

MINUTES of the **MEETING** of the **ERIE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY** held in the office, 295 Main Street, Room 350, Buffalo, New York, on the 19th day of March 2026.

PRESENT: Jerome D. Schad, Chair
 Peggy A. LaGree, Commissioner (via teleconference)
 Michele M. Iannello, Commissioner
 Jennifer L. Hibit, 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
 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

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 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, February 12, 2026.

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, February 12, 2026.

DISCUSSION

None

VOTE

Ayes: Three; Commrs. Schad, LaGree and Iannello

Noes: None

IV. REPORTS

A. SECRETARY

B. LEGAL

1. Executive Session

Discussion relating to the proposed acquisition, sale or lease of real property where the value could be significantly affected by public disclosure pursuant to Public Officers Law § 105 (1)(h)

Motion made by Ms. LaGree, seconded by Ms. Iannello to go into Executive Session for the discussion relating to continued lease negotiations where the value could be significantly affected by public disclosure pursuant to Public Officers Law § 105 (1)(h) at 10:03 a.m. Chair Schad invited Jennifer Hibit, Joyce Tomaka, Mark Carney, Charles Eaton, and Leonard Kowalski.

DISCUSSION

None

VOTE

Ayes: Three; Commrs. Schad, LaGree and Iannello

Noes: None

Motion made by Ms. LaGree, seconded by Ms. Iannello to exit Executive Session at 10:15 a.m.

DISCUSSION

Chair Schad reported that a productive discussion was held with Counsel.

C. FISCAL

1. January 2026 Investment Report

Ms. Tomaka distributed the January 2026 Investment Report along with a brief explanation of the report. Ms. Tomaka reported to the Board that following a review from Fitch Ratings, the Authority maintained their AA+ rating for the ensuing year. Chair Schad remarked on the importance of the Authority retaining its AA+ rating, given that it is a standard for measuring the Authority's bond rating. Commissioner LaGree questioned if the Authority would be reassessed in the event that bonds were required in the future. Ms. Tomaka indicated that it is likely to occur.

2. January 2026 Financial Report

Ms. Tomaka distributed the January 2026 Financial Report along with a brief explanation of the report. A brief discussion ensued.

3. Certificate of Achievement

Joyce Tomaka announced to the Board that the Finance Department received a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA).

D. OPERATIONS

1. RFPs Published

Mr. Kowalski reported to the Board on one RFP that was published since the last Board Meeting:

- Pump Vibration Investigations, PN 202600006

2. Projects Advertised for Bidding – Formal Contracts

Mr. Kowalski reported to the Board on four formal contracts advertised for bidding that have been published since the last Board Meeting:

- Furnish & Install Electric Crane Hoists at Sturgeon Point and Van de Water Water Treatment Plants, PN 202500202
- Van de Water Treatment Plant Sludge Disposal for One Year, PN 202600036
- Waste and Refuse Disposal for One Year, PN 202600001
- Lead Service Replacements, Contract 1A, Villages of Blasdell and Hamburg, PN 202600028

Chair Schad inquired about upcoming lead investigation contracts. Mr. Kowalski stated that an additional lead investigation contract will be available soon, and subsequent to the completion of the investigations, repair contracts will be issued.

3. RFP Recommendation – Distribution System Hydraulic Model

Leonard Kowalski informed the Board that an RFP was recently issued for Distribution System Hydraulic Model Update, PN 202500225. Mr. Kowalski provided a brief overview of the system, summary of the RFP process, detailing the responses obtained and the Engineering Department's recommendations. Commissioner LaGree requested more information regarding the engineering firm. Mr. Kowalski replied that this a new firm for the Authority.

4. RFP Recommendation – Water Intrusion

Leonard Kowalski informed the Board that an RFP was recently issued for Conceptual Design Reports and Drawings for Water Intrusion of Various Facilities at Sturgeon Point and Van de Water Water Treatment Plants, PN 202600004. Mr.

Kowalski provided a brief overview of the project, summary of the RFP process, detailing the responses obtained and the Engineering Department's recommendations. Commissioner LaGree inquired as to the source of the water intrusion. Mr. Kowalski stated that the issue might stem from groundwater or leaks in the current piping system; however, the objective of this project will be to identify the source. Mr. Kowalski also verified the project would take place at both water treatment plants. A discussion ensued as to potential solutions.

