# REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

5:30 p.m., Tuesday, June 23, 2026
Utica Headquarters | 1168 Booster Way, Angels Camp, CA 95222

View the meeting agenda packet: www.uticawater.com/board-meetings

## UTICA BOARD OF DIRECTORS



## ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. **Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance**

- The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. **Roll Call**

- Directors Present
  - Director Schirato
  - Director Broglio
  - Director Bottomley
  - Director Tallakson
  - Director Conrado
- Utica Staff Present
  - Erik Holt, General Manager
  - Stacie Walker, Clerk of the Board
  - Frank Fields, O&M Superintendent
  - Kyle Rasmussen, Conveyance Supervisor
- Others Present
  - Mike Hodson, City of Angels, City Administrator
  - Tom Quincy, Union Public Utility District, Board Secretary

  - Mike Perrano
  - Oracle Guillemin
  - Heavenly Guillemin

3. **Approval of the Agenda**

   **Motion:** Director Bottomley made a motion to approve the agenda
   **Second:** Director Broglio
   **Board Discussion:** None
   **Public Comment:** None
   **Vote:** 5-0-0
   **Ayes:** Director Schriato, Director Tallakson, Director Bottomley, Director Broglio, Director Conrado
   **Noes:** None
   **Abstain:** None
   **Absent:** None

4. **Public Comment**

   - Mike Perano made a public comment asking why the time for the public to speak was changed from 3 mins to 5 mins between the last meeting and this one, and also requested that the Utica Board come to UPUD Board Meetings.
     - The Chair explained that the public comment period is set by the Chair and meeting dependent.

5. **Consent Calendar**

   A. Approve minutes from the April 2026 Regular Board Meeting (Walker) **- Approved**
   B. Approve minutes from the May 8, 2026, Special Board Meeting (Walker) **- Approved**
   C. Approve minutes from the May 20, 2026, Special Board Meeting (Walker) **- Approved**
   D. Accept Financial reports for April 2026 (Walker) **– Accepted**
   E. Accept Generation report for April 2026 (Walker) **– Accepted**
   F. Accept Financial reports for May 2026 (Walker) **– Accepted**
   G. Accept Generation reports for May 2026 (Walker) **– Accepted**
   H. Accept Operations Report April – May 2026 (Fields) **– Accepted**
   I. Accept Operations Report May – June 2026 (Fields) **– Accepted**
   J. Accept Water Conveyance Report (Rasmussen) **– Accepted**
   K. Accept April FERC Exemption Billing Report (Sparks) **– Accepted**
   L. Accept May FERC Exemption Billing Report (Sparks) **– Accepted**
   M. Approval of Water Contractor Transfer of Service (Walker) **– Approved**

   **Board Discussion:** Director Schirato's absence from the April Regular Meeting was not properly noted. The minutes will be amended to reflect Director Schirato's absence in the vote record.

**Motion:** Director Tallakson made a motion to approve the agenda with Item 5A amended as described by Director Schirato
**Second:** Director Broglio
**Public Comment:** None
**Vote:** 5-0-0
**Ayes:** Director Schirato, Director Tallakson, Director Bottomley, Director Broglio, Director Conrado
**Noes:** None
**Abstain:** None
**Absent:** None

6. **Regular Agenda**

A. Presentation, Discussion, and Action Regarding Utica's Dam Safety Program, Updates to the Owner's Dam Safety Plan (ODSP), and Adoption of Resolution 2026-06, Approving Updates to the ODSP and Reaffirming Commitment to Dam Safety (John Kessler, CDSE, Kessler and Associates)(Erik Holt, General Manager)

**Resolution 2026-06**

- Mr. Holt introduced Mr. John Kessler, Utica's Chief Dam Safety Engineer, and explained that the presentation was related to the previously accepted independent Dam Safety Program audit report. Mr. Kessler and Utica staff have been working together to address the recommendations and updates.

