

CITY OF HASTINGS, NEBRASKA  
MINUTES OF UTILITY BOARD REGULAR MEETING  
Thursday, May 14, 2026

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a Regular Meeting of the Utility Board of Hastings, Nebraska was conducted Airport Conference Room - Hastings Municipal Airport 3300 W 12th Street, on May 14, 2026.

**ROLL CALL:**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. in regular session by Bill Hitesman with the following members present: Jeanette Dewalt, Susan Meeske, Regg Rutt  
Derek Zeisler, Erik Nielsen, Tony Herrman, Brandan Lubken, Roger Nash, Steve Huntley, Mark Funkey, Jaci Higgins, Lee Vrooman, Noel Nienhueser, Karl Block, Jason Redding, Lori Hartman, Micah McCaffery, Jesse Oswald, Larry COnsbruck  
Absent: Scott Kvols, Jay Beckby

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Bill Hitesman led the group in the recital of the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America.

**MOTION TO ADOPT CURRENT AGENDA FOR May 14, 2026 REGULAR MEETING.**

Moved by Dewalt and seconded by Meeske to adopt the current agenda for the May 14, 2026, regular meeting. Roll Call: Ayes: Hitesman, Dewalt, Meeske, Rutt Nays: None. Absent: Kvols. The motion carried.

**PUBLIC NOTICE** - Official Notice of the Regular Meeting was published in the Hastings Tribune on Tuesday, May 12, 2026. Pursuant to Nebraska Revised Statute Section 84-1412, the public is advised that a copy of today's agenda and all reproducible written material which will be discussed at today's meeting is located at the back of the Council Chambers. Also, a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is posted on the south wall of the Council Chambers which is accessible to members of the public.

**MANAGER'S COMMUNICATIONS:**

Appreciate Tony Herrman and all that he does for Social Media. We received the Excellence and Reliability Award from APPA. This is three years running now. Thank you staff. NPPD had a webinar to give a status update on the NextGen Nuclear Study. This will be Phase II. Final report before the end of the month. More information by June.

**BOARD CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS:**

Thank you to the staff for reliability for the third year in a row.  
On the nuclear side; Are they still talking about community meetings? Community meetings were done between phase 1 and 2.

**BOARD MEMBERS' COMMUNICATIONS:**

Susan received 3 phone calls about the payments for the accrued costs.

## **CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS:**

Charles Humblebirg, a landlord, talked about how he was working on an apartment and the utilities came on when they were supposed to be off. Complaints about utility bill being high and is not happy how the utilities are being operated.

## **CONSENT AGENDA:**

### 1. All Consent Items.

- (a) Approval of the minutes of the Hastings Utility Board Meeting of April 9, 2026.

Meeske moved, Rutt second. Roll Call: Ayes: Hitesman, Dewalt, Meeske, Rutt. Nays: None. Absent: Kvols.  
Approved.

## **REGULAR AGENDA:**

### 2. Unfinished Business of Preceding Meeting.

### 3. General Business.

- (a) Finance

- (b) Production

- (c) Administration

- i. Utility Billing Update

Finance, Customer Service, and staff continue to work with Tyler/Munis. Sewer distribution billing has been corrected. All customers have been notified. 50% of charges have been received. Adding additional audit procedures. Continued updates will be provided. Derek explained why it took so long to catch. We have started the appropriate measures so it will hopefully not happen again.

- ii. Share the Warmth/Give Hastings Day Update

Tony wanted to thank all of our donors on Share the Warmth through the Give Hastings Day.  
Amazed at the support the community has for Share the Warmth. Donations are accepted year round.  
We have been averaging about \$7000 a year.

