

BUFFALO WATER BOARD MINUTES
June 11, 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
Nate Marton
Zachary Cox
Michael Wolasz
David Connors
Jennifer Szustakowski
Carol Burns
Porsha Parson
Jim
Chief Todd McAlister
Alexa Wajed
Edreys Wajed

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

1. Motion by Mr. Billman, seconded by Mr. Hanley, to approve the agenda. Approved.
2. Motion by Mr. Donovan, seconded by Mr. Billman, to approve the minutes of the May 14, 2025, meeting. Approved.
3. Public Comment: Chief Todd McAlister of the Buffalo Police Department introduced a project to utilize land surrounding the Kensington and Grider Water Tower for a public art and community engagement installation. Alexa and Edreys Wajed of Eat Off Art presented the proposal for a public art project at the site of the Water Tower. The Buffalo Water Board referred the proposal and request to the City of Buffalo Department of Public Works Department and the Buffalo Water Board's Engineering Team for review with a report to the Buffalo Water Board at the July 9, 2025 meeting.
4. Staff Update: Ms. Szustakowski, with Veolia Water, provided a staffing update to the Buffalo Water Board.

5. Upon the recommendation of the City of Buffalo Accountant and Buffalo Water Board Rate Consultant, motion made by Mr. Billman to approve the Buffalo Water Board Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Budget, seconded by Mr. Hanley. Approved.
6. Motion by Mr. Billman, seconded by Mr. Hanley to approve a Resolution of the Buffalo Water Board Regarding Adoption of 2025 Six Year Capital Improvement Plan and compliance with the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA). Approved. (See attached resolution).
7. 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 \$150,000 with Wendel for structural retainer contract services (contract #93002452). 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 and the engineering consultant Wendel, motion made by Mr. Billman, seconded by Mr. Donovan to authorize a change order contract time extension with Nova Site Company, LLC, for additional Construction Services for the 2023 City Wide Water Cut Restoration Program Project (contract #93003379). The revised project completion date will be October 15, 2025. 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. Hanley, seconded by Mr. Billman to authorize a contract increase in an amount not to exceed \$56,000 with Wendel for Construction Administration and Construction Observation services for the Citywide Water Cut Rehabilitation Contract Project (contract #93003155). 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 Mr. Hanley, seconded by Mr. Donovan to authorize a contract increase in an amount not to exceed \$75,859 with CHA Consulting, Inc. for additional Construction Administration and Construction Inspection Services for the Waterline Improvement Project – Various Locations 2 (contract #93002734). The project and contract will continue to be administered by the City of Buffalo, Division of Water. Approved.
11. Upon the recommendation of the Principal Engineer of the Division of Water, motion made by Mr. Billman, seconded by Mr. Donovan to authorize a Budget Amendment, as shown below:

Budget reallocation:

53300906 445100	(\$150,000.00)	from: System Pumping and Storage
53300896 445100	\$150,000.00	into: Ward Treatment and Pumping Plant
53300906 445100	(\$7,000.00)	from: System Pumping and Storage
53300886 445100	\$7,000.00	into: Transmission and Distribution

The amendment authorizes a total budget reallocation of \$157,000.00. Approved.

12. Motion by Mr. Donovan, seconded by Mr. Billman to approve GHD Consulting Services, Inc.'s professional services contract for the 2025-2026 fiscal year for Buffalo Water Board Consulting Engineer Services to be funded in an amount not-to-exceed \$500,000.00. Approved.

13. Motion made by Mr. Billman, seconded by Mr. Donovan to approve Barclay Damon, LLP professional services contract for the 2025-2026 fiscal year for Buffalo Water Board Legal Services to be funded in an amount not-to-exceed \$200,000.00. Approved.
14. Mr. Waldvogel, 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 working with the City of Buffalo Rate Consultant on the Capital Plan in preparation for the bond sale. This includes calculating required transfers to close out the current fiscal year, reviewing current revenue figures, developing fiscal plan for the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 and evaluating the rate changes needed for the coming year (b) 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 including the repair of Outfall No 6. GHD continues to participate in weekly contractor meetings for work at Ralph C. Wilson Centennial Park.
15. Mr. Hill of Veolia Water presented Veolia Water's monthly Management Report. Mr. Hill reported that the Preventative Maintenance Program is completing major asset testing. The Customer Service Center is going through some upgrades. The annual Basin Cleaning at the Colonel Ward Water Treatment Plant is being cleaned this year by City of Buffalo staff and the first basin is nearly completed. Buffalo Water and Veolia Water are working with CSX Railroad to finalize permitting requirements before fixing a broken valve on a 48-inch water distribution main that services South Buffalo residential and commercial accounts. Veolia Water is also working on a sanitary sewer survey at the Water Treatment Facility with GHD.

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

Motion by Mr. Billman to exit Executive Session. Seconded, by Mr. Donovan. Approved.

Motion by Mr. Hanley, seconded by Mr. Donovan to adjourn at 11:12 A.M. Approved.

*Note: Debbie Lombardo participated for a portion of the meeting by videoconferencing from a remote location in accordance with procedures adopted by the Buffalo Water Board.

