



AGENDA

NATIONAL WATER RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Wednesday, May 13, 2026

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM Local Time

This meeting will be held in person at the date and time specified above.

Directors receive no compensation from NWRI for their participation.

Meeting Location: 18700 Ward Street Fountain Valley, CA 92708

Conference Room: C-2

Online Meeting Access: Zoom Meeting ID: 836 5883 5973

Passcode: 510678

As a convenience for the public, this meeting is accessible via Zoom using the provided room ID.

Note that if technical difficulties arise, the meeting will proceed without disruption.

Sites Open to the Public: 111 N. Hope Street Los Angeles, CA 90012

700 N. Alameda Street Los Angeles, CA 90012

6075 Kimball Ave Chino, CA 91708

18480 Bandilier Circle Fountain Valley, CA 92708

NWRI Contact: Ana Alcaraz, aalcaraz@nwri-usa.org

OPENING ITEMS

1. Call to Order

- Roll Call
- Confirmation of Quorum

2. Items Received After Publication of Agenda

In accordance with the Brown act, the Board may take action on items that arise after the posting of the agenda only if there is a need for immediate action and the need for action came to the attention of the Board after the agenda was published.

Recommendation: Adopt a resolution authorizing consideration of items received after agenda posting. Approval requires a 2/3rds vote of members present, or a unanimous vote if fewer than 2/3rds are in attendance.

3. Visitor Participation

This item allows up to 3 minutes for visitors to address the Board of Directors on matters not listed on the agenda but within the authority of the Joint Powers Agency or related to Consent Calendar Items. In accordance with legal guidelines, the Board is prohibited from acting on comments made during this time. Directors may, when appropriate, provide direction to NWRI staff regarding the issues raised. Only a member of the Board of Directors may request the removal of a Consent Calendar Item for separate discussion.



CONSENT CALENDAR

At the discretion of the Chair, items on the Consent Calendar may be approved with a single motion and vote by the Directors present, or by the unanimous consent of the Directors present. Items are considered routine, and any director may request that an item be removed from the Consent Calendar for separate discussion and action.

4. Meeting Minutes – February 11, 2026

Approval of minutes is a routine action that formally records the proceedings of the previous Board meeting. Minutes are permanently retained.

Recommendation: Receive and file minutes as presented.

Attachments:

- Minutes of the regular meeting of the NWRI Board of Directors

5. Financial Statements – Ending March 31, 2026

Unaudited monthly financial reports are provided to keep the Board informed of NWRI's financial position and performance between annual audits.

Recommendation: Receive and file NWRI's unaudited financial reports for the period stated above.

Attachments:

- Unaudited Statement of Profit & Loss
- Unaudited Balance Sheet
- Unaudited Report on Open Invoices

6. Disclosure of Third-Party Research Funding

The Executive Director is authorized to sign research contracts within approved limits. These contracts are disclosed to the Board at regular meetings for transparency and oversight.

New Contracts

- State Water Resources Control Board: CalVal Initiative - \$1,400,000.00

Recommendation: Receive and file third-party research contracts signed by the Executive Director since the previous meeting of the NWRI Board of Directors.



7. Form 700 Filings

The Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) requires designated public officials, including NWRI Board members, to file a Statement of Economic Interests (Form 700) on an annual basis. This filing promotes transparency and is used to disclose financial interests that could potentially create conflicts of interest in decision-making.

The annual filing covers reportable economic interests held during the 2025 calendar year. The deadline to submit Form 700 was **April 1, 2026, and all NWRI designated public officials timely submitted their Form 700 for 2025.**

Recommendation: None



ACTION ITEMS

The Board of Directors considers Action Items in the order presented, unless a specific motion is made to amend the order of consideration. Each Action Item requires a separate motion and affirmative vote by majority vote of the present Directors. The Board is not obligated to act on any item presented for consideration.

8. Clarke Prize Program Update No. 2

In July 2025, Executive Director (ED) Hardy engaged Rising Tide Partners (RTP) to support the development of a program titled "Elevating the Clarke Prize to Global Prominence" (Summary Attached). At that time, ED Hardy and RTP Principal Neal Bloom presented a proposed funding approach to the Board. The Board directed ED Hardy to provide regular updates on key milestones on the program at future Board meetings.