5. Final Pay Application

Mr. Kowalski reported on one final payment application submitted since the last report to the Board:

- NC-041 Water System Improvements, PN 202000072

E. HUMAN RESOURCES

F. AUDIT COMMITTEE

G. GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

H. FINANCE COMMITTEE

I. ETHICS COMMITTEE

V. COMMUNICATIONS AND BILLS

(Communications may be limited to items that are provided electronically. Every effort will be made to provide all communications at future meetings.)

C-1 NOTICE OF CLAIM – GIARRANO V ECWA – RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO LEGAL FOR FOLLOW UP

C-2 NOTICE OF CLAIM – GAGLIONE V ECWA – RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO LEGAL FOR FOLLOW UP

C-3 NOTICE OF CLAIM – HEAVEN V ECWA – RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO LEGAL FOR FOLLOW UP

C-4 NOTICE OF CLAIM – HOLLA V ECWA – RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO LEGAL FOR FOLLOW UP

C-5 NOTICE OF CLAIM – MAGINNIS V ECWA – RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO LEGAL FOR FOLLOW UP

C-6 NOTICE OF CLAIM – NOTARO GREENE V ECWA – RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO LEGAL FOR FOLLOW UP

- C-7 LETTER FROM COLLIGAN LAW LLP - RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO LEGAL FOR FOLLOW UP**
- C-8 EMAIL FROM NEW YORK CENTRAL MUTUAL - RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO LEGAL FOR FOLLOW UP**
- C-9 FOIL FROM JESSICA PUTNEY - RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO SECRETARY FOR FOLLOW UP**
- C-10 FOIL FROM CHRISTINE HAUSRATH - RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO SECRETARY FOR FOLLOW UP**
- C-11 LETTERS FROM BRUCE SIMON - RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO SECRETARY FOR FOLLOW UP**
- C-12 LETTER FROM HENDERSON COMPANIES - RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO SECRETARY FOR FOLLOW UP**
- C-13 LETTER FROM ON THE MARK UTILITY LOCATING SERVICES, INC. - RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO SECRETARY FOR FOLLOW UP**
- C-14 FOIL FROM SMART PROCURE - RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO SECRETARY FOR FOLLOW UP**
- C-15 FOIL FROM DODGE CONSTRUCTION NETWORK - RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO SECRETARY FOR FOLLOW UP**
- C-16 FOIL FROM GP JAGER - RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO SECRETARY FOR FOLLOW UP**
- C-17 FOIL FROM AMSTAR OF WNY - RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO SECRETARY FOR FOLLOW UP**
- C-18 FOIL FROM MUELLER - RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO SECRETARY FOR FOLLOW UP**
- C-19 FOIL FROM COFORGE - RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO SECRETARY FOR FOLLOW UP**
- C-20 FOIL FROM MARK ZURADA - RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO SECRETARY FOR FOLLOW UP**
- C-21 FOIL FROM MARK ZURADA - RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO SECRETARY FOR FOLLOW UP**
- C-22 FOIL FROM MARK ZURADA - RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO SECRETARY FOR FOLLOW UP**

C-23 FOIL FROM MARK ZURADA - RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO SECRETARY FOR FOLLOW UP

C-24 FOIL FROM MARK ZURADA - RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO SECRETARY FOR FOLLOW UP

C-25 FOIL FROM MARK ZURADA - RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO SECRETARY FOR FOLLOW UP

VI. PERSONS ADDRESSING THE AUTHORITY

Pursuant to the Erie County Water Authority’s Open Meetings Law Policy Section 10 Public Expression, as posted on its website, the Commissioners will hear the concerns of persons desiring to address the Commissioners on any Water Authority subject. No one appeared to speak.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

ITEM 1 - RESOLUTION GRANTING THE STATE OF NEW YORK AUTHORITY TO PERFORM THE ADJUSTMENT FOR THE OWNER AND AGREEING TO MAINTAIN FACILITIES ADJUSTED VIA STATE-LET CONTRACT IN CONNECTION WITH PIN NO. 5815.07, D265775, PROJECT NO. 202500270

Motion by Ms. LaGree and seconded by Ms. Iannello and carried.