- Mr. Kessler presented an overview of the Utica System, Dam Safety Program, Emergency Action Plan, and updates to the Owner's Dam Safety Program. He discussed staff training, FERC inspection follow-up items, and DSOD observations, noting Utica's continued commitment to dam safety and operations and maintenance practices. Mr. Kessler discussed the FERC Part 12D Inspection process and explained that, following Mr. Holt's discussions with FERC, a Periodic Inspection was accepted in place of the Comprehensive Assessment at this time. He noted that this approach postpones the Comprehensive Assessment, reduces near-term costs, and maintains ongoing regulatory compliance and dam safety oversight.

**Board Discussion:**
The Board discussed dam break studies, storm operations, and how reservoir management practices are considered in dam safety evaluations. Mr. Kessler explained that FERC evaluations consider both normal and extreme storm scenarios and that Utica's Emergency Action Plan (EAP) addresses various flow conditions. Mr. Kessler confirmed that FERC reviewed the updated EAP and had no comments or concerns. They discussed EAP tabletop and functional exercises. Mr. Kessler explained that tabletop exercises are conducted every five years to review emergency response scenarios and identify opportunities for improvement. Functional exercises simulate real-time emergency response activities. The Board discussed updated inundation maps and modeling considerations for Ross Reservoir. Mr. Kessler explained that Ross Reservoir presents unique engineering

considerations due to its dam structure and that the analysis incorporates site-specific conditions and assumptions.

**Public Comment:** None
**Motion:** Director Broglio made a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-06, Adopting the Owner's Dam Safety Program and Reaffirming the Authority's Commitment to Dam Safety
**Second:** Director Bottomley
**Poll the Board:**
Director Schirato – Aye
Directo Broglio – Aye
Director Bottomley – Aye
Director Tallakson – Aye
Director Conrado – Aye
**Vote:** 5-0-0

B. Discussion/Action regarding the Adoption of Resolution 2026-07, Approving an Updated Utica Water and Power Authority Strategic Plan
(Erik Holt, General Manager) **Resolution 2026-07**

- Mr. Holt presented the updated Strategic Plan and explained that it incorporates Utica's mission, vision, values, the Owner's Dam Safety Plan, and long-term planning priorities. He explained that the Strategic Plan provides a 3-5 year framework, while the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) provides a longer-term 8-10 year outlook. Mr. Holt noted that the Strategic Plan is intended to be a living document reviewed annually in conjunction with the budget process

**Board Discussion:**
Director Broglio stated that he would like to add a few words to Section 3.1 of the plan to include "…and had exceeded its life expectancy" in the description of the infrastructure, and he noted that the plan has a lot of good guidance.

The Board discussed the Strategic Plan as a living document that may be updated as conditions change, including regulatory considerations. Directors noted that the plan will serve as a reference document to guide future planning and decision-making. Director Schirato commented that each goal has steps and guidance

**Public Comment:** None
**Motion:** Director Broglio made a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-07, adopting the 2026-2030 Strategic Plan with the amendment to section 3.1
**Second:** Director Schirato
**Board Discussion:** None
**Poll the Board:**
Director Schirato – Aye
Directo Broglio – Aye
Director Bottomley – Aye
Director Tallakson – Aye

Director Conrado – Aye
**Vote: 5-0-0**

C. Discussion/Action regarding Transfer of Funds for Emergency TSV Repair at Murphys Powerhouse
(Erik Holt, General Manager)

- Mr. Holt presented an update regarding the Turbine Sphere Valve (TSV) repair. He explained that during an inspection with the Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD), the valve did not operate as expected, resulting in a shutdown to assess the issue and complete repairs. Mr. Holt noted that he is confident in the repair and expects it to provide a long-term solution. He reviewed the repair costs, associated penalties, and lost revenue impacts. The Board discussed the financial impacts and potential recovery of costs, including any year-end carryover funds.

**Board Discussion:**
The Board discussed the status of the insurance claim related to the TSV valve repair. Mr. Holt explained that the claim is still under evaluation and that there may be potential recovery related to lost revenue. He noted that the original valve installation materials may have contributed to the failure, although they may have been appropriate at the time of installation. Mr. Holt stated that any recovered funds would be requested to be returned to the reserve account.

**Public Comment:**
Mr. Mike Hodson asked who Utica paid penalties to.
- Ms. Walker explained the Resource Adequacy Availability Incentive Mechanism (RAAIM) built into the Murphys Power Purchase Agreement.
- Mr. Fields gave additional context regarding the Guaranteed Energy Production (GEP), which could inflict penalties based on a two-year production average.