During February and March, our primary focus was to develop promotional materials and program planning information from the January Workshop in Los Angeles. Our main strategic work is focused on Workshop 2 and delivery of research leading into the October Clarke Prize event. Work products include the final video and the attached draft press release for the Board's consideration prior to distribution.

Currently, the ED and RTP are collaborating on a proposal to the Whittier Trust to help fund the 2026-27 Clarke Prize Program. Our contact there, Whit Batchelor, serves as Executive Vice President, Client Advisor. We expect to deliver a draft proposal that will extend our conversations and taps into Whit's expertise and network.

- Recommendation:
1. Receive and file the Clarke Prize Program Update
 2. Consider the Draft Press Release for Distribution
 3. Discuss and take action as appropriate

- Attachments:
- Draft Press Release
 - Clarke Prize Funding Report



INFORMATION ITEMS

Information Items are presented to the Board of Directors to provide general updates and/or background information about the organization and require no immediate action.

9. Executive Director's Report

- NWRI Staffing
 - New Employees:
 - Ana Alcaraz – Administrative Assistant (Part-Time), March 11, 2026
 - Lisa Staugaard – Project Coordinator (Part Time), October 20, 2025
 - Separation from Service: Tianna Manzon, Project Coordinator, April 29, 2026
 - Staff Planning Session: OCWD May 6
 - Next Steps
- New Members - Eastern Municipal Water District Meeting – April 21
- CalVal
 - Water Services Australia Tour of Southern California March 02 - 05
 - WaterReuse Symposium Panel March 10
 - Water Research Foundation Webcast April 02
 - State Water Board Presentation April 07
 - Workshops: RO Experts April 09, MWD; MF/RO Utility Advisors May 07-08, OCWD

10. Board of Directors Comments

11. Important Dates

- June 10, 2026, at 1:30 PM (Regular Board of Directors Meeting)
- July 08, 2026, at 1:30 PM (Regular Board of Directors Meeting)

12. Adjourn to Closed Session

CLOSED SESSION

13. **CALL TO ORDER - A Closed Session of the NWRI Board of Directors as Authorized by Section 54957.6 of the California Government Code:** The Board of Directors will meet in a closed session to deliver the annual performance evaluation of the NWRI's Executive Director, Kevin M. Hardy.

14. Return to Open Session

Disclosure of Reportable Action Taken in Closed Session

15. Adjournment



DATE: May 13, 2026
TO: NWRI Board of Directors
FROM: Kevin M. Hardy, Executive Director
SUBJECT: **Item 4 – Meeting Minutes**

Duly approved meeting minutes serve as the official and permanent public record of actions taken by the Board of Directors. Approval of these minutes ensures the accuracy and completeness of the record and supports ongoing compliance with public meeting requirements under the Ralph M. Brown Act.

Recommendation: 1. Receive and file meeting minutes for the regular meeting held on February 11, 2026.

Attachments:

- Minutes of the Regular meeting of the NWRI Board of Directors



DATE: May 13, 2026
TO: NWRI Board of Directors
SUBJECT: Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting Held February 11, 2026

1. Call to Order.

The meeting was called to order at 1:35 PM local time by Acting Chair Alexander.

• Roll Call

The following Directors and Officers were present:

- Chair Denis Bilodeau, Orange County Water District - remote
- Director Dennis Erdman, Metropolitan Water District
- Director Bob Ooten, Orange County Sanitation District
- Director John Withers, Irvine Ranch Water District
- Alt. Director Mickey Chaudhuri, MWD - remote
- Alt. Director Rob Thompson, OC San
- Alt. Director Kevin Alexander, IEUA - remote
- Secretary John Kennedy, OCWD
- Treasurer Jason Dadakis, OCWD

Others present:

- Jim Colston, IRWD
- Lan Wiborg, OC San - remote

NWRI Staff present:

- Kevin M. Hardy, Executive Director (ED)
- Julie Abshire, Project Controller
- Mary Collins, Communications Manager
- Tianna Manzon, Project Manager

• Confirmation of Quorum.

