MINUTES of the **MEETING** of the **ERIE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY** held in the office, 295 Main Street, Room 350, Buffalo, New York, on the 28th day of April 2026.

PRESENT: Jerome D. Schad, Chair
Peggy A. LaGree, Commissioner
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 PT
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
Patrick C. McCracken, Manager of Accounting Services

ATTENDEES:

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 9:55 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 Tuesday, April 7, 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 Tuesday, April 7, 2026.

DISCUSSION
None

VOTE

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

IV. REPORTS

A. SECRETARY

B. LEGAL

C. FISCAL

1. February 2026 Investment Report

   Ms. Tomaka distributed the February 2026 Investment Report along with a brief explanation of the report.

2. February 2026 Financial Report

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

D. OPERATIONS

1. Emergency Declaration – STP WTP Filters

   Mr. Kowalski reported to the Board that on April 2, 2026, a Declaration of State of Emergency was issued to enable the Authority to obtain the engineering services of Hazen & Sawyer to evaluate the performance of the filters at the Sturgeon Point Water Treatment Plant. Mr. Kowalski gave an overview of the process, and the steps that need to be taken.

2. Projects Advertised for Bidding – Formal Contracts

   Mr. Kowalski reported to the Board on one formal contract advertised for bidding that had been published since the last Board Meeting:

   - Water Service Investigations, Contract 3, PN 202600071

   Mr. Kowalski gave an overview of the corresponding projects that will be coming to the Board in future meetings.

3. NYSAWWA Water Utility Council Update

   Ms. Figler gave the Board an update from the winter meeting of the NYSAWWA Water Utility Council held on January 20, 2026. Ms. Figler discussed NYSDOH updates on lead and service line replacement compliance, cybersecurity and regulatory implementation, school and daycare lead testing challenges, and operational training and technical support needs. Ms. Figler noted that the Authority is in a good position in regard to the current regulations.

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 – MATHEWSON V ECWA – RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO LEGAL FOR FOLLOW UP

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

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

C-4 LETTER FROM LAW OFFICES OF JAN MEYER & ASSOCIATES PC - RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO SECRETARY FOR FOLLOW UP

C-5 LETTER FROM DAVITA KIDNEY CARE - RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO SECRETARY FOR FOLLOW UP

C-6 FOIL FROM MARK ZURADA - RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO SECRETARY FOR FOLLOW UP

C-7 FOIL FROM MARK ZURADA - RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO SECRETARY FOR FOLLOW UP

C-8 FOIL FROM DODGE CONSTRUCTION NETWORK - RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO SECRETARY FOR FOLLOW UP

C-9 FOIL FROM HARRIS BEACH MURTHA - RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO SECRETARY FOR FOLLOW UP

C-10 FOIL FROM DODGE CONSTRUCTION NETWORK - RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO SECRETARY FOR FOLLOW UP

C-11 FOIL FROM COFORGE - RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO SECRETARY FOR FOLLOW UP

C-12 FOIL FROM MARK ZURADA - RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO SECRETARY FOR FOLLOW UP

C-13 FOIL FROM MARK ZURADA - RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO SECRETARY FOR FOLLOW UP

C-14 FOIL FROM D. LEO - RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO SECRETARY FOR FOLLOW UP

C-15 FOIL FROM MARK ZURADA - RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO SECRETARY FOR FOLLOW UP

C-16 FOIL FROM MARK ZURADA - RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO SECRETARY FOR FOLLOW UP

C-17 FOIL FROM COFORGE - RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO SECRETARY FOR FOLLOW UP

C-18 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 - AUTHORIZATION TO SUBMIT A REQUEST TO MODIFY AN EFC FUNDING AGREEMENT FORM RELATIVE TO THE 36-INCH TRANSMISSION MAIN REPLACEMENT PROJECT, TOWN OF AMHERST, NEW YORK, IDENTIFIED AS CONTRACT NO. W-030, PROJECT NO. 201800074

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 - AUTHORIZATION TO SUBMIT A REQUEST TO MODIFY AN EFC FUNDING AGREEMENT FORM RELATIVE TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW RAW WATER TRANSMISSION MAIN, VAN DE WATER RAW WATER TO VAN DE WATER TREATMENT PLANT, IDENTIFIED AS CONTRACT NO. NC-040, PROJECT NO. 201900104

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

DISCUSSION
On the question, Commissioner LaGree requested clarification regarding time extension and design modifications. Mr. Kowalski gave a brief overview of the project and the basis for the modifications.

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

ITEM 3 - AWARD OF CONTRACT TO E&R GENERAL CONSTRUCTION, INC. FOR LEAD SERVICE REPLACEMENTS, CONTRACT 1A, VILLAGES OF BLASDELL AND HAMBURG, PROJECT NO. 202600028 - $1,681,420.00

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 MODERN DISPOSAL SERVICES, INC. FOR VAN DE WATER WATER TREATMENT PLANT SLUDGE DISPOSAL FOR ONE YEAR, FROM MAY 1, 2026 THROUGH APRIL 30, 2027, PROJECT NO. 202600036 - $126,500.00

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

DISCUSSION
None

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

ITEM 5 - AWARD OF CONTRACT TO MODERN DISPOSAL SERVICES, INC. FOR WASTE AND REFUSE DISPOSAL FOR ONE YEAR, FROM MAY 1, 2026 THROUGH APRIL 30, 2027, PROJECT NO. 202600001 - $34,966.00

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

DISCUSSION
None

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

ITEM 6 - AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH UTILIS INC. D/B/A ASTERRA TO PERFORM ENGINEERING SERVICES RELATIVE TO SATELLITE LEAK DETECTION PROGRAM, IDENTIFIED AS CONTRACT NO. AST-002, PROJECT NO. 202600011 - $300,000.00

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

DISCUSSION
On the question, Chair Schad requested clarification regarding the services provided to the Authority. Mr. Kowalski discussed the plans for utilizing the services within this contract.

