

## 2-26-2026 Memorial Regional Health Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

### Call to Order.

The meeting was called to order by John Ponikvar at 6:00 p.m.

### Attendance

**Board of Trustees Members present:** Denise Arola, Roger Richmond, John Ponikvar, and Dr. Kelly Hepworth, Steve Hilley, and Amy Updike.

**MRH Staff present:** Becky Forney, Jennifer Riley, Dr. Jeff Womble, Brittany Johnson, Michael Buda, Dr. Linda Couillard, RJ Palmer, Zachary Johnson, Corey Wagner, Paula Belcher, Todd Jourgensen, James Williams, Ashley Palmer, and Julie Hanna.

**Guests present:** Randy Looper.

**Opportunity for the Public to Address the Board.** There were no requests.

### Employee Recognition

Melissa Almon, LCSW, was introduced by Dr. Linda Couillard and Ashley Palmer for her Five year anniversary. She works with pediatrics ages six and up. She has grown to be a strong collaborator, and has exhibited excellent professional growth.

### Partner Updates

**Moffat County Commissioner Representative:** No report given.

**City Council:** Randy Looper

**The search for a city manager** is in final stages with public meetings scheduled.

**Craig Sports Complex project** is moving forward, though may be delayed to 2027.

**The PUC** hearing was won by the city resulting in an award of \$6M. The city is considering how to invest the funds.

**The Antero Group** who is designing the Industrial Park presented an update to council. The project is close to design with indications of interest from three businesses. A master plan is expected by June or July. Northwest Colorado Innovation Center signed a MOU and will take one of the front spots.

**Code Enforcement.** The city has moved one officer into community development to better address property issues.

**Parks and Recreations** is applying for a \$300,000 GCO Grant for pickle ball courts. MRH's Ryan Lucas is assisting with the grant application.

**The Meadows Apartments** project is continuing with the planned ground breaking in April.

**Yampa Valley Airport expansion** for \$86M will be funded by airport, not public money.

**Friday at the Museum of Northwest Colorado** there will be an amazing exhibit called Three Moments in Time at 5:30 p.m.

## Agenda Review

**MOTION 2026 - 11:** Moved by Denise Arola, seconded by Steve Hilley, That the Board of Trustees approve the agenda as presented. Ayes, all. Motion carried.

## Board of Trustees Annual Reorganization

### Election of Board Officers, Committee Appointments/Notice of Agenda Posting Places

#### Election of Board Officers.

Nominated by Amy Updike, seconded by Steve Hilley, That John Ponikvar be elected as Chair. Ayes, all. Motion carried

Nominated by Denise Arola, seconded by Steve Hilley, That Amy Updike be elected as Vice Chair. Ayes, all. Motion carried.

Nominated by Amy Updike, seconded by Steve Hilley, That Denise Arola be elected as Secretary/Treasurer. Motion carried.

#### 2026 Board of Trustees Committee Appointments.

COMMITTEE		2026
<b>BOARD OF TRUSTEES</b> (3 officers)		JOHN PONIKVAR, CHAIR AMY UPDIKE, VICE CHAIR DENISE AROLA, SECRETARY/TREASURER
<b>CREDENTIALS</b> (1 member, 1 alt)		NO APPOINTMENTS AT THIS TIME
<b>FINANCE</b> (Sec/Treas. Is chair, 2 members)		DENISE AROLA, CHAIR  AMY UPDIKE, MEMBER
<b>QUALITY STEERING</b>		JOHN PONIKVAR, CHAIR STEVE HILLEY, MEMBER
<b>MRH FOUNDATION</b> (1 member/1 alt)		JOHN PONIKVAR, LIAISON KELLY HEPWORTH, ALTERNATE