A quorum is established when at least four of the six member agencies are represented. All six member agencies were represented by either a Board Director or Alternate Director, or both. A quorum was determined.

2. Items Received After Publication of Agenda. None.

3. Visitor Participation. None.



CONSENT CALENDAR

4. Meeting Minutes – November 12, 2025

5. Financial Statements Ending January 31, 2026

Staff provided an overview of the financial statements ending January 31, noting that NWRI remains in a strong fiscal position. Year-to-date operations reflect an approximate **\$110,000 operating surplus**, which is favorable compared to typical performance at this point in the fiscal year when revenues and expenses are often closer to breakeven.

The Board discussed the significant changes reflected on the balance sheet associated with the launch of the **CalVal Initiative**. Total assets now exceed approximately **\$4 million**, driven primarily by project-related receivables tied to executed agreements and invoicing activities. While these balances appear substantial, staff emphasized that a large portion represents **pass-through funds** that will be distributed to project partners and subcontractors as work progresses.

Cash reserves remain strong, with approximately **\$1 million in cash on hand**, including roughly **\$600,000 in organizational equity**, positioning NWRI well from a liquidity and risk-management standpoint. Staff noted that maintaining adequate cash reserves provides operational flexibility while large project funds move through the organization.

Board members acknowledged that the CalVal project has materially increased financial activity and reporting complexity but agreed that NWRI's overall fiscal health remains stable and well managed.

6. Disclosure of Third-Party Research Funding

Contracts entered by NWRI are disclosed to the Board at regular meetings for transparency, accountability, and oversight. The following contracts and extensions were reported on:

- **New Contracts**

- LADWP: CalVal Phase 2 - \$2,800,000.00

- **Contract Extensions**

- None.

Staff Recommendation 1. Receive and file Consent Calendar Items 4 – 6

Attachments:

- Minutes of the regular meeting held November 12, 2025
- Unaudited financial reports for the period ending January 31, 2026
 - Statement of Profit and Loss



- Balance Sheet
- Report on Account Receivables
- Third party research contracts signed by the Executive Director since the previous meeting of the NWRI Board of Directors

Action Taken: **Motion:** Director Erdman moved to receive and file Items 4 – 6. Chair Ooten seconded. Motion unanimously carried.

ACTION ITEMS

7. 2026 NWRI Board Roster

The Board roster is provided annually to reflect current Board membership and officer appointments. The roster below summarizes the Board’s composition to-date.

Member Agency	Director	Alternate Director(s)
Orange County Water District	Denis Bilodeau	Roger Yoh
Los Angeles Department of Water and Power	Jesus Gonzalez	Rafael Villegas Jonathan Leung
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California	Dennis Erdman	Mickey Chaudhuri
Orange County Sanitation District	Bob Ooten	Rob Thompson
Irvine Ranch Water District	John Withers	Douglas Reinhart
Inland Empire Utilities Agency	Steve Elie	Kevin Alexander
NWRI Treasurer	Jason Dadakis	
NWRI Secretary	John Kennedy	

- Board Questions:

- Board members did not raise any questions.

Staff

Recommendation

1. Discuss and take action as appropriate
2. Receive and file the 2026 NWRI Board roster

Attachments:

None.

Action Taken:

The updated Board roster presented was received and filed. No action was taken.



8. Compliance Acknowledgements

- **Executive Director Hardy introduced the item:**

- ED Hardy provided a reminder regarding required compliance obligations, including Form 700 filings, ethics training, harassment prevention training, and the newly required SB827 fiscal training for 2026.
- Board members were encouraged to coordinate compliance with their home agencies where possible to avoid duplication.
- ED Hardy emphasized the importance of documenting completion and indicated they would follow up with individuals as needed.

- **Board Discussion:**

- Acting Chair Alexander expressed support ensuring all members complete required training through their respective organizations. He also asked about the availability of alternative training resources if members do not have access through their home agencies and emphasized the importance of having a backup approach if training is unavailable.
- Both Acting Chair Alexander and Executive Director Hardy confirmed general expectation that most agencies already provide required training for elected officials.

