented photos of the clean out.
3. **CEMSITES SOFTWARE:** Cleanup of reserved properties has been underway and adding burial types to all properties. Section 3A cannot be full burial due to rock vein, and cremation only area is also available.
4. **GROUNDKEEPING:** Manager Sanders summarized solar data report, revising watering schedule and soil testing results. The solar is doing great after visits from solar energy company, water schedule is revised to advise from Gardner Supply Co. in Bakersfield. High calcium areas need to be treated. Section 3B is barren and we will have more core samples to take to Bakersfield next week. Plan is to have Groundskeeper Reno Shadden water four times at five minutes per day instead of one time for twenty minutes. Three dead trees were also removed and trimmed in section 2.
5. **VOLUNTEER PROJECTS:** Camp Owens Boys have been helping, performed pine needle clean up and will schedule to come back in the future.
6. **IMPROVEMENTS:** Cutting of Section I & II Driveway. Grass has grown onto driveway and will landscape both sections.
7. **MARKETING:** Burial Service Guide – Manager Sanders reports Admin Assistant Tara Overall is editing the guide and will be completed soon and would like an Urn promotional video to be completed as well.
8. **EVENTS:** Grub for the Graveyard for KRV Historical Cemetery Sign – Fundraiser is set for July 25th, Kitt Heilbron from the KRV Historical Society will have Hodel’s catering dinner and music and a silent auction planned with items donated for the drawing. County Supervisor Philip Peters is scheduled to do a district site visit on July 24th, at 1:30PM.

9. **TRAINING:** California Association of Public Cemeteries (CAPC) will hold their annual educational training conference October 8-10 in San Francisco. Trustee Olivares is interested in attending the conference in October and will fill out registration.

I. OLD BUSINESS:

1. **2026 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:** Manager Sanders reports on using endowment interest account to supplement maintenance costs and not out of the general fund account.
2. **DRY LANDSCAPE CONCEPT DESIGN:** Board will keep item on agenda until we can afford to do more with this design concept.

J. NEW BUSINESS: None

K. CLOSED SESSION: The board convened into closed session at 9:37 AM to discuss the following item:

1. **PERFORMANCE EVALUATION – District Manager**

L. CLOSED SESSION REPORT: The board came out of closed session at 10:24 AM. In action taken by the board, the board unanimously voted to put Orion Sanders, District Manager, on unpaid administrative leave pending further investigation. No other action was taken, and no other items were discussed.

M. BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS NOT APPEARING ON THE AGENDA: No member of the Board of Trustees had any individual comments this morning.

N. ADJOURNMENT: President Ryan adjourned the meeting at 10:25 AM.

Attest:

Teresa "Kat" Barnum
Secretary, Board of Trustees

Next Regular Board of Trustees Meeting: August 11, 2026 @ 9:00 AM