

MINUTES of the **MEETING** of the **ERIE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY** held in the office, 295 Main Street, Room 350, Buffalo, New York, on the 17th day of September 2026.

PRESENT: Jerome D. Schad, Chair
 Peggy A. LaGree, Commissioner
 Michele M. Iannello, Commissioner
 Jennifer 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
 Katherine A. Gillette, Senior Associate Attorney
 Lavonya C. Lester, Director of Administration
 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 9:30 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, August 20, 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, August 20, 2026.

DISCUSSION

None

VOTE

Ayes: Three; Commrs. Schad, LaGree and Iannello

Noes: None

IV. REPORTS

A. SECRETARY

B. LEGAL

1. Executive Session

Discussion with the Authority's General Counsel relating to pending litigation with Amstar of Western New York, Inc., pursuant to Public Officers Law §105(1)(d) and §108(3).

2. Executive Session

Discussion with the Authority's General Counsel relating to pending litigation with Joanne Albano, pursuant to Public Officers Law §105(1)(d) and §108(3).

Motion made by Ms. LaGree, seconded by Ms. Iannello to go into Executive Session for the discussion relating to pending litigation with Amstar of Western New York, Inc. and for the discussion relating to pending litigation with Joanne Albano, both pursuant to Public Officers Law §105(1)(d) and §108(3) at 9:32 a.m. Chair Schad invited Jennifer Hibit, Joyce Tomaka, Mark Carney, Charles Eaton, Leonard Kowalski, and Katherine Gillette.

DISCUSSION

None

VOTE

Ayes: Two; Commrs. Schad and Iannello

Noes: None

Motion made by Ms. LaGree, seconded by Ms. Iannello to exit Executive Session at 9:48 a.m.

DISCUSSION

Chair Schad reported that a productive discussion was held with Counsel on both items and provided directions to Counsel.

C. FISCAL

1. July 2026 Investment Report

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

2. July 2026 Financial Report

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

D. OPERATIONS

1. Request for Proposal Recommendation

Mr. Kowalski reported to the Board that the Authority recently issued a Request for Proposal (“RFP”) for consulting engineering services to prepare a PFAS planning study to address current and potential future regulations. The RFP was sent to five consulting engineering firms and was also posted to the Authority’s website which resulted in interest from two additional firms. Six proposals were submitted. The proposals were reviewed and discussed among the Engineering and Water Quality staff, and it was determined that Arcadis of New York, Inc. possesses the relevant qualifications to perform the proposed work. Engineering will proceed with negotiating a professional services agreement.

2. Projects Advertised for Bidding – Short Form Contracts

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

- Concrete Pipe Repair Bands Procurement, PN 202500182

3. Final Payment Applications

Mr. Kowalski reported to the Board that one Final Payment Application had been completed in the month of August 2026.

- On-Call Repairs Services, PN 202300043

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 – KRAUZA V ECWA – RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO LEGAL FOR FOLLOW UP**
- C-2 LETTER FROM ROBERT SIKORSKI - RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO SECRETARY FOR FOLLOW UP**

The Board thanked Mr. Sikorski for his years of service and wishes him well in retirement.

- C-3 FOIL FROM CROWN TITLE - RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO SECRETARY FOR FOLLOW UP**
- C-4 FOIL FROM MARK ZURADA - RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO SECRETARY FOR FOLLOW UP**
- C-5 FOIL FROM LATESHA MCDONALD - 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 CHRISTOPHER EARLE - RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO SECRETARY FOR FOLLOW UP**
- C-9 FOIL FROM SHEILA SCOTT - RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO SECRETARY FOR FOLLOW UP**
- C-10 FOIL FROM WEBSTER SZANYI LLP - RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO SECRETARY FOR FOLLOW UP**
- C-11 FOIL FROM BUFFALO BUSINESS FIRST - RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO SECRETARY FOR FOLLOW UP**
- C-12 FOIL FROM LIPSITZ GREEN SCIME CAMBRIA LLP - RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO SECRETARY FOR FOLLOW UP**
- C-13 FOIL FROM NELSON KITA - RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO SECRETARY FOR FOLLOW UP**
- C-14 FOIL FROM MARY HOOD - RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO SECRETARY FOR FOLLOW UP**
- C-15 FOIL FROM SNAP TAX AND LIEN SEARCH - RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO SECRETARY FOR FOLLOW UP**

C-16 FOIL FROM JAMES RAYMOND - RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO SECRETARY FOR FOLLOW UP

C-17 FOIL FROM CASULLO'S AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE, INC. - RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO SECRETARY FOR FOLLOW UP

C-18 FOIL FROM CASULLO'S AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE, INC. - 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.

Chair Schad thanked Mr. Earl Wells III for his work done on behalf of the Authority and especially for the project completed this week.

