



**BELFLOWER-SOMERSET MUTUAL WATER COMPANY  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD DIRECTORS**

**November 17, 2025**

**4:30 P.M.**

**Location: Company Office**

**ROLL CALL BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Eric Ikeda, President

Robert Wilson, Vice President

Leo Struiksma, Secretary – Treasurer

Ioana Gocan, Director

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Steve Lenton, General Manager

Angelica Zepeda, Office Manager

Ian Berg, Starting Line Advisory

Wesley Whitehead, Shareholder

**ABSENT**

Rick Cook, Director

**1. Call to Order**

President Ikeda called to order the regular meeting of the Board of Directors on November 17<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m. at the company office of Bellflower-Somerset Mutual Water Company located at 10016 Flower St. Bellflower, CA 90706.

**2. Additions to the Agenda**

A. Excessive Water Usage item 8.I.

**3. Approve Minutes of the Board Meeting held October 20, 2025**

A motion was made by Director Struiksma, seconded by Director Gocan. The motion was approved by the board; 4-0 to approve the October 20, 2025 board meeting minutes.

**4. Approve Minutes of the Special Board Meeting held October 23, 2025**

A motion was made by Director Wilson, seconded by Director Struiksma. The motion was approved by the board; 4-0 to approve the October 23, 2025 board meeting minutes.

**5. Approve Payment of Bills**

A motion was made by Director Wilson, seconded by Director Gocan, to approve the payment of the bills as presented. The motion was carried by the board; 4-0.

**6. Approve Financial Statement**

Ian Berg of Starting Line Advisory presented the Financial Statement including balance sheet for September 2025. A motion was made by Director Struiksma, seconded by Director Gocan, to approve the Financial Statement as presented. The motion was carried by the board; 4-0.

**7. Public Comment**

Wesley Whitehead said congratulations to the board on Conditional Use Permit for PFOS from City of Bellflower. Mr. Whitehead asked when the construction will begin. Mr. Lenton stated this will be answered later in the meeting during the discussion.

**8. Discussion/Action Items:**

**A. New Office Hours**

Mr. Lenton mentioned the new company office hours are Monday – Friday between 8:00 am – 4:00 pm

**B. Banc of California**

Mr. Lenton mentioned the new account with Banc of California is open and funds will begin transferring from Farmers & Merchant accounts. This will be a slow transition to avoid interruptions with customer billing payments.

**C. 2026 Board Election of Officers**

Director Struiksma made a motion to nominate Director Wilson as board President, Director Gocan as board Vice President and Director Cook as Secretary-Treasurer. Director Wilson made a counter motion for the board remain status quo for another year; board President Eric Ikeda, Vice President Robert Wilson, and Director Struiksma as Secretary-Treasurer.

After discussion, a motion was made by Director Wilson, seconded by Director Gocan. The motion was approved by the board; 4-0 to approve the 2026 Board Election of Officers to remain another year.

**D. 2026 Board Meeting Dates January and February**

President Ikeda recommended the board meeting dates of Tuesday, January 20, 2026 and Tuesday, February 17, 2026.

A motion was made by Director Struiksma, seconded by Director Gocan. The motion was approved by the board; 4-0 to approve the 2026 Board Meeting Dates for January and February.

E. AI

Mr. Lenton mentioned AI will slowly be introduced to customer service operations.

F. Franchise Agreement

Mr. Lenton advised legal counsel reviewed the draft agreement between the City of Bellflower and Bellflower-Somerset Mutual Water Company. Director Wilson made a recommendation to keep the term at 10 years as this agreement has been historically, not the 25 years as indicated in the draft. The board unanimously agreed, if the City agrees to the 10 years, the board will accept the Franchise Agreement as presented.

A motion was made by Director Wilson, seconded by Director Gocan. The motion was approved by the board; 4-0 to approve the Franchise Agreement if the City agrees to the 10 years, the board will accept the Franchise Agreement as presented.

G. Adopt Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Base Plan (MJHCP)- Resolution 2025-02

Mr. Lenton informed the board Bellflower-Somerset Mutual Water Company entered into an agreement with PWAG which allows the company to receive FEMA assistance in case of emergency.

A motion was made by Director Struiksma, seconded by Director Gocan. The motion was approved by the board; 4-0 to Adopt Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Base Plan (MJHCP)- Resolution 2025-02.

H. Investment Policy

Mr. Lenton informed the board Banc of California needed a revised investment policy. Attorney Jim Champa created a new investment policy.

A motion was made by Director Gocan, seconded by Director Struiksma. The motion was approved by the board; 4-0 to Adopt the Investment Policy- Resolution 2025-03.

I. Excessive Water Usage

Mr. Lenton informed the board to consider increasing rates for high water users with the incoming Conservation a California Way of Life. The board directed Mr. Lenton to identify a rate from the current drought tiered rate sheet to be applied to customers that continuously exceed their allotted amount set by the state.

The board requested more information at a future date.

**9. Project Updates:**

- A. Metrorail: Mr. Lenton mentioned the board legal counsel is reviewing proposed agreements. He is waiting on response.
- B. Artesia Place: Mr. Lenton informed the board he has a meeting later this week to find a contractor for the project.
- C. PFAS/PFOS: Mr. Lenton informed the board the following tentative construction schedule: Leahy April 2026, Mapledale August 2026, and Chicago December 2026.

**10. Reports:**

- A. Legislative: None
- B. Finance/Customer Service: Mrs. Zepeda informed the board moving forward the website and statements will reflect the new address to make payments and new office hours.
- C. Water Quality: Mr. Lenton informed the board all samples are good.
- D. Public Water Agency Group (PWAG): None
- E. Maintenance/Safety: Mr. Lenton informed the board all safety training courses are up to date.

**11. Committee Reports:**

- A. Personnel Committee: None
- B. Finance Committee: None
- C. Real Estate: None
- D. General Managers Comments: None

**12. Executive Session: (Operations, Personnel, Real Estate, Legal Matters):**

- 13. Adjournment:** President Ikeda asked if there was any further business to discuss before the Board of Directors. Seeing there was none, a motion was made by Director Struiksma and seconded by Director Wilson to adjourn the meeting at 6:10 p.m.



Eric Ikeda  
Board President

ATTEST:



Leo Struikma, Secretary