CALIFORNIA GOLD RUSH CHAPTER
MEETING MINUTES

DATE: March 27, 2026

LOCATION:
Virtual Meeting – Zoom Link, Meeting ID: 850 1507 8728, Passcode: 987872

TIME:
10:00AM to 1:00PM: MEMBERSHIP MEETING

1. **Call to Order** (notice of no recording)..... Naomi Lue
   President Lue called the meeting to order at 10:07AM.

2. **Introductions** (all members and guests present)..... Naomi Lue

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

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

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

4. **Changes or Additions to Agenda** ..... Naomi Lue

5. **President's Comments** ..... Naomi Lue
   a. Resignation of Nate Pelczar and Jennifer Claiborne
      President Lue shared that since our last Board meeting Nate Pelczar stepped down from the role of President due to a change in employment and Jennifer Claiborne stepped down from her Director position due to family medical needs. Director Davis is organizing a donation for Jennifer's family. At this time the Executive Committee has decided to leave the role of Vice President open for the remainder of the term with Vice President Lue being inducted as President during our last Executive Board meeting in February. Director Mathews commented that he will also be stepping down from his Director position after WRS leaving an additional vacancy for the Public Sector Directors.

b. Past President Dave Ghirardelli Update
President Lue shared that Past President Ghiradelli has had a serious health event that has caused him to step down from the WRS Committee Chair position. A virtual card was shared for members to sign during the meeting. It will be delivered to Past President Ghiradelli at the close of this meeting.

c. New Western Regional Symposium Chair, Chris Hiller
President Lue thanked Director Hiller for stepping up to take the lead as WRS Committee Chair.

6. **Approval of Minutes of January 16, 2026 meeting**.....Carrie Baxter
The January 16, 2026 meeting minutes were approved unanimously with a modification to the header on the document from "Agenda" to "Minutes".

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

8. **Treasurer's Report**.....Wes Heathcock
   a. Cash Balance Reports – January and February 2026
   Treasurer Heathcock reported January and February 2026 cash balances. Director Padovani asked if all CDs have been realized at this point and Treasurer Heathcock said yes. Director Melchor asked about the account that is being held by the Southern California Chapter and wanted to know if there was any intent on moving these funds to the GRC. Treasurer Heathcock responded that the goal is to liquidate and bring those funds to GRC. President Lue stated that she will follow up with the Southern California Chapter and that she is also transitioning to be added to the GRC bank account.

   b. Statements of Budget, Revenue, and Expenditure – Through February 2026
   Treasurer Heathcock reported that GRC is not expected to earn the budgeted $12,000 of revenue for memberships based on the current reimbursements received from International SWANA. He also reported that expenditures continue to be under budget.

   c. International SWANA / Membership Dues / MOLO – Update
   MOLO payments have been received but membership dues continue to be remitted with little to no backup documentation. MOLO payments were delayed by many months and because of this, GRC chose to use Square to process payments for WRS.

   Treasurer Heathcock stated that the lack of documentation is concerning because the Chapter has not been provided enough information to reconcile the payments and payments have been delayed for over a year. Doug Kobold stated that the LTF has been experiencing similar struggles in receiving membership payments from International SWANA and reconciling the payments. He suggested that it may be helpful to download membership lists throughout the year along with the other California Chapters to work together to discuss these concerns with International SWANA.

   President Lue thanked Doug Kobold for his comments and stated that the Executive Committee intends to make membership a focus, and this issue of not having reconciliation support is concerning. It will be key for the upcoming year to dial this in as a key focus. Director Mathews added that International SWANA has a fiduciary responsibility to the Chapters. Director Padovani stated that in the past, receipts were provided with names to align with the payments received so the audit committee could reconcile payments from

International SWANA. Treasurer Heathcock will provide examples to the Executive Committee.

9. **Old Business**
   a. Meeting Schedule ..... Naomi Lue
      - April 19-23 – Western Regional Symposium (WRS)
      - May 15 – City of Roseville
        - Legislative Update by SYASL
        - Lunch sponsored by City of Roseville
        - Tour of Roseville Utility Exploration Center
      - July 24 – TBD
      - Sept 18 – Rescheduled from Sept 25
      - Nov 20 – TBD

   b. Board Roster - Updated ..... Naomi Lue
   President Lue shared a reminder that the board roster included in today's agenda packet is up to date. Please remember to update invites to committee meetings.

10. **New Business**
   a. Legislative Task Force - Update ..... Joe La Mariana
   Director La Mariana provided a description of what the LTF does. Doug Kobold shared that if you want to be a regular guest, you can submit a request with President Lue and upon approval, you will be able to join as a non-voting member. LTF has a priority bills list and he shared a few updates. More updates will be provided during our next board and member meeting in May. Doug Kobold also invited everyone to join us for the Legislation 101 and Legislation Update at WRS by the LTF.

   b. Nominations Committee ..... Naomi Lue
   President Lue reported that the Nominations Committee prepared the communication and announcement in the Board packet that was sent to Membership on March 2nd about the change in President, Director Openings, and today's meeting. It was also posted on LinkedIn and requested by March 18th.