Staff 1. Discuss and take action as appropriate
Recommendation 2. Acknowledge compliance requirements

Attachments: None.

Action Taken: The update on Compliance Acknowledgements presented and received and filed. No action was taken.

9. Clarke Prize Program Update No. 1

- **Executive Director Hardy introduced the item:**

- A detailed update was provided on the Clarke Prize program, with emphasis on its transition to a self-funded model. Staff reported that the initial workshop held on January 21 was successful, bringing together approximately 30 participants, including several past laureates.
- The workshop focused heavily on wildfire impacts on water infrastructure and revealed significant opportunities for research and collaboration. Presentations from subject matter experts highlighted challenges related to infrastructure damage, water quality degradation, public expectations, and long-term system resilience.
- Outcomes from the workshop included the development of categorized research ideas (short-, medium-, and long-term), early-stage communications materials, and a draft opinion piece advocating for increased investment in this area. Engagement from laureates



has increased, with several expressing interest in continued participation and leadership roles.

- From a financial perspective, staff clarified that **current reported deficits (~\$32,000)** significantly understate the full cost of the program. A proposed report is being developed on Clarke Prize funding, which will include some narratives to help track activities.

- **Board Discussion:**

- The Board expressed general support for the direction of the program and endorsed October 24, 2026, as the proposed date for the Clarke Prize event.

Staff

Recommendation

1. Provide feedback and confirm October 24 as the proposed date for the Clarke Prize Award Ceremony.
2. Receive and file the Clarke Prize Program Update
3. Discuss and take action as appropriate

Attachments:

- None

Action Taken:

The Clarke Prize update was presented, and there was general support for the proposed October 24 date. No formal action was taken.

10. Key Performance Indicators

- **Executive Director Hardy provided background:**

- Executive Director Hardy presented an update on the organization's ten key performance indicators. Several items have been successfully completed, including compliance requirements, completion of an independent audit with a clean opinion, and delivery of the Phase 1 CalVal report (WRF 5277).
- Other items remain in progress, particularly those related to large-scale projects such as CalVal and external coordination efforts.
- The discussion highlighted the complexity of the ROMS BEC modeling effort, including lack of clarity and potential misalignment with prior IRP recommendations, emphasizing the need for science- and engineering-based approaches.
- The Board was informed of the successful completion of the WRF 5277 study, which highlighted inconsistencies in permitting practices, and that Phase 2 is fully funded to develop technical guidance documents. Ongoing efforts include Board outreach, staff development, and website enhancements.



- **Board Discussion:**

- Lan Wiborg (OC San) provided clarification on the ROMS BEC and SCCWRP processes, noting funding limitations, shifting priorities, and ongoing efforts to align modeling with engineering standards and improve understanding of nutrient management.
- The Board acknowledged the overall progress of KPIs and supported continued advancement of remaining items. It also recognized the complexity and challenges associated with the ROMS BEC effort.
- There was some concern about maintaining alignment between technical recommendations and implementation.
- The Board supported the emphasis on science-based and engineering-driven decision-making. It also recognized the value of completed research efforts and upcoming guidance documents and expressed general support for ongoing outreach, staff engagement, and operational improvements.
- The Board confirmed the evaluation timeline, including feedback collection in February, compilation in March, and closed session discussion in April. Board members agreed that KPIs should continue to serve as the basis for evaluation and noted that the current structured process has been effective in prior years.

Staff Recommendation 1. Provide feedback and/or direction on recent activity for operational improvement or strategic focus.

Attachments: ○ None

Action Taken: The KPIs update was presented. No action was taken.

Information Items

11. NWRI Staff Transition

- **Executive Director Hardy and Project Manager Tianna Manzon provided background:**
- Executive Director Hardy provided an update on internal transitions following the departure of Suzanne Sharkey and outlined recruitment efforts for a replacement support role. He outlined steps taken to ensure continuity, including internal development and redistribution of responsibilities.
- Project Manager Manzon shared that a targeted recruitment effort is underway to hire a part-time administrative assistant, with a focus on candidates from water-related graduate or master's programs. Strong interest has been received, particularly from UCI, and interviews are in progress. A hiring decision is expected in early March.



