



KERN RIVER VALLEY PUBLIC CEMETERY DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
District Office at 8441 Burlando Road Wofford Heights, CA 93285

Present: Mike Ryan, Chairperson/President,
Kathy Agapiou, 1st Vice Chairperson
Debbie Hess, 2nd Vice Chairperson
Esteban Olivares, Treasurer
Teresa “Kat” Barnum, Secretary via telephone

Staff: District Manager, Orion Sanders
Administrative Asst, Tara Sanders

1. **CALL TO ORDER**—Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Mike Ryan at 9:00 AM
2. **ROLL CALL QUORUM PRESENT**—All trustees present—Secretary Barnum via telephone
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE**
President Ryan gave the Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence
4. **PUBLIC COMMENT, REQUESTS AND PRESENTATIONS:** No comments from the public.
5. **KRVC WELL REPORT BY PIUTE PUMP**

What is the reason the well is not producing? We just don’t know. Manager Sanders stated that we do not have a drop of water, not even for the restrooms. Piute Pump explained that droughts occur and affect everything. This well has had pump issues for years. We already tried Acid treatment; hit cave-in—in their casing when all the way down.

In our bid, 40 gals of acid will be put down and use brush to clean and clear out. We will be able to get the water back up if the problem is the iron bacteria. Current bid today for work to get pump working is \$26,902. Monthly payments are not an option, as Piute Pump is a small company and carry the amount through financing is not an option. Piute Pump came to meet with the board and the site managers to do right by the community and their recommendation is 100% to drill a new well. The estimate for a new well is \$80,000 with no guarantees.

History of the Well

The well was drilled to 340 ft/pump set at 320 ft(original), and water was at 42 feet, and that was excellent; no problems for a while. Then replaced the 33 gal, and it began to fail prior to the warranty of 12 -15 year. It started to suck in iron bacteria. The well pump was raised a little bit . The last pump, a 19 min a gal pump (inaudible) set at 275.

Once a well is drilled and hits aquafer, there are perforations, with gravel pack as filter, and first feet hit water is 60-80 slotted system. Solid pipe. Iron was coming into the perforations so pump was lifted. Rick was alarmed. Water level went down that year to 200 feet. Iron bacteria are plugging the pump. At 150 the well is lost.

Now, we are at the same place again. Chemical company recommendations were performed. Then there was arsenic detected in the water but someone pushed back on use of that type water and project was killed.

Well dried up and the whole cemetery system with the Big Blue Mine was amazing until the arsenic in the water. One well pumped 50 gallons a minute. Small pool with bottle neck, dried up.

6. REVENUE PRESENTATION BY ADMINISTRATIVE ASST (AA) OVERALL

1. AA Overall explained how funds are used for income and expenses and what money can be used for the well/cemetery maintenance project. She discussed our various accounts that generate revenue: Alta One Interest Account, Endowment Interest Account, and County Revenue Account.
2. Manager Sanders discussed how we have not received county funds from taxes since September 2025 due to county software challenges.
3. Endowment interest is only available according to HSC. Only interest from the Stifel account, endowment care, and pre-need investment account are deposited monthly into this account for maintenance.
4. County General Fund Account–AA Overall explained that there have been no county balances since June 2025. The FMS software was replaced with Workday software. Workday is still not live, despite planned launch in September. We still do not have access to their software.
5. We had to have auditors pull financials and do spreadsheet reports for us. We have had to pay \$8500 per audit from 2016-2020. However, December is property tax time.
6. AA Overall went through the last 2 years of statement entries and found income may be from a couple hundred to a couple thousand in deposits.
7. County Endowment Account is where we transfer the endowment fund & funds we receive from customers. It accumulates interest. There might be a bit more in the account that was Interest and investment income.
8. President Ryan asks about the \$233,000 being available? AA Overall stated that it is illegal to touch the endowment fund as show above. We can only spend the interest coming from these two accounts; it is a 1% interest. It is very low.
9. Stiffel Account – Where endowment funds were deposited previously, is generating interest into the other account, they are preparing statements on capital gains across the account that might been outside interest gained. For right now the interest is still in Alta One.
10. Recap: Total financial assets include income accounts, county funds, and Alta One accounts. Liquid capital is money that can be taken today and spent for the well project and as noted it includes other expenses previously explained. The endowment total is generated interest.
11. AA Overall explained we need approximately \$90,000 to get through December for audits and payroll expenses.