<b>MEDICAL STAFF LIAISON (1 member/1 alt)</b>		JOHN PONIKVAR, LIAISON KELLY HEPWORTH, ALTERNATE
<b>BOARD DEVELOPMENT/EDUCATION</b>		COMBINED WITH GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
<b>BY-LAW REVIEW</b>		JOHN PONIKVAR, CHAIR
<b>GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE</b>		JOHN PONIKVAR ROGER RICHMOND
<b>PROVIDER RECRUITING/RETENTION COMMITTEE</b>		AMY UPDIKE STEVE HILLEY

**Notice of Office Meeting Posting Place.**

**MOTION 2026 - 12:** Moved by Amy Updike, seconded by Denise Arola, That the Memorial Regional Health Board of Trustees meeting notices will be posted on three official sites: Front foyer of the hospital located at 750 Hospital Loop, at the Moffat County Court House, and the hospital website: [www.memorialregionalhealth.com](http://www.memorialregionalhealth.com) Ayes, all. Motion carried.

**Annual Conflict of Interest Certification.** The policy for Board of Trustees members Conflict of Interest was reviewed in July 2025. There were no suggested revisions to the policy. The board members will individually sign the certifications and forward to the Executive Assistant for appropriate filing.

**Annual Ethical and Legal Compliance Certification.** The policy for the Board of Trustees members Ethical and Legal Compliance was reviewed in July 2025. There were no suggested revisions to the policy. The board members will individually sign the certifications and forward to the Executive Assistant for appropriate filing.

**Board Education Planning Discussion.** Steve Hilley offered to provide education on emergency preparedness procedures. It was suggested that department presentations be continued. Also, noted was the importance of education on government changes affecting the hospital.

**Board of Trustees Member Vacancy.** The board lacks a 7th member as Dr. Allan Reishus

did not reapply after his five year term expired. The board members discussed the challenge of finding volunteers and the need to actively recruit.

## **Board of Trustees Facility Visitation Report - Steve Hilley**

Steve reported on the Provider Recruitment and Retention Committee. The committee's interview process for potential providers was described as including looking for providers seeking long term employment, and their definition of patient centered healthcare. In the past months two physician assistants, a trauma surgeon, a family practice doctor and a Nurse Practitioner have been interviewed.

## **Monthly 2026 Calendar**

The Board of Trustees reviewed and accepted the March 2026 Calendar.

## **Consent Agenda - Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION 2026 - 13:** Moved by Amy Updike, seconded by Dr. Kelly Hepworth, That the Board of Trustees accept the 1-21-2026 MRH Foundation Minutes and the 2-11-2026 Quality Steering Committee Meeting Minutes; and approve the 1-22-2026 MRH Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes. Ayes, all. Motion carried.

## **Quality and Patient Safety**

**2025 EOY Population Health Report.** Paula Belcher, Population Health Director, presented this report noting they achieved 45% for annual wellness visits (exceeding benchmarks by 10%). She also described a patient success story concerning transportation for a patient needing surgery. Proposed reporting going forward is to move from a data model to more information about the impacts of the hospital transformation program.

**2025 EOY Infection-Prevention Report.** Becky Forney, VP of Nursing, presented the report showing zero device-associated infections, surgical site infections, and MDRO infections for the year. Dr. Jeffrey Womble reiterated that having no infections is significant and should be of great interest to our community.

### **Appointment of Infection Prevention Nurse.**

**MOTION 2026 - 14:** Moved by Amy Updike, seconded by Denise Arola, That Becky Forney, VP of Nursing, be appointed the MRH Infection Prevention Nurse. Ayes, all. Motion carried.

**2025 EOY Quality Report.** Zachary Johnson, Quality Manager, presented the dashboard showing strong performance in readmissions, mortality rates, and ED throughput times.

## **MRH Financial Reports**

### **MRH Financial and Statistical Report**

Brittany Johnson presented the January 31, 2025 MRH Financial Report.