(d) Operations

i. Consumer Confidence Report/Lead Copper Rule

2025 Consumer Confidence Report (CCR)

- CCR due every year by July 1st. Submitted to customers via bill stuffer, website and made available in public areas.
- Report includes three items that might draw questions.
  - 1) Coliform: 3 positive system samples.
    - Not regarded by the state as a violation as source was found quickly and isolated.
    - Source: Well 15, was chlorinated, pump replaced, and sanitary seal improved at surface.
    - Well 15 has passed 3 consecutive bacteria samplings and is back in service.
  - 2) Copper: 1.44ppm, MCL 1.3ppm. Lead and Copper Rule revision mandates more sampling and corrosion control study.
    - Lead and copper sample frequency up to 30 sites every 3 years to 60 sites every 6 months.
    - 1st 6-month sampling period underway. Staff taking more control of process.
    - 1 year (2 samplings) compliance, we can cease corrosion control study.
  - Copper is an essential nutrient, multivitamins contain between 0.5 and 2.2mg. mg/L= ppm
  - 3) Nitrate: 11ppm, MCL=10ppm.
    - Well 26 regular state sampling resulted in an 11ppm for nitrate.
    - Internal sampling below MCL, confirmation sample to state was 8.3ppm.
    - State required us to keep 11ppm on CCR.
    - Real-time nitrate analyzer set as Well 26, all looks good.
- CCR will be disbursed to customers through June.

ii. Google Grant

Google Grant and Well 17

- August 2025: HDR Engineering emailed HU about the grant.
- Funds available via Google to offset water usage of data centers.
- Well 17 piping and two pump system was already planned in FY26 budget (\$900,000) and met criteria of the grant.
- Communications between Google, 3rd party consultants for Google, and staff September 2025 to present.
- Grant won April 2, 2026. \$1,261,500 includes all capital costs and 10 years estimated O&M costs.
- Currently finalizing terms, modest annual reporting of volumes and containment mitigation for 10 years.
- Winning this grant should set us up for future consideration from Google on funding for other ASR related capital projects.

iii. Conservation Plan Update

Water Conservation Plan Update

- 28 of 30 smart sprinkler controllers deployed. 17 to residences, 11 to parks.
- 8 at NDS grounds already seeing benefits.
- Tiered water rates for residential customers under construction. Proposal should come this month.
- Lake Hastings consideration.

iv. Natural Gas Public Awareness Survey

Folks should be seeing in their bill this month, a natural gas awareness survey. This is required every 3 years. It provides information on natural gas and what to do if you smell gas. Will definitely need to look back and retype this.

Branad will be joining on party line to talk about this next week.

News letters got out in every bill. They are in English and spansih.

Last time there were 68 responses and we are already at 15 responses this year.

If you see it, please fill it out. It is available online. There are links through the social media post.

(e) Other

4. Possible Closed Session (if necessary or requested).

**ADJOURN:**

Moved by Dewalt seconded by Meeske, there being no further business to adjourn at 9:57 am.

Roll Call: Ayes: Bill Hitesman, Jeanette Dewalt, Susan Meeske, Regg Rutt. Nays: None.

Absent: Scott Kvolts. Meeting Adjourned.

APPROVED:

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Board Secretary



Utility Board Meeting  
May 2026

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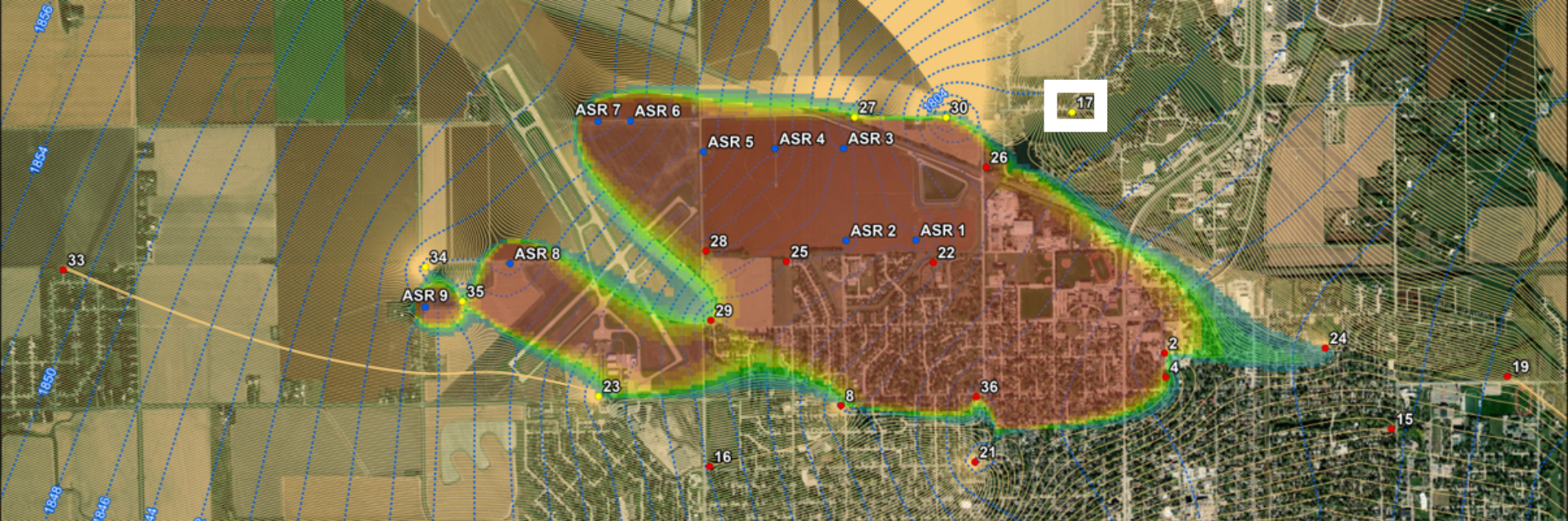
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# Google Grant and Well 17