- **Board Discussion:**

- Director Alexander supported this approach, noting both the opportunity for staff development and the broader challenges in the current job market.

12. Executive Director's Report

- **CalVal Initiative Updates:**

- Executive Director Hardy provided updates on CalVal, partnerships, and upcoming activities. Engagement with the Division of Drinking Water was described as constructive, improving confidence in the project's regulatory relevance.

- **NWRI Strategic Planning**

- The idea of initiating a Board strategic planning effort was introduced.

- **Board Discussion:**

- The Board discussed the positive engagement with the Division of Drinking Water and expressed increased confidence in the potential impact of the CalVal project.
- The Board acknowledged updates on workshops, symposiums, and international collaboration efforts.
 - The Board expressed strong support for initiating a strategic planning process and agreed that it would be valuable in guiding future priorities.

13. Board of Directors Comments

- Board members provided general feedback and comments supporting ongoing initiatives, including strategic planning and operational improvements. Updates were also shared regarding IT and security efforts, with staff confirming progress and future recommendations to be included in the upcoming budget cycle.

14. Important Dates

The following dates were noted for the Board's calendar:

- March 2026: WRA Symposium Conflict (No Regular Board Meeting)
- April 08, 2026, at 1:30 PM (Regular Board of Directors Meeting)
- May 2026: Spring Recess
- June 10, 2026, at 1:30 PM (Regular Board of Directors Meeting)
- July 08, 2026, at 1:30 PM (Regular Board of Directors Meeting)
- October 24, 2026 (tentative) (Clarke Prize Event)



15. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:33 PM by Executive Director Hardy.

SIGNED: _____ DATE: _____

John Kennedy, OCWD

Secretary, NWRI Board of Directors

OR

SIGNED: _____ DATE: _____

Tianna Manzon, NWRI

Project Manager



DATE: May 13, 2026
TO: NWRI Board of Directors
FROM: Kevin M. Hardy, Executive Director
SUBJECT: **Item 5 – Financial Statements**

Monthly financials reports provide a current snapshot of the Institute’s financial position and resiliency. Variations from the annual income and expense plan are anticipated and reflect the timing of project reimbursements, grant revenues, and contracted expenses. The financial statements are reviewed regularly by staff to ensure alignment with budget projections, maintain fiscal accountability, and identify any emerging trends that may require management attention.

Recommendation: 1. Receive and file unaudited financial statements for the period ending March 31, 2026.

Attachments:

- Unaudited Statement of Profit and Loss
- Unaudited Balance Sheet
- Unaudited Report on Open Invoices

National Water Research Institute

Profit & Loss

04/01/26

July 2025 through March 2026

Accrual Basis

	Jul '25 - Mar 26
Income	
4000 · JPA Contributions (Member 50K)	300,000.00
4250 · Grants	589,056.84
4400 · Contract Svc/Reimbursable	
4401 · SCSC / Workshops	37,316.77
4400 · Contract Svc/Reimbursable - Other	574,686.29
Total 4400 · Contract Svc/Reimbursable	612,003.06
4600 · Circle of Friends/Fellowship	10,000.00
4650 · Water Festival/Water Harvest	29,636.64
4800 · Interest Income	23,342.64
4801 · Fair Value Adj on Investment	-7,939.05
4900 · Other Income	578.99
Total Income	1,556,679.12
Gross Profit	1,556,679.12
Expense	
6010 · Accounting/Audit	12,300.00
6024 · Meals and Entertainment	27.60
6030 · Charges/Tax & Other Fees	
6032 · Banking Fees	1,035.42
Total 6030 · Charges/Tax & Other Fees	1,035.42
6040 · Telephone/Communication	
6041 · Cell Phone/Conference Calls	1,230.00
Total 6040 · Telephone/Communication	1,230.00
6060 · Mailing Services	128.03
6080 · Website/IT	1,065.38
6090 · Subscriptions and Dues	2,716.68
6110 · Board / Ops Expenses	68.92
6120 · Misc Admin Expenses	
6121 · General Office Supplies	532.11
6124 · Insurance	5,120.00
6125 · Payroll Processing	783.00
Total 6120 · Misc Admin Expenses	6,435.11
6140 · Salary & Benefits	
6141 · Professional Services	-53.75
6143 · Payroll Taxes	26,976.26
6144 · Director	52,221.04
6145 · Simple IRA Match	9,593.44
6140 · Salary & Benefits - Other	95,268.88
Total 6140 · Salary & Benefits	184,005.87
6160 · Membership	1,520.80
7010 · Admin Program Expenses	
7011 · Salary & Benefits	
7018 · Director	16,270.94
7011 · Salary & Benefits - Other	25,150.48
Total 7011 · Salary & Benefits	41,421.42
7013 · Registration	2,290.00
7016 · Travel/Lodging/Meals	213.86
Total 7010 · Admin Program Expenses	43,925.28
7020 · Advisory Panels	
7021 · Salary & Benefits	
7027 · Director	31,158.80
7021 · Salary & Benefits - Other	117,852.23

