

MINUTES of the **MEETING** of the **ERIE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY** held in the office, 295 Main Street, Room 350, Buffalo, New York, on the 18th day of June 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

ATTENDEES:
 Patrick Quinn, Lawley Services Inc.
 Earl Wells III, e3 Communications

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, May 21, 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, May 21, 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 proposed, pending or current litigation pursuant to Public Officers Law § 105 (1)(d).

The above executive session has been deferred to end of the meeting.

C. FISCAL

1. April 2026 Investment Report

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

2. April 2026 Financial Report

Ms. Tomaka distributed the April 2026 Financial Report along with a brief explanation of the report.

3. 2025 ECWA ACFR – Draft

Joyce Tomaka reported to the Board the 2025 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) which is submitted for an award by application to the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA).

Chair Schad observed it offers a significant collection of information about the Authority's operations not found in other published reports. Commissioner LaGree agreed and acknowledged that the report indicates the Authority's financial stability.

4. Lawley Presentation

Ms. Tomaka gave a brief overview of the services provided to the Authority by Lawley Insurance and Mr. Patrick Quinn. Ms. Tomaka highlighted the change of workers' compensation providers to PERMA on the recommendation of Mr. Quinn. She noted that last year with PERMA, the Authority realized a 20% cost savings of approximately \$416,000 in the policy renewal and, this past February, the Authority received a dividend check of \$76,000 from PERMA.

Mr. Quinn provided the Board with a concise evaluation of each aspect of the Authority's insurance coverage. Mr. Quinn reported an overall decrease of 4.6%, primarily attributed to the workers' compensation production associated with PERMA. Addressing a question from Commissioner Iannello, Mr. Quinn stated that the frequency of workers' compensation claims has not only decreased, but the overall value incurred has also seen a significant reduction. Mr. Quinn stated that this is a testament to the Authority and their partnership with PERMA. He commends the safety training and materials provided to Authority employees.

Mr. Carney spoke to the assistance and guidance provided to the Legal Department from Mr. Quinn and Lawley on a weekly basis. Mr. Carney also outlined the many benefits of working with the largest insurance firm in the area.

D. OPERATIONS

1. Emergency Declaration

Mr. Kowalski reported to the Board that on May 7, 2026, a Declaration of State of Emergency was issued to enable the Authority to procure the services of a contractor with expertise and equipment required to support a New York State Department of Transportation signal pole during excavation to repair a watermain leak in the Town of Hamburg.

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 Storage Tank Rehabilitation, STP Clearwell Tanks Exterior Painting, PN 202300060

3. Projects Advertised for Bidding – Short Form Contracts

Mr. Kowalski reported to the Board on two short form contract advertised for bidding that have been published since the last Board Meeting:

- Existing Manhole, Vault, and Chamber Rehabilitations, PN 202600094
- Furnish and Deliver Fluorosilicic Acid to ECWA for Use in the Treatment of Water for One Year, PN 202600110

4. Final Payment Application

Mr. Kowalski reported to the Board on one final payment application that had been completed since the last Board Meeting:

- WSA-018, Water System Improvements, Town of Clarence, PN 202200025

5. LCRR/LCRI Update

Mr. Kowalski provided the Board with an update regarding the significant advancements achieved in the implementation of the Authority's Get the Lead Out Program in response to the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions ("LCRR") and Lead and Copper Rule Revisions ("LCRI"). Mr. Kowalski indicated that by employing a combination of historical records, customer interactions, predictive analytics, field studies, and lead service replacements, the Authority has significantly improved the comprehensiveness and accuracy of its service line inventory, while also reducing the number of lead and unidentified service lines in the distribution network.

Mr. Kowalski indicated that upcoming contracts would concentrate on replacement tasks identified through investigation-only contracts, inventory assessments, and predictive modeling. Based on current projections, the Authority foresees the completion of the Get the Lead Out Program by the end of 2027. Mr. Kowalski praised the Authority's Engineering staff involved in this major undertaking, recognizing their hard work and dedication. A brief discussion ensued.