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

ITEM 7 - AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH HAZEN AND SAWYER TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES RELATIVE TO FILTER UNDERDRAIN EVALUATION AND TESTING AT THE STURGEON POINT WATER TREATMENT PLANT, IDENTIFIED AS CONTRACT NO. HS-007, PROJECT NO. 202600091 (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 8 - AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH HENNINGSON, DURHAM & RICHARDSON ARCHITECTURE AND ENGINEERING, P.C. TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES RELATIVE TO THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM HYDRAULIC MODEL UPDATE, IDENTIFIED AS CONTRACT NO. HDR-001,

PROJECT NO. 202600080 (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 WENDEL WD ARCHITECTURE, ENGINEERING, SURVEYING & LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE, PC TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES RELATIVE TO WATER STORAGE TANK REHABILITATION, IDENTIFIED AS CONTRACT NO. W-037, PROJECT NO. 202600089 (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 10 - APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO THE OVERHEAD CRANE INSPECTION, REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE CONTRACT WITH FLATIRON CRANE OPERATING COMPANY, LLC D/B/A SIMMERS CRANE DESIGN & SERVICES CO., PROJECT NO. 202500056

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

DISCUSSION
None

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

ITEM 11 - APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH ARCADIS OF NEW YORK, INC. TO PROVIDE CONSULTING ENGINEERING SERVICES RELATIVE TO RAW WATER INTAKE IMPROVEMENTS AT THE STURGEON POINT AND VAN DE WATER WATER TREATMENT PLANTS, IDENTIFIED AS CONTRACT NO.

MP-089, PROJECT NO. 202100172 - $128,000.00

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

DISCUSSION
On the question, Commissioner LaGree inquired whether this project involved the replacement of chemical lines. Mr. Kowalski verified that it was and also included the installation of a bubbler system to deal with frazil ice at the Sturgeon Point Water Treatment Plant. Commissioner LaGree asked about a possible grant application with the town of Tonawanda. Mr. Kowalski noted that they have met with the town of Tonawanda regarding this and will get an update from Mr. Quinn.

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

ITEM 12 - APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT NO. 2 TO THE INDUSTRIAL BLASTING, PAINTING, AND ASSOCIATED MAINTENANCE CONTRACT WITH NIAGARA COATINGS SERVICES, INC., PROJECT NO. 202400038

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. 2 TO THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH CAPITAL MARKETS ADVISORS, LLC TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL FINANCIAL ADVISORY SERVICES, PROJECT NO. 202200071

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

DISCUSSION
On the question, Chair Schad asked if this was a time extension. Ms. Tomaka verified that the amendment was a one-year time extension.

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

ITEM 14 - APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT NO. 2 TO THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH HAZEN AND SAWYER TO PROVIDE CONSULTING

ENGINEERING SERVICES RELATIVE TO THE CORROSION CONTROL TREATMENT PROGRAM – PIPE LOOP DEMONSTRATION STUDY, IDENTIFIED AS CONTRACT NO. HS-002, PROJECT NO. 202100152 - $510,000.00

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

DISCUSSION
On the question, Chair Schad questioned if the work will be focused on the galvanized pipes. Mr. Kowalski acknowledged that once the study on the lead service lines was completed they would focus on galvanized service lines. Mr. Kowalski also noted that the bulk of the testing will be completed in house. Chair Schad would like results regarding galvanized lines prior to a decision regarding replacement. Mr. Kowalski stated that the timeline is close to the decision date, but they will be capable of monitoring trends in the results. Mr. Kowalski also gave the Board an overview of the process. Chair Schad requested updates throughout the process.

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

ITEM 15 - 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 16 - AUTHORIZATION TO REVISE THE ERIE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY'S BUDGET TRANSFER PROCESS AND THE ADOPTION OF AN UPDATED BUDGET TRANSFER AUTHORIZATION FORM

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

DISCUSSION
Chair Schad noted that a motion is needed to amend this item to approve the increases to the thresholds but not to authorize the taking away of the Board's review of the transfers.

Motion by Ms. LaGree and seconded by Ms. Iannello to amend Item No. 16 to approve the increases to the thresholds but not to authorize the taking away of the Board's review of the transfers.

Chair Schad calls for a vote on the motion to amend.

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

On the motion as amended,

Motion by Ms. LaGree and seconded by Ms. Iannello to approve the amended Item No. 16.

DISCUSSION
None

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

ITEM 17 - AUTHORIZATION TO AMEND AND ADOPT THE ERIE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY'S PROCUREMENT POLICY

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 TO AMEND AND ADOPT THE ERIE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY'S PROCUREMENT DISCLOSURE POLICY

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

DISCUSSION
On the question, Commissioner LaGree asked for clarification on the location of the policy. Ms. Gillette stated that the policy will be placed on the website and is also reference in other locations.

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 10:31 a.m.

DISCUSSION
None

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

Jennifer Hibit
Secretary to the Authority

ALH