National Water Research Institute

Profit & Loss

04/01/26

July 2025 through March 2026

Accrual Basis

	<u>Jul '25 - Mar 26</u>
Total 7021 · Salary & Benefits	149,011.03
7022 · Professional Svc	82,605.50
7023 · Honorariums	108,587.50
7024 · Travel/Lodging/meals	19,169.15
7025 · Event Expenses	43.89
Total 7020 · Advisory Panels	359,417.07
7030 · Clarke Prize	
7031 · Salary & Benefits	
7037 · Director	47,017.82
7031 · Salary & Benefits - Other	13,042.59
Total 7031 · Salary & Benefits	60,060.41
7032 · Professional Svc	26,835.32
7034 · Travel/Lodging/Meals	5,605.71
7035 · Event Expenses	214.71
Total 7030 · Clarke Prize	92,716.15
7040 · Conf/Workshops/Contract Svc	
7041 · Salary & Benefits	
7049 · Director	15,406.09
7041 · Salary & Benefits - Other	14,027.63
Total 7041 · Salary & Benefits	29,433.72
7042 · Professional Svc	22.50
7044 · Travel/Lodging/Meals	588.01
7046 · Printing/Copying/Mailing	15.60
7047 · Charges/Tax & Other Fees	20.00
Total 7040 · Conf/Workshops/Contract Svc	30,079.83
7050 · Education & Outreach	
7051 · Salary & Benefits	
7059 · Director	14,802.92
7051 · Salary & Benefits - Other	30,044.03
Total 7051 · Salary & Benefits	44,846.95
7052 · Professional Svc	135.00
7056 · Fellowship Award	20,000.00
7057 · Water Festival Contrib/Payment	29,636.64
7058 · Sponsorship	2,500.00
Total 7050 · Education & Outreach	97,118.59
7070 · Research/Proj/Grant - Specific	
7072 · Salary & Benefits	
7078 · Director	45,344.10
7072 · Salary & Benefits - Other	55,183.20
Total 7072 · Salary & Benefits	100,527.30
7073 · Professional Svc	326,966.45
7074 · Honorariums	5,906.25
7075 · Project Expense	28,974.57
7076 · Travel/Lodging/Meals	24,110.30
Total 7070 · Research/Proj/Grant - Specific	486,484.87
8000 · Ask Accountant	1,330.40
Total Expense	1,321,606.00
Net Income	<u>235,073.12</u>

