

Approved

Pendleton Water Association
Monthly Meeting Minutes
January 20, 2026, 5:00 PM
Toledo Town Venue 11984 Texas Hwy

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Jerry Burnaman at 5:00 PM. After prayer, a notice of meeting and proof of quorum were confirmed. Board members attending:

Jerry Burnaman, President
Larry Rice, Vice President
Homer Miller, Director
Gwen Peterson, Secretary
Becky Sepulvado, Treasurer—absent.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes for January 9, 2026

Larry Rice moved to approve the agenda for the Monthly Meeting January 20, 2026; seconded by Homer Miller. Motion was adopted.

Larry Rice moved to approve the minutes for the Special Meeting January 9, 2026. Gwen Peterson seconded the motion and the minutes were adopted.

Recognition of Membership

Jerry Burnaman thanked members of the association for attending the meeting.

Operator's Report—EOM

EOM did not have a representative present at the meeting. However, December Monthly Reports were distributed to the membership.

President's Report

Jerry Burnaman informed the membership that we received an email from Kristen Achtziger, CEO of EOM, indicating that EOM, after careful consideration, has determined that it is in the best interest of both parties to terminate the current Operations Service Agreement and Professional Service Agreement between Cenla Environmental Science and Pendleton Water Association. She stated that Monday, April 20, 2026, would be the last day that EOM would work for Pendleton Water Association (PWA). Applause erupted.

Jerry raised concerns about statements made in the monthly meeting December 16, 2025. Previously, he and Larry Rice had observed that a Level One operator was present at the plant without supervision. When Jerry inquired with Ashley Bussell, Director of Field Operations, she asserted that EOM had obtained a waiver from the state permitting this arrangement. However, Jerry subsequently contacted Barbara Featherston, P.E., State District Engineer, who informed him that there was no such agreement and that it was unlawful for a Level One operator to be present at the plant without supervision. Jerry stated this constitutes a breach of contract.

During a meeting with the Executive Officer (EO) of EOM on December 29, 2025, Jerry Burnaman inquired about the possibility of reducing the monthly cost of the Operations Contract. The response of EOM was, after conducting a thorough review, it was determined that a reduction in the monthly cost was not feasible. In addition, the implementation of the SCADA system was deemed imperative, with a monthly increase of \$18,750. for PWA.

Following the termination of the current contract with PWA by EOM, our utility will be compelled to revert to its previous operations or explore alternative providers to operate the plant.

Board members have met with three other companies that have indicated their interest in the plant, provided that Tony Ferrell train their operators due to their limited knowledge of treating surface water. South Toledo and Ebarb Water Systems have surface water operators that could potentially be available to work for PWA.

Several members voiced their opinions on the significance of having a manager. The manager's position should be accompanied by a comprehensive contract outlining the benefits. This individual would be responsible for managing the necessary paperwork mandated by state and other relevant entities. The manager would have oversight of any contracted company.

Jerry Burnaman, President of the Pendleton Water Association, serves as the administrator of the banking accounts of the PWA at Community Bank. As administrator, he possessed the authority to deactivate an EOM employee from the banking system. This action was executed on January 2, 2026, and the relevant personnel were promptly notified.

A need exist to locate all water meters because that is the source of revenue for PWA. Board members have been assisting EOM employees in this endeavor.

A DOTD employee informed Jerry Burnaman that the exposed pipes at the bridges were not an immediate concern. The employee advised PWA to ensure that the pipes are properly marked for protection. Jerry also reported that the board had an informative meeting with Dwayne Lingle of L&L Construction.

Larry Rice informed the membership that Becky Sepulvado authored a compelling rebuttal to the proposed monthly increase. Members expressed their sentiments of Becky's absence.

Ned Goodeaux requested that the proposed quarterly meetings be postponed until after the transition from EOM has concluded. There was unanimous agreement; the next meeting will be held on Monday, February 16, 2026, at Sabine Council on Aging, located at 29275 Hwy 191, Many, LA.

Larry Rice moved that the meeting adjourn; seconded by Homer Miller. Meeting adjourned at 6:18 PM.