

Starweather HOA Emergency Board Meeting
Water System Failed Well Pump
August 28, 2026

Summary:

The Starweather HOA board met to address a water outage caused by a failed submersible pump in Well 1 and an overheated Well 2. Jon explained the system is designed to use both 40 horsepower pumps in a lead-lag setup, not as a backup, and that the fan on Well 2 was not set high enough.

The board voted unanimously to replace both pumps and their pump ends with new 40 horsepower units, keeping the old working pump as a spare.

Tom Miller joined the call, confirmed the plan, and said he would handle procurement and installation, noting that the wells were 61 & 64 ft deep and water table was about 10 feet. The board discussed the need for a boil water advisory due to the pressure drop and agreed to send it out.

Serena took the lead on community communications, and the board confirmed that funds from the special assessment were available to cover the cost.

Next steps

Jon

- Work with Tom Miller to procure & install 2 new 40 hp submersible pump and pump ends as soon as possible.
- Coordinate with Brandon Lynch (water operator) and DEQ regarding the boil water advisory and water sample testing.
- Investigate with Tom Miller the feasibility of programming the lead/lag system to alternate the “lead” pump every 6 months to extend their lifespan – to be implemented after the new pumps are installed.
- Verify with Tom the availability of the cranes services to pull the old pumps out and install the new pumps.

Serena

- Serve as the single point of contact for Jon and coordinate/send community communications regarding the water issue & updated.
- Update the Starweather website to reflect the correct irrigation shutdown date (Sept. 15th not October 31st) we follow the Galena Water District Management Plan, not the water rights plan.

Starweather HOA Emergency Board Meeting
Water System Failed Well Pump
August 28, 2026

Water System Pump Replacement Decision

The board discussed a water system emergency where both well pumps failed, with one pump showing a fault and the second pump overheating. John reported that Tom Miller identified the issue with the first pump's windings and estimated the cost to replace both pumps at \$13,000-\$15,000 each, totaling around \$30,000.

The board voted unanimously to proceed with replacing both pumps rather than purchasing a third backup pump, as they determined the current system requires both pumps working together and age gaps between pumps are not recommended. The board confirmed they have sufficient funds in the special assessment account to cover the replacement costs.

New Pump Installation Planning

The board discussed installing two new pumps as soon as possible, with Serena taking the lead on community communications as the single point of contact for John. Serena confirmed that irrigation system notice has gone out asking everyone to turn off their irrigation systems immediately – this was also posted on the website.

Water Management and Compliance Updates

The meeting discussed water management compliance and system issues. Jon confirmed that Starweather is in the Galena Groundwater District and must follow the Big Wood River groundwater management plan, requiring irrigation to stop by September 15th rather than the October 31st date listed in their water rights.

The group discovered they should have issued a boil advisory due to lost water pressure, though Jon clarified this was an advisory, not a mandatory boil order.

Water System Pump Replacement Plan

The team discussed replacing the current 40 horsepower pumps in the water system, with Tom recommending to keep the same pump size rather than upgrading to 50 horsepower. They agreed to replace both pumps immediately with identical 40 horsepower units, and Tom suggested implementing a lead-lag programming change after installation to extend their lifespan by alternating their operation every six months. =

Boil Water Advisory Implementation

The team discussed implementing a boil water advisory due to a potential contamination risk from opening the well cap and installing new pumps. Jon shared a template from April 2024 and

Starweather HOA Emergency Board Meeting
Water System Failed Well Pump
August 28, 2026

explained that water samples would need to be sent to the lab for testing, with results expected by Wednesday or Thursday of the following week. Serena agreed to update the template with new dates and remove COVID-19 references before sending it out, while Jon planned to consult with Brandon Lynch, the water operator, and DEQ about the situation.