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 – PREISTER V ECWA – RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO LEGAL FOR FOLLOW UP**
- C-2 NOTICE OF CLAIM – SWARTWOOD V ECWA – RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO LEGAL FOR FOLLOW UP**
- C-3 LETTER FROM SCOTT KLUBEK - RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO SECRETARY FOR FOLLOW UP**

The Commissioners thanked Mr. Klubek for his many years of service and wished him luck in his retirement.

- C-4 FOIL FROM COFORGE - RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO SECRETARY FOR FOLLOW UP**
- C-5 FOIL FROM REXERA - RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO SECRETARY FOR FOLLOW UP**
- C-6 FOIL FROM SMARTPROCURE - RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO SECRETARY FOR FOLLOW UP**
- C-7 FOIL FROM SNAP TAX AND LEIN SEARCH - RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO SECRETARY FOR FOLLOW UP**
- C-8 FOIL FROM SNAP TAX AND LEIN SEARCH - RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO SECRETARY FOR FOLLOW UP**
- C-9 FOIL FROM SNAP TAX AND LEIN SEARCH - RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO SECRETARY FOR FOLLOW UP**
- C-10 FOIL FROM TYLER HOELLIG - RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO SECRETARY FOR FOLLOW UP**
- C-11 FOIL FROM COAST 2 COAST - RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO SECRETARY FOR FOLLOW UP**
- C-12 FOIL FROM JOSEPH DIMARCO - RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO SECRETARY FOR FOLLOW UP**
- C-13 FOIL FROM NY FOUNDATION FOR FAIR CONTRACTING - RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO SECRETARY FOR FOLLOW UP**
- C-14 FOIL FROM ROBERT MARIN - 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 NORTH AMERICA PROCUREMENT COUNCIL - RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO SECRETARY FOR FOLLOW UP**
- C-18 FOIL FROM RUTLEDGE CLAIMS MANAGEMENT - RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO SECRETARY FOR FOLLOW UP**

C-19 FOIL FROM CAMPIONE SAFETY - 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 - AWARD OF CONTRACT TO GEITER DONE WNY, INC. FOR EXCAVATED MATERIAL REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL 2026 THROUGH 2028, PROJECT NO. 202600037 - \$1,073,950.00

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

DISCUSSION

None

VOTE

Ayes: Three; Commrs. Schad, LaGree and Iannello

Noes: None

ITEM 2 - AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH DIDONATO ASSOCIATES ENGINEERING & ARCHITECTURE, P.C. TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES RELATING TO QUONSET HUT AND CONTROL BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS AT THE STURGEON POINT WATER TREATMENT PLANT, IDENTIFIED AS CONTRACT NO. DA-013, PROJECT NO. 202600108 (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 3 - AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH HAZEN AND SAWYER TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES RELATING TO SECONDARY CHEMICAL

CONTAINMENT AND EMERGENCY EYEWASH AND SAFETY SHOWER IMPROVEMENTS, IDENTIFIED AS CONTRACT NO. HS-008, PROJECT NO. 202600109 (CCII)

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

DISCUSSION

On the question, Commissioner LaGree requested verification that it was a multiyear contract. Mr. Kowalski verified that it is and gave a brief overview of the project.

VOTE

Ayes: Three; Commrs. Schad, LaGree and Iannello

Noes: None

ITEM 4 - AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH JM DAVIDSON ENGINEERING, D.P.C. TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES RELATING TO CONCEPTUAL DESIGN REPORTS AND DRAWINGS FOR VARIOUS FACILITIES AT THE STURGEON POINT AND VAN DE WATER WATER TREATMENT PLANTS, IDENTIFIED AS CONTRACT NO. JMD-002, PROJECT NO. 202600088 (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 5 - AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE A SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH TIME WARNER CABLE NORTHEAST, LLC D/B/A SPECTRUM ENTERPRISE RELATIVE TO INTERNET AND TELEPHONE SERVICES, STATE CONTRACT NO. PS68706

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 LAWLEY SERVICES, INC. FOR RISK MANAGEMENT

AND INSURANCE BROKERAGE SERVICES AND THE APPROVAL OF THE 2026-2027 INSURANCE COVERAGE AND TO BIND AND PAY INSURANCE INVOICES

