

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 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 9:58 a.m. A quorum was present with three Commissioners.

II. READING OF MINUTES

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

IV. REPORTS

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2025 PARIS Filing

Joyce Tomaka advised the Board that in accordance with the Public Authorities Law, the Authority is required to file an Annual Report which summarizes the financial statements; the Certified Financial Audit Report, the Investment Report, the Procurement Report, and additional required documents which include the 2025 Accomplishments for each Division, the Performance Measurements relative to the Authority's Mission Statement, and the Investment Guidelines. Ms. Tomaka advised the Board that the submission will be completed ahead of the March 30th deadline and will provide updates to the Board regarding any modifications made.

B. Annual Review of ECWA Financial Disclosure Statement, Vendor List, Related Policies and Procedures and Employee Communications

General Counsel Carney reported that the Independent Ethics Panel (the “IEP”) held a meeting on February 10, 2026 to review the following:

- i. ECWA Financial Disclosure Form for Calendar Year 2025;
- ii. Proposed Amended Policy No. 11 Code of Ethics & Conflict of Interest Policy;
- iii. Policy No. 16 Whistleblower Protection Policy;
- iv. 2025 Vendor List;
- v. Proposed employee letter sent via regular mail; and
- vi. Proposed employee mail.

Mr. Carney gave the Board an overview of IEP’s recommendations based on their review.

Motion by Ms. LaGree, seconded by Ms. Iannello and carried to recommend that the Board approve the filing of the Public Authority Reporting Information System (PARIS) 2025 Reports to the NYS Authorities Budget Office and to recommend the adoptions of the revisions proposed by the Independent Ethics Panel.

DISCUSSION

None

VOTE

Ayes: Three; Commrs. Schad, LaGree and Iannello

Noes: None

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Ms. LaGree seconded by Ms. Iannello carried that the meeting adjourned at 10:08 a.m.

DISCUSSION

None

VOTE

Ayes: Three; Commrs. Schad, LaGree and Iannello

Noes: None



Jennifer Hibit
Secretary to the Authority

ALH