CALIFORNIA GOLD RUSH CHAPTER
MEETING MINUTES

DATE: January 16, 2026

LOCATION:
Tour address: Sibelco Glass Recycling at 299 Beck Ave. Fairfield, CA 94533
Meeting address: Dunnell Nature Center at 3351 Hillridge Dr, Fairfield, CA 94534

TIME:
9:30AM to 10:30AM: TOUR
11:00AM to 2:00PM: MEMBERSHIP MEETING

1. **Call to Order** (notice of no recording) …… .....Nate Pelczar
   President Pelczar called the meeting to order at 11:10am.

2. **Introductions** (all members and guests present) ……..…… .....Nate Pelczar
   President Pelczar welcomed the group, thanked Sibelco Glass Recycling for the tour, and thanked Corey Beavers with the City of Fairfield for generously sponsoring the meeting location and lunch. Other members and guests were present and introduced themselves.

3. **Roll Call** .....Carrie Baxter

OFFICERS					
Name	**Office**	**P/E/A**	**Name**	**Office**	**P/E/A**
Nate Pelczar	President	**P**	Carrie Baxter	Secretary	**P**
Naomi Lue	Vice–President	**P**	Dave Ghirardelli	Past-President	**P**
Wes Heathcock	Treasurer	**P**			
DIRECTORS					
Name	**Organization**	**P/E/A**	**Name**	**Organization**	**P/E/A**
Ruth Abbe	Abbe & Associates	**P***	Joe LaMariana	ReThink Waste	**E**
Peni Basalusalu	City of Berkeley	**A**	Patrick Mathews	Salinas Valley WMA	**E**
Jennifer Claiborne	Sacramento County	**E**	Felipe Melchor	ReGen Monterey	**P***
Derek Crutchfield	City of Vallejo	**P***	Amy Padovani	Geosyntec	**P**
Kimberly Cook	Agromin	**P**	Will Rice	Enthalpy	**A**
Rachel Davis	Yolo County	**P**	Lauren Romanazzi	SCS Engineers	**P**
Mark Ellis	Enthalpy	**E**	Tami Stolzenthaler	City of Watsonville	**P**
Chris Hiller	Waga Energy	**P**			

P - Present *P* - Present Remote* *E – Excused* *A – Absent*

4. **Changes or Additions to Agenda**.....Nate Pelczar
   President Pelczar thanked Director Hiller and Director Romanazzi for stepping up to support the WRS.

5. **Approval of Minutes** .....Nate Pelczar
   The November 2025 minutes were approved unanimously.

6. **Correspondence** ..... Carrie Baxter
   Secretary Baxter reported that there was an increase in inquires about the WRS that have been responded to timely.

7. **Treasurer's Report** ..... Wes Heathcock
   a. Cash Balance Reports and Statements of Budget
   b. Statements of Budget, Revenue, and Expenditure
   c. Molo Expenses – Update
   d. The Western Regional Symposium (WRS) Savings – Update

   Treasurer Heathcock reported that lunch payments received via Zelle were recorded promptly, and cash receipts were deposited in December 2025. The audit team confirmed that payer names will be documented going forward for tracking purposes. A certificate of deposit (CD) has matured and will be used to help cover costs related to the Western Regional Symposium (WRS).

   MOLO and membership dues have not been received for an extended period; the Executive Committee may issue a formal letter to the national organization regarding the missing payments.

   The financial report was approved unanimously.

8. **Old Business**
   a. SWANA Joint Chapters Meeting ..... Nate Pelczar
   President Pelczar shared that a joint meeting was held with the three California Chapters. During the meeting he discussed access issues with the shared Google Drive folder, received a financial update on shared WRS funds and ongoing payment and communication challenges with SWANA International, with payments expected soon. The Joint Chapters agreed to form a committee with chapter representatives to review and recommend updates to the chapters agreement, with a Q2 meeting to be scheduled at a later date.

   Rodeo planning is underway with Recology and potential coordination with Caterpillar. Outreach and marketing efforts for WRS were noted. Social media cross-promotion among chapters will be encouraged. An update on revenue sharing from the Yosemite WRS is pending. MOLO is scheduled for March 9–11, with registration opening soon and programming to include site tours, meals, and networking opportunities.

   b. WRS ..... Dave Ghirardelli
   Registration: Director Abbe requested additional support at the registration booth.