## **Income Statement**

Gross patient revenue for the month of December was at \$14.4m (Column A, Line 4) compared to a budget of \$14.3m. Prior year gross revenue was \$12.9m. Net Patient Revenue was \$7.5m (Column A, Line 10) for December on a budget of \$7.5m. Expenses: Total expenses for the month were at \$7.3m (column A, line 34) which was consistent with budget at \$7.3m. Employee health insurance was at \$722k with the monthly average at \$503k. The net income for December was \$624k on a budget of \$300k. YTD net income is \$3.97m on a budget of \$1.63m.

## **Balance Sheet**

Total operating cash and investments for the month are at \$4,857,664. Under limited use assets (column A, line 16), we have \$5m reserved for future cost reports. On column A, line 17 we have \$5.7m that we have self-reserved for future capital purchases. Line 18 includes funds designated for EPIC updates. Line 21 is an interest-bearing account that we will use for additional savings going forward (\$3.76m).

**Days in AR** is at 78 days for December.

**Total days cash on hand** is at 102.1 days in December, which is up from prior month at 93 days. One day of cash equals \$206,664.

**MRH Bank Account Authorizations.** Brittany Johnson, CFO, presented updates to the authorized signers on the MRH accounts.

**MOTION 2026 - 15.** Moved by Amy Updike, seconded by Denis Arola, That the Board of Trustees update the list of authorized signers on the MRH bank accounts. Ayes, all. Motion carried.

## **Projects and Capital Purchases as recommended by the Finance Committee**

**Service Life Extension Program** - Todd Jourgensen, Facilities Director, presented the request for a replacement battery for the CT scanner. This UPS has been having problems and a battery change is recommended.

**MOTION 2026 - 16:** Moved by Denise Arola, seconded by Amy Updike, That the Board of Trustees approve the request at a cost of \$86,458.50 to Eaton which was budgeted at \$85,000.00. Ayes, all. Motion carried.

**Forklift - Facilities** - Todd Jourgensen, Facilities Director, presented the request for the unbudgeted Forklift and requested the cost be covered under the Facilities Capital which is under budget by \$21,430.00 due to previous savings from other facility procurements. The 5K forklift is needed to move certain equipment making it safer for the employees.

**MOTION 2026 - 17:** Moved by Denise Arola, seconded by Dr. Kelly Hepworth, That the  
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Board of Trustees approve the purchase of the Forklift from Severson Supply at a cost of \$20,000. Ayes, all. Motion carried.

**Padding for ED Room #1 - ED and Facilities.** Corey Wagner, Security Manager, presented the request for padding for an ED room used for mental health crisis, drunk, drugged or uncooperative patients. It will reduce possible injuries incurred by patients and staff, create sound reduction, and can be repaired by the facilities department.

**MOTION 2-26 - 18:** Moved by Steve Hilley, seconded by Denise Arola, That the Board of Trustees approve the request for room padding by Marathon Engineering Corporation, single source, budgeted at \$28,129, actual cost \$29,335.00. Ayes, all.

**Laryngoscopy Equipment - MOB.** Ashley Palmer, Practice Manager, presented the request for flexible endoscopy equipment in order to allow our ENT provider to meet current standards of care.

**MOTION 2026: 18:** Moved by Steve Hilley, seconded by Denise Arola, That the Board of Trustees approve the purchase of Karl Storz equipment as specifically requested by Dr. Dobbie, budgeted at \$55,712.77, actual cost \$55,653.27. The cost of the three year service agreement is \$22,046.89 which is \$7,348.96 annually for three years is budgeted under repairs and maintenance. Ayes, all. Motion carried.

**ANM - Dell Servers - IT.** James Williams, Interim IT Director, presented the request for replacement of two older servers, HP ProLiant Gen 10's which are both at End of Life and End of Support. Only one Dell Server is needed to replace the two because the Dell is much more powerful and efficient.

**MOTION 2026 - 19:** Moved by Denise Arola, seconded by Steve Hilley, That the Board of Trustees approve the purchase of an ANM - Dell Server, single source, budgeted at \$26,000, actual cost \$45,538.73. Ayes, all. Motion carried.