DISCUSSION

None

VOTE

Ayes: Three; Commrs. Schad, LaGree and Iannello

Noes: None

ITEM 2 - AWARD OF CONTRACT TO D&H PAVING, LLC. FOR AREA NO. 1 RESTORATIONS, APRIL 1, 2026 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2028, PROJECT NO. 202600018 - \$3,987,182.50

Motion by Ms. LaGree and seconded by Ms. Iannello and carried.

DISCUSSION

On the question, Commissioner LaGree inquired if the contractors for Item 2 and Item 3 were new to the Authority. Mr. Kowalski confirmed that was correct. Commissioner LaGree requested confirmation regarding whether they were local businesses and if references had been verified. Mr. Kowalski confirmed that this had been accomplished. Chair Schad noted the contract amount is consistent with the last contract. Mr. Kowalski agreed.

VOTE

Ayes: Three; Commrs. Schad, LaGree and Iannello

Noes: None

ITEM 3 - AWARD OF CONTRACT TO BELLA CONCRETE SOLUTIONS, LLC. FOR AREA NO. 2 RESTORATIONS, APRIL 1, 2026 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2028, PROJECT NO. 202600019 - \$4,425,535.00

Motion by Ms. LaGree and seconded by Ms. Iannello and carried.

DISCUSSION

None

VOTE

Ayes: Three; Commrs. Schad, LaGree and Iannello

Noes: None

ITEM 4 - AWARD OF CONTRACT TO KANDEY COMPANY, INC. FOR BALL PUMP STATION, PHASE 1 REHABILITATION, IDENTIFIED AS CONTRACT NO. MP-086, PROJECT NO. 202000177 - \$26,999,250.00

Motion by Ms. LaGree and seconded by Ms. Iannello and carried.

DISCUSSION

On the question, Commissioner LaGree asked for a breakdown of spending for each year of the contract. Mr. Kowalski noted they budgeted \$6 million for 2026 and expected to budget approximately \$15 to \$18 million for 2027 and the remainder in 2028. Chair requested more details for Phase 2 of this project. Mr. Kowalski replied that Phase 2 is minor in comparison to Phase 1 and contains mostly projects concerning HVAC. Commissioner LaGree acknowledged that this project will contain a Project Labor Agreement (“PLA”). Mr. Kowalski stated that this is the first Authority project with a PLA. Commissioner LaGree requested verification that the Authority is not a signatory for the PLA. Mr. Kowalski verified that the contractor and the unions are the signatories, not the Authority.

VOTE

Ayes: Three; Commrs. Schad, LaGree and Iannello

Noes: None

ITEM 5 - AWARD OF CONTRACT TO LAMA INNOVATION, INC. D/B/A JENTSCH COMPANY FOR CONCRETE PIPE REPAIR BAND PROCUREMENT, PROJECT NO. 202500182 - \$92,309.76

Motion by Ms. LaGree and seconded by Ms. Iannello and carried.

DISCUSSION

None

VOTE

Ayes: Three; Commrs. Schad, LaGree and Iannello

Noes: None

ITEM 6 - AWARD OF CONTRACT TO E&R GENERAL CONSTRUCTION, INC. FOR WATER SERVICE INVESTIGATIONS AND LEAD SERVICE REPLACEMENTS, CONTRACT E, CITY OF LACKAWANNA AND TOWN OF WEST SENECA, PROJECT NO. 202600012 - \$3,350,585.00

Motion by Ms. LaGree and seconded by Ms. Iannello and carried.

DISCUSSION

None

VOTE

Ayes: Three; Commrs. Schad, LaGree and Iannello

Noes: None

ITEM 7 - AWARD OF CONTRACT TO MARK CERRONE, INC. FOR LAKE SHORE ROAD 48-INCH TRANSMISSION MAIN REHABILITATION, PHASE 2, TOWN OF EVANS, PROJECT NO. 202600020 - \$606,095.00

Motion by Ms. LaGree and seconded by Ms. Iannello and carried.