7. WELL OPTIONS DISCUSSION

1. President Ryan stated that what is looming is nine years of audits. We are trying to come into compliance but we do not know how to pay for them. Lay-Offs may be in the future.
2. Discussion about grants and everyone Grants- Doing the 26908 is kind of gamble. Decision is far above the board.
3. Maintaining the cemetery with or without water. As overseers of the cemetery, we inherited a problem with audits, even taking into consideration the water issue. This board inherited a huge financial burden. Glitch in audit caused delay and therefore much more money.
4. President Ryan responded that we need ACLP help and more assistance from the county.
5. Manager Sanders was asked several questions:
 - i. President Ryan Are there grants available? No known grants are available at this time. The last CTO bid was in 2024
 - ii. Treasurer Olivares asked, if there had been a camera to access take off 26902 and remove last line item 20370. Difference is (rehab \$6532) This is our secondary well for backup. Piute Pump agrees that getting a camera down there is best path.
 - iii. Is the \$40,000 down payment for Hearn's to do the exploratory drilling include everything? It only includes the drilling, but nothing else.
6. Manager Sander wants to get another survey by water prospectors at approximately \$1500 for other locations vs. original location of water Witcher. Two spots are already known according to Piute Pump. Four options on the table according to Piute Pump. Witcher in past found 12 per min at 360 feet. Tara and Manager Sanders will put a presentation together to present to the board.

8. POSSIBLE OPTIONS OR SOLUTIONS TO FUND THE WELL PROJECT

1. Closing out Stiffel Accounts including paying fines for this action, but we will still not be able to use principle, only the interest
2. Contact Auditors office that can find options to mitigate emergencies.
3. Need written bids showing cost
4. Low or no interest loan from Kern County
5. Reduction of payroll hours
6. Treasurer Esteban suggested looking into payment options on well project bids and Manager Sanders will look at that
7. Possibly get funds from the community through Friends of the Cemetery
8. Manager Sanders will contact Phillip Peters to request possible county assistance for well water.
9. Contact county board for expedition of emergency needs

10. Big Blue Mine- Ryan Big Blue Mine would be handled at the highest levels of government. In Keysville, the lodge at Painted Rock has arsenic problem and they have a filter – Timeshare at Democrat – never had problem. Never changed the sediment 300 allowable is 10 . Before filter was 35. Well pumps 150 gallons a minute and goes thru canister, because of the arsenic and large toxic substances U.
11. President Ryan expressed that the board inherited a huge financial burden; delays in processing the audits has put a large financial burden on the cemetery. cost the cemetery. He doesn't see a way we can make a decision on the well, water, and drilling until the county audits are complete.

9. WELL PROJECT ACTION-NO ACTION

The well action will be tabled until at least Mid-October and we will wait to do Witcher until after October meeting along with the \$6532 to be laid out to the county. This is not an issue of our making; it is a maintenance issue. We inherited this issue since iron algae comes back every five to six years.

Treasurer Olivares moved to table the action until next board meeting on 14 October 2025 and was seconded by 2nd Vice President Hess and passed unanimously

10. BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS OR REPORTS NOT APPEARING ON THE AGENDA:

President Mike Ryan:	None
Kathy Agapiou, 1 st Vice Chairperson	None
2 nd Vice Chairperson Hess:	None
Esteban Olivares, Treasurer	Progress has been made. Baby steps are progress and we cannot go backwards.
Teresa “Kat” Barnum, Secretary	None

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Treasurer Olivares moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:13 am and was seconded by Secretary Barnum and passed unanimously.

NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING: 9 September 2025 9:00 am
Respectfully submitted by Tamela J Ashlock, District Secretary
Minutes submitted by Secretary Barnum, Board of Trustees