   Trade Show: Director Cook shared strong progress with 19 of 30 booths already committed; expansion required a second room after the first sold out. Exploring a passport game or giveaway to increase attendee engagement.

   Technical Program: Director Padovani shared that 17 abstracts had been received to date; and the submission deadline was extended one additional week.

   Tours & Activities: Director Crutchfield and Director Hiller provided an update. Golf tournament is scheduled and contracted, with the City of Vallejo identified as a sponsor. Two tours are confirmed, each accommodating 24 participants.

Sponsorship: Former Director Bills shared the sponsorship committee's efforts, which are progressing well, with an estimated $40,000–$60,000 in sponsorship revenue anticipated. Next steps include sponsor recognition on the website and in communications. AV costs are being reduced through coordination with Encore.

Communications: Director Romanazzi shared that outreach is underway via StarChapter, with continued development of the program. Support is needed for website updates and LinkedIn management. Plans include vendor highlights, potential opt-out options for attendee contact sharing, and increased cross-promotion.

9. **New Business**
   a. GRC BoD Discussion: Will Rice.....Nate Pelczar
   President Pelczar shared that a vacancy can be declared by the President per the bylaws. We have many private sector members that have taken a part in chapter business.

   Motion to remove Director Rice from the Board - unanimous

   b. Nametags.....Naomi Lue
   Vice President Lue presented wooden, domestically made name tags for executive and board members. Recommended to include a reminder at the beginning of a meeting to wear your name tag.

10. **Committee Reports**
   a. Audit.....Amy Padovani
   b. Awards.....Derek Crutchfield
   c. Bylaws.....Rachel / Nate
   d. Communications / Website.....Jennifer / Rachel
   Director Davis and Director Stolzenthaler shared a reminder with the Board regarding communications. The following outlines communication procedures and lead times required for emails, website and urgent updates. We also have a new LinkedIn Page.

   Goal: to improve GRC media materials and content. Post GRC information efficiently with minimal editing.

   Communication Committee Process

   - Form: Include full edited text, links, graphics. To access, use this link: https://swananorcal.starchapter.com/form.php?form_id=17&c=1
   - Urgent: Email All Text, Links, must be in form or clear email to Director Davis. Director Romanazzi is supporting the communications team with email requests specifically related to WRS.

   Communication Committee Lead Times

Communication Type	Lead Time Needed
Emails	1 week
Website Updates	1 week
Graphic Requests	1 ½ weeks

LinkedIn: SWANA Gold Rush Chapter has a new LinkedIn Page! You can find it here: https://www.linkedin.com/company/swanagrc/

- Asking all Board Members to login in once every few weeks to share and promote WRS and GRC posts.
- In need of one volunteer to take the lead on posting new WRS materials

e. Legislative & Regulatory ..... Chris / Doug / Larry
Doug Kobold shared an update for the LTF. The LTF reorganized as its own 501c4. He also shared a detailed presentation on the legislation that the LTF is following. All GRC members are able to access LTF details found at Swanacal-leg.org.

f. Membership ..... Chris / Peni
Director Hiller is working with Director Romanazzi to manage communication plan, especially for WRS.

g. Nominations ..... Nate / Naomi
h. Programs & Workshops ..... Ruth Abbe
Past President Ghirardelli provided an update on a successful all day tour, tour of rural programs. Thank you to CalWaste, Gambi Disposal, and Calaveras County

i. Scholarship ..... Amy Padovani
Director Padovani shared that scholarships will open up on March 1; Scholarship committee will need to reconvene, review the website and form, and provide any changes or updates.

j. Symposium ..... Nate Pelczar
k. Training and Certification ..... Peni Basalusalu
l. YP Activities ..... Ameen Kunbargi

11. **Suggested Topics for Next Meeting** ..... Nate Pelczar

Next Gold Rush Chapter Board Meeting:
Date and time: March 27, 2026; 10:00AM to 1:00PM
Meeting location: Virtual

Agenda and Attachments:
1) Meeting Agenda
2) Meeting Minutes
3) Cash Report and Statements of Budget, etc.
4) GRC Committee Assignments Roster
5) WRS Committee Assignments Roster
6) Gold Rush Chapter Roster
7) LTF Meeting Minutes

*Thanks to our Host and Sponsor: **City of Fairfield**!*

City of Fairfield, CA