DISCUSSION

None

VOTE

Ayes: Three; Commrs. Schad, LaGree and Iannello

Noes: None

ITEM 8 - AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH NUSSBAUMER & CLARKE, INC. TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES RELATING TO PINE HILL STORAGE TANK STUDY, IDENTIFIED AS CONTRACT NO. NC-046, PROJECT NO. 202600052 (CCII)

Motion by Ms. LaGree and seconded by Ms. Iannello and carried.

DISCUSSION

None

VOTE

Ayes: Three; Commrs. Schad, LaGree and Iannello

Noes: None

ITEM 9 - AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH AMAWALK CONSULTING GROUP, LLC, TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL RATE CONSULTING SERVICES, PROJECT NO. 202600066

Motion by Ms. LaGree and seconded by Ms. Iannello and carried.

DISCUSSION

On the question, Commissioner LaGree acknowledged that this is a new consultant and inquired as to when they will start. Ms. Tomaka responded possibly at the end of March or beginning of April. Ms. Tomaka noted that Monroe County Water Authority (“Monroe”) utilizes their services and that Secretary Hibit had a discussion with Monroe about their experience with the Consultant.

VOTE

Ayes: Three; Commrs. Schad, LaGree and Iannello

Noes: None

ITEM 10 - AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH STRATEGIC CONSULTING SOLUTIONS OF WESTERN NEW YORK, LLC TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL LABOR RELATIONS CONSULTING SERVICES

Motion by Ms. LaGree and seconded by Ms. Iannello and carried.

DISCUSSION

On the question, Commissioner LaGree noted that although she does not oppose the individual involved in the consulting contract, she believes it is in the best interest of the Authority to concentrate efforts on filling the positions with full-time personnel. Commissioner LaGree expressed that she does not want the filling of these vacancies to be delayed. Commissioner LaGree also noted that the auditors acknowledged the need to fill vacancies in Finance and the same reasoning could be applied to the Human Resources Department. Chair Schad agreed with Commissioner LaGree about the need to fill the vacancies, however, he emphasized the importance of being prepared for labor negotiations.

VOTE

Ayes: Two; Commrs. Schad and Iannello

Noes: One; Commr. LaGree

ITEM 11 - AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH NEW YORK STATE INDUSTRIES FOR THE DISABLED, INC. FOR LANDSCAPING, GROUND IMPROVEMENTS AND MAINTENANCE OF PROPERTIES OF THE ERIE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY FROM APRIL 15, 2026 TO APRIL 14, 2027, PROJECT NO. 202600010

Motion by Ms. LaGree and seconded by Ms. Iannello and carried.

DISCUSSION

None

VOTE

Ayes: Three; Commrs. Schad, LaGree and Iannello

Noes: None

ITEM 12 - APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH HAZEN AND SAWYER TO PROVIDE CONSULTING ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR MISCELLANEOUS ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING SERVICES 2024-2025, IDENTIFIED AS CONTRACT NO. HS-005, PROJECT NO. 202400058

Motion by Ms. LaGree and seconded by Ms. Iannello and carried.

DISCUSSION

None

VOTE

Ayes: Three; Commrs. Schad, LaGree and Iannello

Noes: None

ITEM 13 - APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO CONTRACT WITH MARK CERRONE, INC. FOR STURGEON POINT WATER TREATMENT PLANT SLUDGE REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL, PROJECT NO. 202500117

Motion by Ms. LaGree and seconded by Ms. Iannello and carried.

DISCUSSION

On the question, Commissioner LaGree asked for clarification regarding the amounts of sludge produced. Mr. Kowalski gave a brief overview and described the process as continuing.

VOTE

Ayes: Three; Commrs. Schad, LaGree and Iannello

Noes: None

ITEM 14 - AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE LETTER OF INTENT REGARDING THE LEASE OF SPACE AT THE APPLE TREE BUSINESS PARK

Motion by Ms. LaGree and seconded by Ms. Iannello and carried.