**Motion:** Director Tallakson made a motion to approve and authorize a transfer of $465,920.41 from the Budget Balancing Reserve Fund into the General Fund to cover the costs of emergency repairs to the Murphys Powerhouse Turbine Sphere Valve, and to balance the FY 2025-2026 budget for unanticipated revenue loss.
**Second:** Director Broglio
**Vote:** 5-0-0
**Ayes:** Director Schirato, Director Tallakson, Director Bottomley, Director Broglio, Director Conrado
**Noes:** None
**Abstain:** None
**Absent:** None

D. Discussion/Action regarding the adoption of Resolution 2026-08 Authorizing Applications for Grant Funding for the Darby Apple Fuels Reduction Project
(Erik Holt, General Manager) **Resolution 2026-08**

- Mr. Holt explained that he had been challenged to identify additional revenue sources. Based on his experience with fuels reduction grants, he proposed that the Authority consider serving as fiscal agent to host the Darby Apple Fuels Reduction Project.

  **Board Discussion:**
  The Board discussed project management and oversight concerns, including issues experienced during a prior project. They also discussed the risks associated with serving as fiscal agent and the Authority's potential revenue from the 12% administrative fee. Mr. Rasmussen noted that the second phase of the prior project went smoothly and the new forester was on site every day of operations. Mr. Holt explained that, if the grant application is successful, the award, scope, rates, and grant acceptance would return to the Board for consideration and approval. The Board would have an opportunity at that time to further discuss the project and project management.

  **Motion:** Director Broglio made a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-08, authorizing the General Manager to submit the Darby Apple Fuels Reduction Grant to CAL FIRE and the Sierra Nevada Conservancy
  **Second:** Director Bottomley
  **Board Discussion:** None
  **Poll the Board:**
  Director Schirato – Aye
  Director Broglio – Aye
  Director Bottomley – Aye
  Director Tallakson – Aye
  Director Conrado – Aye
  **Vote:** 5-0-0

7. **Correspondence, Board / General Manager Reports, Future Agenda Items**

A. Correspondence
   - INCOMING: DSOD – No Comment regarding Utica submittal of DSSMR
     - Great first compliance project for Ms. Brandi Sparks
   - INCOMING: FERC – Approval of Schedule Change for Part 12D Comprehensive Assessment and Periodic Inspection
   - INCOMING: FERC – Informing Thirteenth Part 12D Independent Consultant Report Due Date and Scope of Work
   - INCOMING: FERC – Response to Twelfth Part 12D Inspection re: Hunter Dam Supporting Technical Information Document

   Director Conrado asked which reserve had funds available to cover the cost of the Part 12D Study. The Board discussed the purpose and availability of the various FERC reserves and noted that, although the Relicensing Reserve was not intended for this purpose, it was the only reserve with available funds. Mr. Holt stated that, once proposals are received in response to the RFP, staff will develop a plan to fund the study.

B. General Manager Report

- **Capital Improvement Plan (CIP):** Mr. Holt provided an update on CIP projects, including the Hunters Dam concrete, powerhouse relays, generator rewind assessment, and Darby Knob tunnel. Mr. Holt stated that he had submitted appropriations requests for each project
- **Staffing:** Mr. Holt reported that Jeremiah had accepted a position with PG&E. Although the move was a positive opportunity for Mr. Hyde, the Authority will need to recruit for the vacant position. Mr. Holt stated that the Authority is recruiting for the Hydro Operator position, with the Relief Operator providing interim coverage. Interviews were scheduled for the following Monday.
- **Part 12D Study:** Mr. Holt reported that the RFP had been issued.
- **Financing:** Mr. Holt reported that he had contacted Bank of Stockton regarding potential financing options. The bank expressed interest in working with the Authority, including the possibility of a loan at an interest rate of approximately 6-7% based on the prime rate and potential USDA financing. Representatives from the bank were expected to meet with Mr. Holt the following week, with additional information anticipated at the next Board meeting. Mr. Holt noted that any financing would require demonstrating that member agency rates were sufficient to support repayment.
    - Director Conrado requested additional information regarding the structure and operation of long-term financing before feeling comfortable with such an arrangement. Mr. Holt discussed potential options, including lines of credit and other financing structures. Director Bottomley noted the importance of having a plan for the use of any long-term financing before incurring the debt and emphasized the long-term value of completing as-built plans, noting that using state funding to complete those plans would be beneficial.

