

**MINUTES of the GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING of the ERIE
COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY** held in the office, 295 Main Street, Room 350, Buffalo,
New York, on the 23rd day of July 2025.

PRESENT: Jerome D. Schad, Chair
 Peggy A. LaGree, Commissioner
 Michele M. Iannello, Commissioner
 Terrence D. McCracken, Secretary to the Authority
 Joyce A. Tomaka, Chief Financial Officer
 Mark S. Carney, General Counsel
 Charles E. Eaton, Chief Operating Officer
 Leonard F. Kowalski, Executive Engineer
 Sabrina A. Figler, Director of Water Quality
 Jennifer L. Hibit, Director of Human Resources
 Lavonya C. Lester, Director of Administration
 Katherine A. Gillette, Senior Associate Attorney
 David W. Aubertine, Director of Cybersecurity and Information Technology
 Matthew W. Barrett, Security Officer

ATTENDEES: Earl Wells III, e3 Communications
 Xudong Fan, Assistant Professor, University of Buffalo
 Orchard Park High School Students (3)

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. A quorum was present with three Commissioners.

II. READING OF MINUTES

Motion by Ms. LaGree seconded by Ms. Iannello and carried to waive the reading of the Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, June 12, 2025.

DISCUSSION

None

VOTE

Ayes: Three; Commrs. Schad, LaGree and Iannello

Noes: None

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Ms. LaGree seconded by Ms. Iannello and carried to approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, June 12, 2025.

DISCUSSION

None

VOTE

Ayes: Three; Commrs. Schad, LaGree and Iannello

Noes: None

IV. REPORTS**V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS****VI. NEW BUSINESS**

A. Amendment to the Erie County Water Authority's Freedom of Information Law Policy & Procedures for Accessing Public Records

Mr. Carney provided the Board with a summary of the modifications made to the Erie County Water Authority's Freedom of Information Law Policy & Procedures for Accessing Public Records. Changes to the appeals process included the transfer of submission from the Board of Commissioners to the Authority's General Counsel as well as streamlining the appeals process. Other modifications discussed included updating references to clearly reflect the Authority's retention schedule, removal of hyperlinks, and clarification of terms to coordinate with the Authority's website. A brief discussion ensued.

The Board requested that they be notified of any and all appeals submitted to General Counsel. Chair Schad noted that allowing appeals to be submitted to General Counsel allows for a greater adherence to the required timeline, but it does not diminish the Board's authority regarding the appeal process and its conclusions.

Motion by Ms. LaGree, seconded by Ms. Iannello and carried to recommend that the Board approve the adoption of the amended Erie County Water Authority's Freedom of Information Law Policy & Procedures for Accessing Public Records.

DISCUSSION

None

VOTE

Ayes: Three; Commrs. Schad, LaGree and Iannello

Noes: None

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Ms. LaGree seconded by Ms. Iannello and carried that the meeting adjourn at 9:37 a.m.

DISCUSSION

None

VOTE

Ayes: Three; Commrs. Schad, LaGree and Iannello
Noes: None

Terrence D. McCracken
Secretary to the Authority

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