

BUFFALO WATER BOARD MINUTES
October 21, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Oluwole A. McFoy
Gerald Kelly
Steven Stepniak
William Sunderlin

OTHERS PRESENT:

Peter Merlo
Jack McMahon
Stephen Waldvogel
Bill Ferguson
Dustin Steiner
Charlie Martorana
David Hill
Damon Sykes
Lisa Foti
Greg Keyser
Samantha Podlas
Delano Dowell
Michael Wolasz
Michael Ramos
Kelly Leeb

The regular monthly meeting of the Buffalo Water Board was called to order at 8:00 a.m.

1. Motion by Mr. Sunderlin, seconded by Mr. Stepniak to approve the agenda. Approved.

Motion by Mr. Sunderlin, seconded by Mr. Kelly to approve the minutes from the September 9, 2020 meeting. Approved.

2. During the public comments portion of this meeting Mr. Ramos reported to the Buffalo Water Board that the Buffalo Water Board will promote a Lead Awareness Week at the end of this month and the City of Buffalo will announce receipt of a new grant to promote Lead Awareness soon. Mr. McFoy, the Buffalo Water Board Chairman reported that Water Equity and Water Affordability mailer insert documents have arrived. Distribution will be coordinated with Veolia Water to deliver the documents to Buffalo Water Board's partners. In addition, door hangers related to the Buffalo Water Board Amnesty program have also arrived and distribution to the community will be coordinated with Veolia Water.
3. Staff Update: Mr. Hill with Veolia Water provided a staffing update to the Buffalo Water Board.
4. Mr. Merlo, the Principal Engineer of the Division of Water and Lisa Foti, Rate Consultant for the Buffalo Water Board reported that the Buffalo Municipal Water Finance Authority Water System Bond issue was scheduled to close on October 21, 2020. They reported that the Buffalo Municipal Water Finance Authority's team was able to secure refunding of the Series 2010 Buffalo Municipal Water Finance Authority Bonds at an interest rate of 2.28% over 20 years (reduced from a rate of nearly 6%) saving the Buffalo Water Board over \$4 million in debt service payments and issuance of the 2020 Bonds to provide additional \$5 million in financing for the Buffalo Water Board's Capital Improvement Plan projects at an interest rate of 2.96%.
5. Upon the recommendation of the Principal Engineer of the Division of Water, motion made by Mr. Stepniak, seconded by Mr. Sunderlin to authorize Veolia Water to contract with Destro and Brothers Concrete Company, Inc. and approve funding for the Centennial Park 48-inch

Watermain Inspection Project in an amount not-to-exceed \$210,000.00, inclusive of Veolia Water's 10% administrative fee. Approved.

6. Upon the recommendation of the Principal Engineer of the Division of Water, motion made by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Stepniak to authorize and fund an increase to the Veolia Water Limit Account in an amount not-to-exceed \$750,000.00 for Watermain Repairs. The project and contract will be administered by the City of Buffalo, Division of Water, in conjunction with the Veolia Water Management Agreement. Approved.
7. No Claims were reported at this meeting.
8. Mr. Steiner of GHD Consulting Services, Inc. presented a summary of the invoices to be paid to Veolia Water and recommended payment to Veolia Water for services rendered as follows:
 - a) Motion by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Stepniak, to approve payment of \$131,548.33, inclusive of Veolia Water's 10% administrative fee for services by Great Lakes Plumbing for the Buffalo Water Board ROLL Program. Approved.
9. Mr. Steiner of GHD Consulting Services, Inc. delivered a report of GHD's on-going professional services to assist the Buffalo Water Board on a number of projects, including: providing engineering and oversight services at the Filter Plant where 20 out of 40 sweep filter pipe installations are completed and topped off with anthracite, the new Uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS) Replacement project is approximately 85% completed, the repairs in the chlorine room are approximately 90% completed, and work has begun on fencing and security improvements around the Colonel Ward Water Treatment Facility. GHD and contractor STC are advancing the pipe loop project with the University of Buffalo. The Buffalo Water Board would like to continue this relationship with the University of Buffalo and plans to explore a long term agreement in the coming months.
10. Mr. Hill of Veolia Water presented Veolia Water's monthly management report with the Buffalo Water Board. He reported that lead and copper testing has been completed with 171 kits being sent to customers. The average lead level was 1.06 parts per billion (ppb), the highest level was 6.4 ppb and the calculated 90% percentile for lead was 2.8 ppb which is the lowest reported since the inception of this testing in 1993. Buffalo Water Board System revenue receipts have improved but are still below budget for the first three months of the fiscal year. Veolia Water plans to issue the annual customer satisfaction survey and a meter study in the near future. Mr. Hill further reported that Veolia Water is using Innovative Solutions, among other tasks, to conduct Monthly Water Tank Inspections with drones to inspect Buffalo Water Board Water Tanks.

Motion by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Sunderlin to adjourn at 9:00 A.M. Approved.

Next meeting, Thursday, November 12, 2020 at 8:00 A.M. This meeting will be a MSTeams conference call.