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 - AUTHORIZATION TO AMEND THE ERIE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY'S ANNUAL CAPITAL BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 – VAN DE WATER WATER TREATMENT PLANT HVAC SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS, IDENTIFIED AS CONTRACT NO. LA-004, PROJECT NO. 202000236 - \$50,000.00

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

DISCUSSION

None

VOTE

Ayes: Three; Commrs. Schad, LaGree and Iannello

Noes: None

ITEM 8 - APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH LABELLA ASSOCIATES, D.P.C. TO PROVIDE CONSULTING ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR VAN DE WATER WATER TREATMENT PLANT AND RAW WATER PUMP STATION HVAC UPGRADES, IDENTIFIED AS CONTRACT NO. LA-004, PROJECT NO. 202000236

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 - APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH E3 COMMUNICATIONS, INC. RELATING TO

COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS SERVICES, PROJECT NO. 202300148

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 MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES CONTRACT WITH NEPTUNE TECHNOLOGY GROUP, INC. FOR THE FURNISHING AND DELIVERING OF WATER METERS AND APPURTENANCES, PROJECT NO. 202500220

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

DISCUSSION

On the question, Commissioner LaGree requested additional information. Ms. Tomaka gave a brief overview of the process and the associated costs. A brief discussion ensued.

VOTE

Ayes: Three; Commrs. Schad, LaGree and Iannello

Noes: None

ITEM 11 - APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO THE CONTRACT WITH CARUS, LLC. FOR THE FURNISHING AND DELIVERING OF POTASSIUM PERMANGANATE TO THE ERIE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY FOR ONE YEAR, PROJECT NO. 202500072

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

DISCUSSION

On the question, Chair Schad inquired if two year contracts with a locked in price will be available in the future. Mr. Kowalski responded that it depends on the individual chemical.

VOTE

Ayes: Three; Commrs. Schad, LaGree and Iannello

Noes: None

ITEM 12 - APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO THE CONTRACT WITH BISON LABORATORIES, LLC. FOR THE FURNISHING AND DELIVERING OF SODIUM HYPOCHLORITE TO THE ERIE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY FOR ONE YEAR, PROJECT NO. 202500099

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 CONTRACT WITH JCI JONES CHEMICALS, INC. FOR THE FURNISHING AND DELIVERING OF CAUSTIC SODA (50% SOLUTION OF SODIUM HYDROXIDE) MEMBRANE GRADE TO THE ERIE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY FOR USE IN THE TREATMENT OF WATER, PROJECT NO. 202400125

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

DISCUSSION

None

VOTE

Ayes: Three; Commrs. Schad, LaGree and Iannello

Noes: None

ITEM 14 - APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT NO. 2 TO THE CONTRACT WITH JCI JONES CHEMICALS, INC. FOR THE FURNISHING AND DELIVERING OF LIQUID CHLORINE IN ONE-TON CONTAINERS TO THE ERIE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY FOR USE IN THE TREATMENT OF WATER FOR ONE YEAR, PROJECT NO. 202400124

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 - 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- SALARY INCREMENTS - JULY 1, 2026

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 - AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE LEASE FOR SPACE AT APPLE TREE BUSINESS PARK

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

DISCUSSION

On the question, Commissioner LaGree requested the Board be given a timeline. Mr. Carney gave a brief overview of a tentative timeline. Chair Schad requested an update at a future Board meeting. Mr. Carney stated that the Board would receive a timeline and the design plans.

VOTE

Ayes: Three; Commrs. Schad, LaGree and Iannello

Noes: None

Motion made by Ms. LaGree, seconded by Ms. Iannello to go into Executive Session for the discussion relating to proposed, pending or current litigation pursuant to Public Officers Law § 105 (1)(d) at 10:16 a.m. Chair Schad invited Jennifer Hibit, Joyce Tomaka, Mark Carney, Charles Eaton, Leonard Kowalski, and Katherine Gillette.

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 10:58 a.m.

DISCUSSION

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

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Ms. LaGree seconded by Ms. Iannello carried that the meeting adjourned at 10:59 a.m.

DISCUSSION

None

VOTE

Ayes: Three; Commrs. Schad, LaGree and Iannello

Noes: None

Jennifer Hibit
Secretary to the Authority

ALH