DISCUSSION

None

VOTE

Ayes: Three; Commrs. Schad, LaGree and Iannello

Noes: None

ITEM 15 - AUTHORIZATION TO AMEND THE ERIE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY'S ANNUAL CAPITAL BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 –VAN DE WATER WATER TREATMENT PLANT BOILER NO. 1 REHABILITATION, PROJECT NO. 202500244 - \$31,000.00

Motion by Ms. LaGree and seconded by Ms. Iannello and carried.

DISCUSSION

None

VOTE

Ayes: Three; Commrs. Schad, LaGree and Iannello

Noes: None

ITEM 16 - RATIFICATION OF THE INSTALLATION OF WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM REPLACEMENTS AND IMPROVEMENTS AND RETIREMENT OF EXISTING WATER INFRASTRUCTURE - VARIOUS LOCATIONS

Motion by Ms. LaGree and seconded by Ms. Iannello and carried.

DISCUSSION

None

VOTE

Ayes: Three; Commrs. Schad, LaGree and Iannello

Noes: None

ITEM 17 - RATIFICATION OF THE INSTALLATION OF HYDRANTS AND VALVES AND RETIREMENT OF EXISTING HYDRANTS AND VALVES - VARIOUS LOCATIONS

Motion by Ms. LaGree and seconded by Ms. Iannello and carried.

DISCUSSION

None

VOTE

Ayes: Three; Commrs. Schad, LaGree and Iannello

Noes: None

ITEM 18 - AUTHORIZATION FOR DAVID IAFALLO, COORDINATOR OF EMPLOYEE RELATIONS, AND TIMOTHY MEEGAN, TRAINING AND SAFETY COORDINATOR, TO ATTEND THE 2026 PERMA ANNUAL MEMBER

CONFERENCE IN VERONA, NEW YORK

Motion by Ms. LaGree and seconded by Ms. Iannello and carried.

DISCUSSION

None

VOTE

Ayes: Three; Commrs. Schad, LaGree and Iannello

Noes: None

ITEM 19 - AUTHORIZATION FOR LEONARD KOWALSKI, EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MICHAEL QUINN, DIRECTOR OF DISTRIBUTION, WILLIAM WHEELER, DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND WATER SUPPLY, AND CHRISTOPHER MARCHITTE, WATER TREATMENT PLANT OPERATOR CREW CHIEF, TO ATTEND THE AWWA ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND EXPO, IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

Motion by Ms. LaGree and seconded by Ms. Iannello and carried.

DISCUSSION

On the question, Chair Schad noted the importance of attending this event and requested the attendees review any metering systems to deal with non-revenue water that may be presented at the conference.

VOTE

Ayes: Three; Commrs. Schad, LaGree and Iannello

Noes: None

ITEM 20 - APPROVAL OF A LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR MATTHEW MILITELLO

Motion by Ms. LaGree and seconded by Ms. Iannello and carried.

DISCUSSION

On the question, Commissioner LaGree expressed her opposition to the leave of absence, citing that the rationale for the request might fall outside the standard civil service rules.

VOTE

Ayes: Two; Commrs. Schad and Iannello

Noes: One; Commr. LaGree

ITEM 21 - AUTHORIZATION TO AMEND AND ADOPT THE ERIE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY'S CODE OF ETHICS & CONFLICTS OF INTEREST POLICY AND PROCEDURES, 2025 FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENT FORM AND 2025 VENDOR LIST

Motion by Ms. LaGree and seconded by Ms. Iannello and carried.

DISCUSSION

None

VOTE

Ayes: Three; Commrs. Schad, LaGree and Iannello

Noes: None

ITEM 22 - AUTHORIZATION TO FILE THE PUBLIC AUTHORITY REPORTING INFORMATION SYSTEM (PARIS) 2025 REPORTS TO THE NEW YORK STATE AUTHORITIES BUDGET OFFICE

Motion by Ms. LaGree and seconded by Ms. Iannello and carried.

DISCUSSION

None

VOTE

Ayes: Three; Commrs. Schad, LaGree and Iannello

Noes: None

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Ms. LaGree seconded by Ms. Iannello, in memory of the Authority's former Senior Associate Attorney's mother, carried that the meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

DISCUSSION

None

VOTE

Ayes: Three; Commrs. Schad, LaGree and Iannello

Noes: None

Jennifer Hibit
Secretary to the Authority

ALH