Balance Sheet

As of March 31, 2026

	<u>Mar 31, 26</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
1000 · Wells Fargo Checking	128,805.95
1003 · Petty Cash	90.45
Total Checking/Savings	<u>128,896.40</u>
Accounts Receivable	
1201 · Accounts Receivable-General	2,991,360.17
Total Accounts Receivable	<u>2,991,360.17</u>
Other Current Assets	
SWEEP	807,652.78
Total Other Current Assets	<u>807,652.78</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>3,927,909.35</u>
Fixed Assets	
1500 · Equipment-Office - >1 yr. >2.5k	13,679.62
1550 · Accum Depreciation	-13,679.62
Total Fixed Assets	<u>0.00</u>
Other Assets	
1650 · Investments	25,404.96
Total Other Assets	<u>25,404.96</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>3,953,314.31</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
2000 · Accts Pay-Vendors	210,286.27
Total Accounts Payable	<u>210,286.27</u>
Other Current Liabilities	
2100 · Payroll Lia/Vac Accrual - Staff	3,077.08
2101 · Payroll Lia/Vac&Sick - Dir	22,981.43
2500 · Deferred Revenue	3,025,814.28
Total Other Current Liabilities	<u>3,051,872.79</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>3,262,159.06</u>
Total Liabilities	3,262,159.06
Equity	
3900 · Retained Earnings-Unrestricted	446,082.13
3910 · Retained Earnings-Temp Restrict	10,000.00
Net Income	235,073.12
Total Equity	<u>691,155.25</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>3,953,314.31</u>

National Water Research Institute
Open Invoices
As of March 31, 2026

Type	Date	Class	Open Balance
Aurora, City of			
Invoice	03/31/26	Advisory Panels - 7020:Aurora	12,942.75
Total Aurora, City of			12,942.75
City of Tuscon			
Invoice	03/31/26	Advisory Panels - 7020:Tucson	17,750.00
Total City of Tuscon			17,750.00
Jacobs Project Management Company			
Invoice	01/27/26	Projects and Grants - 7070:Phase 2 CalVal	2,800,000.00
Total Jacobs Project Management Company			2,800,000.00
Las Virgenes Municipal Water District			
Invoice	03/31/26	Advisory Panels - 7020:Las Virgenes Res. (18-...	6,819.50
Total Las Virgenes Municipal Water District			6,819.50
Los Angeles Department of Water and Power			
Invoice	02/21/26		14,239.10
Total Los Angeles Department of Water and Power			14,239.10
Public Utilities Department			
Invoice	02/28/26	Advisory Panels - 7020:SD Pure Water Panel (...)	8,718.75
Total Public Utilities Department			8,718.75
Southern California Salinity Coalition			
Invoice	03/31/26	Conf/Wrkshp/Conctrct Svc - 7040:SCSC	13,197.17
Total Southern California Salinity Coalition			13,197.17
State Water Resources Control Board			
Invoice	12/31/25	Projects and Grants - 7070:Phase 2 CalVal	85,893.00
Invoice	03/31/26	Advisory Panels - 7020:Onsite DDW	3,914.90
Invoice	03/31/26	Projects and Grants - 7070:Phase 2 CalVal	22,107.00
Total State Water Resources Control Board			111,914.90
Valley Water District			
Invoice	03/31/26	Advisory Panels - 7020:Valley Water SCVWD ...	5,778.00
Total Valley Water District			5,778.00
TOTAL			2,991,360.17



DATE: May 13, 2026
TO: NWRI Board of Directors
FROM: Kevin M. Hardy, Executive Director
SUBJECT: **Item 8 – Clarke Prize Update No. 2**

In July 2025, Executive Director (ED) Hardy engaged Rising Tide Partners (RTP) to support the development of a program titled “Elevating the Clarke Prize to Global Prominence” (Summary Attached). At that time, ED Hardy and RTP Principal Neal Bloom presented a proposed funding approach to the Board. The Board directed ED Hardy to provide regular updates on key milestones on the program at future Board meetings.

During February and March, our primary focus was to develop promotional materials and program planning information from the January Workshop in Los Angeles. Our main strategic work is focused on Workshop 2 and delivery of research leading into the October Clarke Prize event. Work products include the final video and the attached draft press release for the Board’s consideration prior to distribution. Currently, the ED and RTP are collaborating on a proposal to the Whittier Trust to help fund the 2026-27 Clarke Prize Program. Our contact there, Whit Batchelor, serves as Executive Vice President, Client Advisor. We expect to deliver a draft proposal that will extend our conversations and taps into Whit’s expertise and network.