C. Board reports

- Union Public Utility District (UPUD)
    - The Board received a presentation from the economic consulting engineer to adopt capacity and connection fees for new builds and implement fees, which were not in place before. Director Bottomley noted the costs for new service are appropriate.
    - The General Manager reorganized the organizational chart to create a Construction Supervisor position intended to support the District's goal of completing more projects in-house using existing staff, including repairs to sections of aging infrastructure
- City of Angels Camp (COA)
    - FY 2026-2027 Budget was passed
    - Altaville-Melones Fire Department contracted to annex 77 miles for fire calls to benefit the community
    - Water rate increases for the year went into effect
    - Caltrans sidewalk project well underway

- Director Conrado asked whether COA would be responsible for maintaining the landscaping associated with the sidewalk project. Director Schirato clarified that Caltrans would install the irrigation and lighting and maintain them for three years.

D. Future agenda items

8. **Closed Session**

A. Pursuant to Government Code § Section 54957(b)(1): Public Employee Performance Evaluation – Title: General Manager

- The Board took a short break at 7:15 p.m., followed by adjourning to closed session at 7:25 p.m.

9. **Report Out of Closed Session**

- The meeting returned to open session at 7:26 p.m. with nothing to report.

10. **Upcoming Board Meetings and Calendar Events**

- Regular Board Meeting, Tuesday, July 28, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.
- Regular Board Meeting, Tuesday, August 25, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.
- Regular Board Meeting, Tuesday, September 22, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.

11. **Adjournment**

**Motion:** Director Broglio made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:26 p.m.
**Second:** Director Tallakson
**Board Discussion:** None
**Vote:** 5-0-0
**Ayes:** Director Schirato, Director Broglio, Director Tallakson, Director Bottomley, Director Conrado
**Noes:** None
**Abstain:** None
**Absent:** None

- The meeting was adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

**Utica Mission Statement**

We are committed to preserving local control of our water resources through sound fiscal and operational management, rigorous dam safety practices, and regulatory compliance, ensuring a safe and reliable water supply for municipal and agricultural stakeholders now and for future generations.

**Americans With Disabilities Act**

In compliance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, 28 CFR Part 36, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Utica office at (209) 736-

9419 or email your request to admin@uticawater.com. Notification in advance of the meeting will enable Utica to make reasonable accommodations to ensure accessibility to this meeting. Any materials distributed to the Board that relate to an item on the agenda are available at the Utica office 72 hours prior to the scheduled meeting.

**Questions?**
Contact Utica at admin@uticawater.com or (209) 736-9419.

Approved at the July 28, 2026, Regular Board Meeting:

Caroline Schirato (Aug 5, 2026 13:38:14 PDT)

Caroline Schirato, Board Chair

Attest:

Stacie Walker, Clerk of the Board

# Regular Meeting Minutes June 23, 2026

Final Audit Report 2026-08-05

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|---|---|
| Created: | 2026-08-04 |
| By: | Utica Water and Power Authority (admin@uticawater.com) |
| Status: | Signed |
| Transaction ID: | CBJCHBCAABAAxLZS6fgKVqcJ-qen-uv-nqmGU2eQwxoL |

## "Regular Meeting Minutes June 23, 2026" History

Document created by Utica Water and Power Authority (admin@uticawater.com)
2026-08-04 - 5:47:49 PM GMT

Document emailed to Caroline Schirato (carolineschirato@angelscamp.gov) for signature
2026-08-04 - 5:47:54 PM GMT

Email viewed by Caroline Schirato (carolineschirato@angelscamp.gov)
2026-08-04 - 5:48:52 PM GMT

Document e-signed by Caroline Schirato (carolineschirato@angelscamp.gov)
Signature Date: 2026-08-05 - 8:38:14 PM GMT - Time Source: server - Signature Appearance Selected: MOBILE_DRAW

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