**ANM Firewall - IT.** Presented by James Williams, Interim IT Director. The two current Cisco 5516s and one 5506 firewalls are reaching end of life and end of service in August. The new firewalls will enhance MRH security posture and make us current for at least 5 years. This will ensure reliable internet for the hospital and also continue to allow our remote VPN users access to our network.

**MOTION 2026 - 20:** Moved by Amy Updike, seconded by Dr. Kelly Hepworth, That the Board of Trustees approve the ANM firewalls, budgeted at \$116,863.00, at an actual cost \$118,447.57. Ayes, all. Motion carried.

## **Consent Agenda - Medical Staff Privileges**

**Dr. Jeffrey Womble presented the Medical Staff Privileges.**

**MOTION 2026 - 21:** Moved by Amy Updike, seconded by Denise Arola, That the Board of Trustees approve the following privileges as reviewed and recommended by the Credentials Committee and approved by the Medical Executive Committee:

**The following files are presented to the Board of Trustees for Provisional Staff appointment:** None

**The following files are presented to the Board of Trustees for Advancement of privileges:**

- Audrey Klawiter, DO – Family Medicine (Hospitalist). The committees reviewed and approved the application and file for Dr. Klawiter, and they recommend her advancement to the Active Staff of The Memorial Hospital at Craig for a term of three (3) years.
- Bilal Ahmed, MD – Tele-Radiology (proxy). The committees reviewed and approved the application and file for Dr. Ahmed, and they recommend his advancement to the Tele-Medicine Staff of The Memorial Hospital at Craig for a term of three (3) years.
- Kenneth Bowman, MD – Tele-Radiology (proxy). The committees reviewed and approved the application and file for Dr. Bowman, and they recommend his advancement to the Tele-Medicine Staff of The Memorial Hospital at Craig for a term of three (3) years.
- Daniel Fullmer, MD – Tele-Radiology (proxy). The committees reviewed and approved the application and file for Dr. Fullmer, and they recommend his advancement to the Tele-Medicine Staff of The Memorial Hospital at Craig for a term of three (3) years.

**The following files are presented to the Board of Trustees for Reappointment of privileges:**

- Frank Laws, MD – Cardiology. The committees reviewed and approved the application and file for Dr. Laws, and they recommend his reappointment to the Active Staff of The Memorial Hospital at Craig for a term of three (3) years.
- Aaron Stewart, DO – Family Medicine. The committees reviewed and approved the application and file for Mr. Stewart, and they recommend his reappointment to the Associate Staff of The Memorial Hospital at Craig for a term of three (3) years.
- Ronnie Gundlach, MD –Tele-Radiology (proxy). The committees reviewed and approved the application and file for Dr. Gundlach, and they recommend his reappointment to the Telemedicine Staff of The Memorial Hospital at Craig for a term of three (3) years.
- Christian Burrell, MD –Tele-Neurology (proxy). The committees reviewed and approved the application and file for Dr. Burrell, and they recommend his reappointment to the Telemedicine Staff of The Memorial Hospital at Craig for a term of three (3) years.

- Brian Morgan, DO –Tele-Psychiatry (proxy). The committees reviewed and approved the application and file for Dr. Morgan, and they recommend his reappointment to the Telemedicine Staff of The Memorial Hospital at Craig for a term of three (3) years.
  - Jeffrey Wagner, MD –Tele-Neurology (proxy). The committees reviewed and approved the application and file for Dr. Wagner, and they recommend his reappointment to the Telemedicine Staff of The Memorial Hospital at Craig for a term of three (3) years.
- Ayes, all. Motion carried.

### **New Business.**

**Approval of Family Practice Compensation Terms.** Jennifer Riley, CEO.

**MOTION 2026 - 22:** Moved by Amy Updike, seconded by Denise Arola, That the Board of Trustees approve the request for enhanced compensation for a physician candidate. Ayes, all. Motion carried.

**Adjourn** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Julie Hanna, Executive Assistant.