

BUFFALO WATER BOARD MINUTES
April 21, 2025

MEMBERS PRESENT:

William L. Sunderlin
Debbie Lombardo
Scott Billman
Bill Hanley
Tim Donovan

OTHERS PRESENT:

Peter J. Merlo
John D. McMahon
David Hill
Douglas Fultz
Charles C. Martorana
Fouad Arab
Stephen Waldvogel
Damond Rand
Kelly Leeb
Christine Wingo
Lisa Foti
Bill Ferguson
Damon Sykes
Dustin Steiner
Connor Bannochie
Matthew Adam
Patrick Thornton
Zachary Cox
Nate Marton
Delano Dowell
Ed Steeprook
Porsha Ari Parson
David Connors
Eric Machin
Carol Burns
Michael Wolasz
Jennifer Szustakowski

The regular monthly meeting of the Buffalo Water Board (BWB) was called to order at 9:00 A.M.

1. Motion by Mr. Hanley, seconded by Mr. Billman, to approve the agenda. Approved.
2. Motion by Mr. Billman, seconded by Mr. Hanley to approve the minutes of the December 13, 2024 meeting. Approved.
3. Public Comment: After the Vice Chair offered an opportunity for public comments, no comments were received.
4. Staff Update: Mr. Fultz, with Veolia Water provided a staffing update to the Buffalo Water Board.
5. Upon the recommendation of the Principal Engineer of the Division of Water, motion made by Mr. Hanley, seconded by Mr. Billman to authorize a Budget Amendment, as detailed on the attached exhibit. The amendment authorizes one budget transfer in the amount of \$8,500,000 from Water Board reserves into account 53023517 473020. Approved.

6. Upon the recommendation of the Principal Engineer of the Division of Water and the project engineering consultant GHD Consulting Services, Inc. and Veolia Water, motion made by Ms. Lombardo, seconded by Mr. Billman to authorize and fund an extension for an additional three year term of an existing agreement to perform Lead and Copper Rule services by and between Veolia Water and 120 Water, as part of Veolia Water's services under its Management Agreement dated as of July 1, 2020, with the Buffalo Water Board. The contract with 120 Water will be managed and administered by Veolia Water. The total annual contract fee payable to 120 Water is in an amount not to exceed \$761,721.28 per year. Year 1 also has a one-time fee of \$39,750.00 These services will continue to be administered by the City of Buffalo, Division of Water, as part its administration of the Management Agreement with Veolia Water. Approved.
7. Upon the recommendation of the Principal Engineer of the Division of Water, motion made by Mr. Billman, seconded by Ms. Lombardo to authorize a change order contract time extension with Kandey Company for additional Construction Services for the Water Distribution Systems Improvements Various Locations – Group 1B Project (contract #93003116). The revised project completion date will be December 12, 2025. The project and contract will continue to be administered by the City of Buffalo, Division of Water. Approved.
8. Upon the recommendation of the Principal Engineer of the Division of Water, motion made by Mr. Hanley, seconded by Mr. Billman to authorize a contract increase in an amount not to exceed \$274,629 with DiDonato Associates, Engineering and Architecture, P.C. for additional Construction Administration/Resident Inspection Services for the Water Distribution Systems Improvements Various Locations Group 1A & 1B Projects (contract #93002633). The project and contract will continue to be administered by the City of Buffalo, Division of Water. Approved.
9. Upon the recommendation of the Principal Engineer of the Division of Water, motion made by Mr. Billman, seconded by Mr. Hanley to authorize a contract increase in an amount not to exceed \$148,000 with Hazen and Sawyer for additional Construction Administration/Resident Inspection Services for the Buffalo Water Filtration Plant Project (contract #93002561). The project and contract will continue to be administered by the City of Buffalo, Division of Water. Approved.
10. Upon the recommendation of the Principal Engineer of the Division of Water, motion made by Ms. Lombardo, seconded by Mr. Billman to authorize a change order contract time extension with Frey Electric Construction Co. for additional Construction Services for the Colonel Ward Pumping Station Electrical Improvements Project (contract #93002903). The revised project completion date will be August 29, 2025. The project and contract will continue to be administered by the City of Buffalo, Division of Water. Approved.
11. Mr. Waldvogel, Ms. Wingo and Mr. Steiner of GHD Consulting Services, Inc. delivered a report of GHD's on-going professional services to assist the Buffalo Water Board on several projects, including: (a) GHD is the Buffalo Water Board Retained Engineer and Mr. Waldvogel offered to answer any questions or otherwise assist the new Buffalo Water Board members ; (b) GHD is working with the Community Care Coalition partners (Open Buffalo and Community Health Center of Buffalo) to provide information to City of Buffalo residents on the benefits of several programs; (c) GHD continues to update materials, utilize the interactive map and monitor activity of the Get Water Wise website; (d) GHD and our Community Care Coalition partners plan to attend an Earth Day Seminar on April 26, 2025 at Canisius University and will share information with the community regarding identification of water service lead pipes coming into their homes; (e) GHD is continuing to provide engineering and oversight services at Colonel Ward Treatment Facility, for among other matters, the electrical upgrades at the plant,

and construction of the Berm project to protect the Colonel Ward Treatment Facility. Weekly contractor meetings for work at Ralph C. Wilson Centennial Park are continuing.

12. Mr. Hill of Veolia Water presented Veolia Water’s monthly management report. Mr. Hill reported that Customer Service Center Agents continue to process applications for the Pathways to Affordable Water programs that guide customers to options that may lower their water bill. At the end of March 2025, 2,007 customers received reduced bills from the Residential Affordable Water Programs (RAWP) and 4,196 senior citizens are receiving assistance from the Senior Discount Program. Mr. Hill reported that 68 customers are enrolled in a payment plan originated by Promise Pay and 428 customers are enrolled in a payment plan originated by Buffalo Water. Water System revenues collected for March 2025 were approximately \$3.92 million, as compared to Budgeted Revenues for March 2025 of \$4.38 million. Mr. Hill indicated that Veolia Water is assisting to manage several capital, operation and maintenance projects at the Water Treatment Facility and in the Distribution System, including addressing a leak in a 48-inch water transmission line to Buffalo Water’s South Buffalo customers. Veolia Water is also working cooperatively with Wendel, an engineering consultant, to investigate, among other things, the structural engineering aspects of crossing a CSX Railroad line, and working with CSX to obtain the necessary permits to repair the transmission line. Additionally, there are several exterior building improvement projects currently underway at the Water Treatment Facility.

Motion by Mr. Billman to enter Executive Session to discuss litigation matters. Seconded by Mr. Donovan. Approved.

Motion by Mr. Hanley to exit Executive Session. Seconded by Mr. Billman. Approved.

Motion by Ms. Lombardo, seconded by Mr. Billman to adjourn at 10:49 A.M. Approved.

The Buffalo Water Board members and staff will be present in person at the next meeting, which is scheduled for Wednesday, May 14, 2025, at 9:00 A.M.

Buffalo Water Board meetings are held in accordance with the New York State Open Meetings Law, Article 7 of the Public Officers’ Law. The agenda will be posted on www.Buffalowater.org in advance of the meeting and will provide time for public comment. The public are invited to attend in person or by remote video and audio conference. A computer access “MS Teams” link and a Toll Free Conference Call Telephone Number will be provided in advance of the meeting. See www.Buffalowater.org or call 716-851-9626 for more information.