The Whittier Trust is a privately owned, multi-family office and wealth management firm headquartered in South Pasadena with offices throughout California and the western United States. Founded in 1935 by descendants of the Whittier family, the firm provides investment management, fiduciary and trustee services, family office support, philanthropic advisory services, real estate management, and estate planning coordination for high-net-worth individuals, families, foundations, and closely held businesses. Whittier Trust is widely regarded for its long-term stewardship approach, emphasis on multi-generational wealth preservation, and highly personalized client relationships. The firm manages billions in client assets and is known for combining institutional-quality investment capabilities with boutique-style service and discretion.

- Recommendation:
1. Receive and file the Clarke Prize Program Update
 2. Consider the Draft Press Release for Distribution
 3. Discuss and take action as appropriate

- Attachments:
- Draft Press Release
 - Clarke Prize Funding Report



PRESS RELEASE: NATIONAL WATER RESEARCH INSTITUTE ELEVATES DIALOG ABOUT WATER RESILIENCE

Wildfires threaten public health. Aging water infrastructure collides with growing populations. Communities must -make decisions faster, under more uncertainty, and with more at stake than ever before.

Too often, conversations about water supply and resilience happen in silos: in academic journals or in utility boardrooms—public awareness is left far behind. Through a new series of workshops, the National Water Research Institute (NWRI) is bringing conversations about water out in the open.

In January 2026, NWRI convened a group of the world’s leading water scientists, utility leaders, and water quality experts in Los Angeles for a different kind of gathering. Leading the group were recipients of the Clarke Prize, one of the most prestigious water awards in the world.

This first-of-its-kind Clarke Prize Solutions workshop focused on the intersection of water and wildfire, and the goal was simple: surface the issues that community leaders are facing, identify the issues that can be acted on now, and prioritize the actions that will take sustained, generational effort.

Utility leaders shared firsthand accounts. Researchers translated emerging science into practical application. Participants shared candidly about gaps, constraints, and identified opportunities for progress framed by aligning natural systems, built infrastructure, governance, and community behavior. What emerged was something more powerful than a single solution: a model.

That insight is shaping what comes next.

As Clarke Prize Solutions workshops travel across the United States, what what matters most in that community, whether mitigating the effects of wildfires, protecting watersheds, or improving local water resilience. The topics may change, but the



PRESS RELEASE: NATIONAL WATER RESEARCH INSTITUTE ELEVATES DIALOG ABOUT WATER RESILIENCE

approach is clear: convene a group of trusted experts to find real solutions for real problems. This matters because water challenges are accelerating faster than our institutions are designed to adapt.

Each workshop will contribute to a concise, solutions-oriented report summarizing issues, capturing Clarke Prize Laureate insights, and translating practical expertise into frameworks for action by decision-makers and the public.

Since 1993, the Clarke Prize has long recognized extraordinary contributions to water science and technology. But recognition alone is no longer enough. Communities need clarity, credibility, and leadership they can trust. This new workshop series represents a shift from honoring past achievement to activating today's leaders.

By stepping beyond the ceremony and into sustained engagement, Clarke Prize Laureates are doing exactly that: showing what it looks like when the world's leading water innovators collaborate to help shape the future by sharing their vision and expertise. It's about building a durable, visible *public* platform for progress—one workshop, one region, one body of work at a time.

Today's water challenges demand year-round engagement, regional relevance, and visible leadership. At a moment when water sits at the center of climate resilience, public health, economic security, and national competitiveness, that kind of leadership has never been more necessary.

###

**CY 2025 - 2026 NWRI Clarke Prize Budget
as of March 31, 2026**

<u>Clarke Prize Program CY 2026</u>	Budget	Actual	Balance
<u>Expense</u>			
Salaries	\$125,000	\$60,060	\$64,940
Professional Services	\$78,288	\$26,835	\$51,453
Event Expenses	\$308,708	\$5,821	\$302,887
Research Support	\$166,250	\$0	\$166,250
Clarke Prize Cash Award	\$50,000	\$0	\$50,000
Laureate Enrichment	\$25,000	\$0	\$25,000
	<u>\$753,246</u>	<u>\$92,716</u>	<u>\$660,530</u>
<u>Revenue</u>			
Donations Received	<u>\$753,246</u>	<u>\$30,000</u>	<u>-\$723,246</u>
Program Balance			-\$62,716