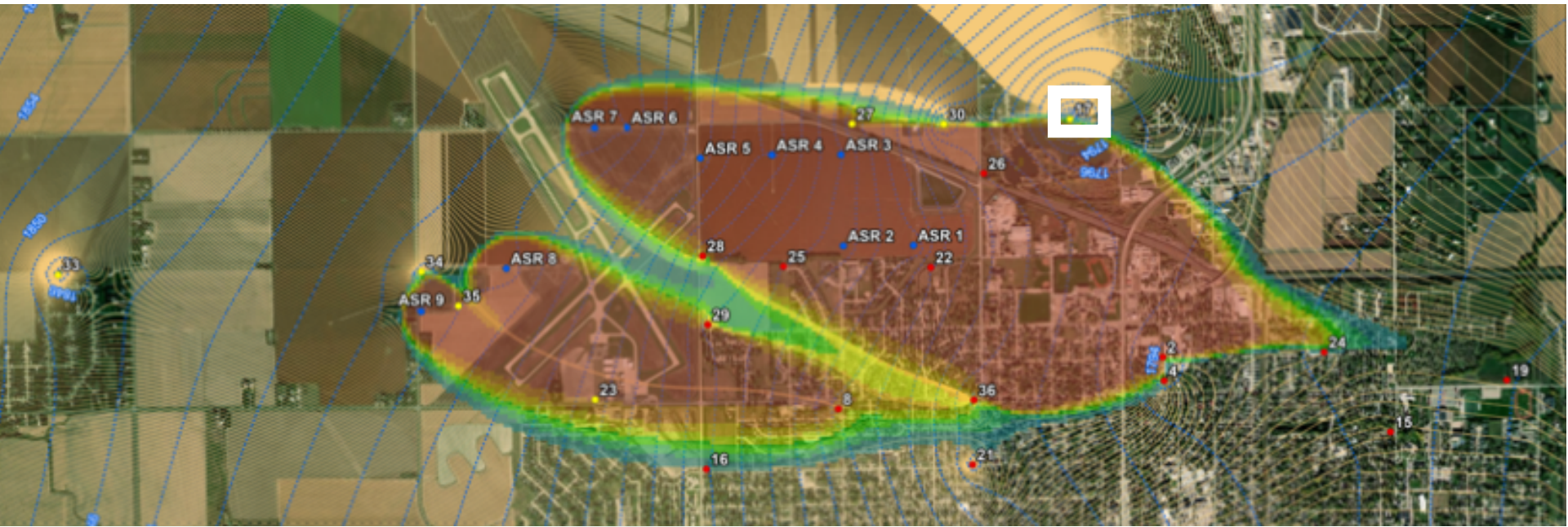
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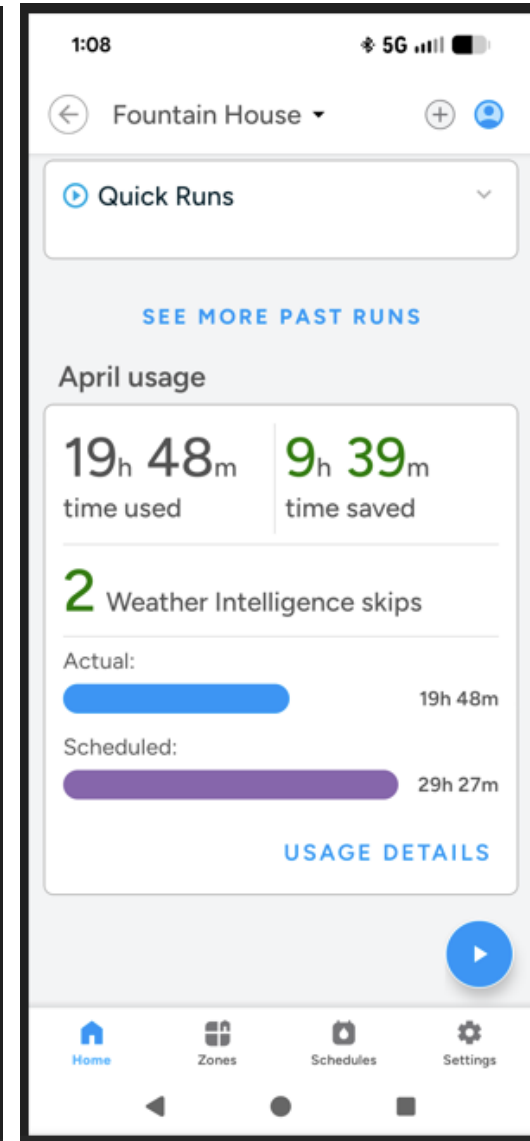
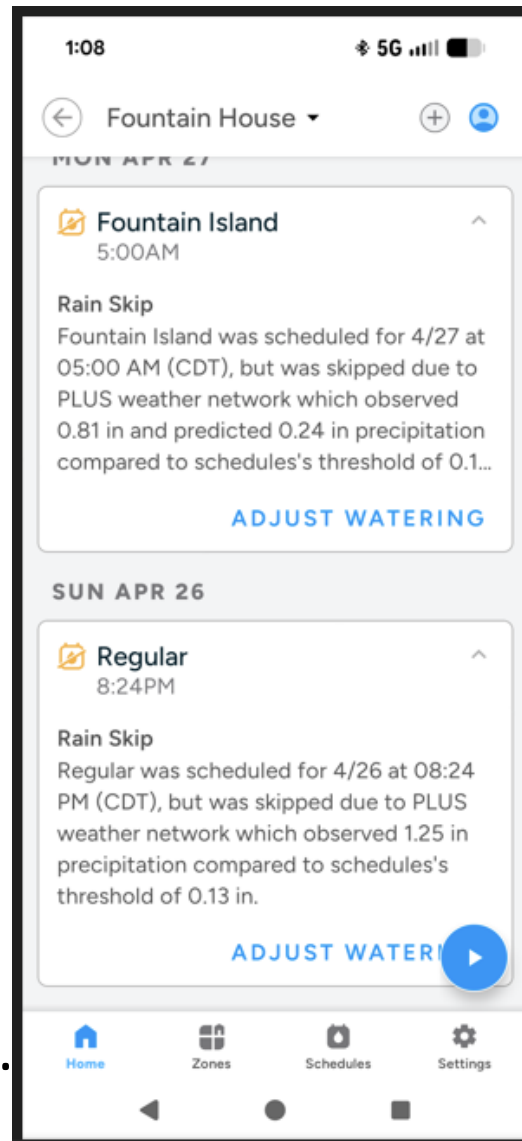


ASR Water Modeling, 20-year aquifer travel of treated water. 3-year average (top),  
Well 17 Addition and altered pumping strategy (Bottom).



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# HASTINGS UTILITIES