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. 5134.50, D265690, PROJECT NO. 202500179

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 ACCEPT THE CONSTRUCTION AND INSTALLATION OF APPROXIMATELY 1415 LINEAR FEET OF EIGHT (8") INCH PVC (C-900), THREE (3) HYDRANTS, THREE (3) LINE VALVES, AND APPURTENANCES IN WOODLAND HILLS SUBDIVISION, PHASE 3, TOWN OF CLARENCE, NEW YORK, EC NO. 7565, PROJECT NO. 202500290

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 - AWARD OF CONTRACT TO O'CONNELL ELECTRIC COMPANY, INC. TO FURNISH AND DELIVER ONE 5KV BREAKER FOR THE STURGEON POINT WATER TREATMENT PLANT, PROJECT NO. 202600095 - \$59,227.00

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 - AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE A SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND RELEASE RELATIVE TO PROPERTY LOCATED AT 480 FRENCH ROAD, CHEEKTOWAGA, 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 5 - AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE AN EXPEDITED SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY - \$5,400.00

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 DIRECT SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF LACKAWANNA

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

DISCUSSION

On the question, Chair Schad inquired if there were any additional municipalities that were transferred from Western New York Water Company to the Authority that still require an agreement to be established. Mr. Carney stated that the Village of Depew is a possibility and is presently being researched. Chair Schad inquired regarding the notification procedures concerning the Authority's business address as documented in the agreements. Mr. Carney recommended to the Board that notification of the municipalities regarding the Tariff amendment could serve as an opportune occasion to provide address updates simultaneously.

VOTE

Ayes: Three; Commrs. Schad, LaGree and Iannello

Noes: None

ITEM 7 - AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A MAIN EXTENSION SPECIAL AGREEMENT WITH DOUGLAS MATUSEK AND KANDEY COMPANY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND INSTALLATION OF APPROXIMATELY 250 LINEAR FEET OF EIGHT INCH (8") PVC WATERMAIN, ONE (1) HYDRANT, AND APPURTENANCES, RAPIDS ROAD, TOWN OF CLARENCE, NEW YORK, PROJECT NO. 202600178

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 NEW YORK STATE INDUSTRIES FOR THE DISABLED, INC. AND THE ERIE COUNTY CHAPTER NYSARC, INC. D/B/A THE ARC ERIE COUNTY NEW YORK FOR GENERAL CLEANING SERVICES FOR THE ERIE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY SERVICE CENTER FROM OCTOBER 1, 2026 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, PROJECT NO. 202600215

Motion by Ms. LaGree and seconded by Mr. Schad and carried.

DISCUSSION

None

VOTE

Ayes: Three; Commrs. Schad, LaGree and Iannello

Noes: None

ITEM 9 - 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 10 - AUTHORIZATION TO EXTEND THE SERVICES OF ONSOLVE LLC. TO FURNISH AND DELIVER A MASS NOTIFICATION SYSTEM FOR ONE YEAR - \$26,859.35

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. 2 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

None

VOTE

Ayes: Three; Commrs. Schad, LaGree and Iannello

Noes: None

ITEM 12 - APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT NO. 2 TO AGREEMENT WITH HOHL INDUSTRIAL SERVICES, INC. FOR BUOY INSTALLATION AND UNDERWATER SERVICES, PROJECT NO. 202400030

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. 5 TO THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH ARCADIS OF NEW YORK, INC. TO PROVIDE CONSULTING ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR BALL PUMP STATION PHASE 1 REHABILITATION, IDENTIFIED AS CONTRACT NO. MP-086, PROJECT NO. 202000177 - \$315,000.00

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

DISCUSSION

None

VOTE

Ayes: Three; Commrs. Schad, LaGree and Iannello

Noes: None

ITEM 14 - AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SOLE SOURCE PURCHASE OF PERISTALTIC PUMPS FOR USE AT THE STURGEON POINT WATER TREATMENT PLANT - \$56,991.00

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

DISCUSSION

None

VOTE

Ayes: Three; Commrs. Schad, LaGree and Iannello

Noes: None

ITEM 15 - AUTHORIZATION TO AMEND THE ERIE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY'S ANNUAL O&M BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 – UNIT 1020 CONTROL OPERATIONS - \$100,000.00

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 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 17 - AUTHORIZATION FOR GABRIELLA HOLEVINSKI, ANALYTICAL
CHEMIST, TO ATTEND THE AWWA WATER QUALITY TECHNOLOGY
CONFERENCE, IN MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE**

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 carried that the meeting adjourned at
10:05 a.m.

DISCUSSION

None

VOTE

Ayes: Three; Commrs. Schad, LaGree and Iannello

Noes: None

Jennifer Hibit
Secretary to the Authority

ALH

09/17/26