   c. Elections / Director's Slate ..... Naomi Lue

   Officers' Slate 2026-27:
   Term July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027:

President	Naomi Lue
Vice President	Carrie Baxter
Treasurer	Wes Heathcock
Secretary	TBD
Past President	Dave Ghirardelli

   Public Sector Director Slate Term 2026-28:
   Peni Basalusalu
   Nominated: Cesar Zuniga
   Nominated: Michelle White
   2 additional vacancies

   Private Sector Director Slate Term 2026-28:
   Mark Ellis
   Chris Hiller
   Lauren Romanazzi
   Nominated: Bill Schmierer

President Lue introduced the Officers' Slate for 2026-27 and the Director's Slate for both the Public and Private Sector 2026-28 Term and explained the specific guidelines for both private sector directors and the timeline of elections per the Chapter By-Laws.

Cesar Zuniga, Michelle White and Bill Schmierer introduced themselves. It was mentioned that Bill and Amy both work at the same company. The GRC has had a similar situation in the past so there is precedence.

Director Abbe nominated Bill Schmierer and Director Cook seconded nomination.

Motion from Treasurer Heathcock, and second from Director Mathews; unanimously passed.

11. **Western Regional Symposium**
    a. WRS Committee Chair ..... Chris Hiller
    Director Hiller reminded everyone if they have not yet, please sign up for WRS as soon as possible.

    b. WRS Communications / Website ..... Rachel Davis
    Director Romanazzi shared that she is gearing up to send out last updates for WRS. She is working on drafting bio along with photos of Keynote speakers that we can include in our program, which is also being developed now. An email blast will also include all the fun activities attendees can experience (YP Trivia, Line Dancing, and bus to Casino).

    c. WRS Hospitality / Tours ..... Derek Crutchfield
    - Golf Tournament

    Director Crutchfield shared that there is still space available at the golf tournament.
    - Raffles

    Director Crutchfield is organizing a passport game and requesting donations from the vendors to help create engagement. Raffles will be presented during the dinner banquet.
    - Tours

    Director Hiller and Director Abbe shared that we are sold out of landfill tours and have seven openings remaining for reuse tour. We are also considering option to increase attendance limits because we have at least 7 additional that are on a waiting list that would like to attend the landfill tour.

    d. WRS Hotel ..... Chris Hiller
    Director Hiller shared that the final walk through at the hotel will be on Sunday 4/19.

    e. WRS Programs ..... Amy Padovani
    Director Padovani shared that she has confirmation from all presenters, and we have identified the rooms where everything will take place in the agenda. Food will be served in the exhibit halls (snacks, all day beverages), and meals will be served in the foyer. Zero Waste Sonoma will be hosting an earth day activity. Amy will provide the Communications Committee with a write up to include in email blast

    f. WRS Registration ..... Ruth Abbe
    - Shift Sign-Ups

    Director Abbe shared that we currently have 192 full registration (including speakers/sponsors). She is also looking for volunteers to help at the registration desk throughout the symposium.

    g. WRS Sponsorship ..... Tracie Bills
    Tracie Bills provided an update that we have commitments of $122,700 in sponsorship money. She is reviewing everything to make sure all member benefits are allocated, we have the logos and to confirm who still needs to pay. Director Abbe will get the people who received sponsor benefits registered in the next few weeks.

h. WRS Trade Show ..... Kimberly Cook
Director Cook shared that the trade show committee is in good shape.

i. WRS Treasurer Update ..... Wes Heathcock
Treasurer Heathcock we are coming in under budget currently; looking great!

10. **New Business**

President Lue reopened item 10. It was brought to our attention that one additional application was submitted by Brian Liebich with County of Sacramento by March 18th. Following the Nominations Committee's review of this additional application, the Nominations Committee is nominating to include him on the slate. Brian Liebich introduced himself.

Director Padovani made an amended motion to revise the public sector slate to include Brian Liebich, and Director Basalusalu seconded. The motion unanimously passed.

12. **Committee Reports**

a. Audit ..... Amy Padovani
b. Awards ..... Derek Crutchfield
c. Bylaws ..... Rachel Davis
d. Communications / Website ..... Rachel Davis
e. Legislative & Regulatory ..... Chris / Doug / Larry
f. Membership ..... Chris / Peni
g. Nominations ..... Naomi / Carrie / Wes
h. Programs & Workshops ..... Ruth Abbe
i. Scholarship ..... Amy Padovani
j. Symposium ..... Chris Hiller
k. Training and Certification ..... Peni Basalusalu
l. YP Activities ..... Ameen Kunbargi

13. **Suggested Topics for Next Meeting** ..... Naomi Lue

Meeting adjourned at 12:54PM.

Next Gold Rush Chapter Board Meeting:
Date and time: May 15, 2026; 10:00AM to 2:00PM
Meeting location:
City of Roseville, 1501 Pleasant Grove Blvd, Roseville 95747
Utility Exploration Center tour to follow.

Agenda and Attachments:

1) Meeting Agenda
2) January 16, 2026 Meeting Minutes
3) Cash Report and Statements of Budget, etc.
4) GRC Board Roster
5) LTF Meeting Minutes
6) Nominations Announcement
7) Golf Tournament Flyer