The Buffalo Water Board members and staff will be present in person at the next meeting, which is scheduled for Wednesday, July 9, 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.

**RESOLUTION OF THE BUFFALO WATER BOARD REGARDING
ADOPTION OF 2025 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN AND
STATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY REVIEW ACT**

WHEREAS, the Buffalo Water Board (the “Water Board”) is authorized to establish and from time to time amend a capital improvement plan pursuant to the New York State Public Authorities Law section 1048-g, and the Financing Agreement (the “Financing Agreement”) and the Operation Agreement (the “Operation Agreement”) by and among the Water Board, the City of Buffalo (the “City”) and the Buffalo Municipal Water Finance Authority (the “Water Authority”) dated as of September 24, 1992, as amended, with respect to the water treatment plant, water distribution system and related water facilities of the Water Board (the “Water System”); and

WHEREAS, the Water Board regularly serves as the lead agency pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act (“SEQRA”), to review potential environmental impacts of its capital improvement plans, and works in cooperation with the Water Authority and the City to finance and implement such capital improvement plan; and

WHEREAS, GHD Consulting Services, Inc., as the Consulting Engineer for the Water Board, has recommended a capital improvement plan for 2025, as more particularly set forth and described in Exhibit A, attached hereto and made a part hereof (the “2025 Capital Improvement Plan”), which the Water Board plans to adopt and finance with the assistance of the Water Authority’s bonds and the Water Board’s own reserves and other resources; and

WHEREAS, the Water Board has reviewed the 2025 Capital Improvement Plan as part of the Water Board’s budgetary process, and determined that such projects consist of studies, engineering plans and improvements that constitute planning, maintenance or repair actions involving no substantial changes in any existing Water System structure or facility, and/or replacement, rehabilitation or reconstruction of such structures, facilities, in kind, on the same site(s), including upgrading buildings, infrastructure and equipment to comply with building and fire codes, and/or improve energy or operational efficiency, without causing any significant adverse impact on the environment, and are in accordance with the SEQRA criteria for significant adverse environmental impacts, and 6 NYCRR section 617.5, determined that no further environmental review is necessary or appropriate.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved as follows:

1. The Water Board, as lead agency, hereby determines that the 2025 Capital Improvement Plan constitutes SEQRA Type II action(s), and that the proposed action(s) will not result in any significant adverse environmental impacts, and no further environmental review is necessary or appropriate pursuant to 6 NYCRR section 617.5.

2. The Water Board hereby approves and adopts the 2025 Capital Improvement Plan, and directs the Water Board Secretary or any other officer of the Water Board to publish a notice for a public hearing to afford the public an opportunity to comment on the amendment to the Financing Agreement incorporating the 2025 Capital Improvement Plan in compliance with the Buffalo Municipal Water Finance Authority Act.

EXHIBIT A

2025 Buffalo Water Board Capital Improvement Plan

**SIX YEAR
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN OF THE BUFFALO WATER SYSTEM ***
(IN THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS)**

PROJECT CATEGORY	PROJECT NO.	PROJECT NAME	FY 25/26	FY 26/27	FY 27/28	FY 28/29	FY 29/30	FY 30/31
Colonel Ward Treatment and Pumping Plant	1	Filter Plant Cleanwell Optimization	500	500	10,000			
	2	Filter Plant Backwash Pump Station rehab.				300	3,000	
	3	Filter Plant Flow Tubes		300		500	3,000	
	4	Filter Plant Emerging Contaminants						
	5	Flocculation motors / baffles			500	3,000		
	6	Thickener Rehab including Tube Settlers	500		1,000	1,000		
	7	Sodium Hypochlorite System	10,000	300	2,000			
	8	Filter Plant Miscellaneous Improvements*	300	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	2,000
	9	Colonel Ward Valve House Rehabilitation				300	1,000	1,000
	10	Colonel Ward Pumping Improvements					500	5,000
	11	Colonel Ward Complex Building Improvements	20,000		2,000	2,000		
	12	Colonel Ward Miscellaneous Improvements*	3,000		1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
System Pumping and Storage	13	Massachusetts Ave. P.S. Power Upgrades	35,000					
	14	Massachusetts Ave. Tunnel Rehab.				500	2,000	
	15	Massachusetts Ave. P.S. Miscellaneous Improvements*					500	500
	16	Manhattan Tank & P.S. Rehabilitation				500	10,000	
	17	Manhattan Tank & P.S. Misc. Improvements*				300	300	300
	18	Kensington Tank stabilization						
	19	Grover Cleveland Tank & P.S. Rehabilitation / Replacement					500	10,000
	20	Hancock Tank Replacement / Rehab			500	10,000		
	21	Ferry Tank Replacement / Rehab		500	10,000			
	22	Annual Watermain / Valve Replacement / Rehabilitation	8,500	75,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
Transmission & Distribution	23	Service Line Lead Abatement Program**	4,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
	24	Metering Program	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Buildings & Other	25	System Security			250	250	250	250
	26	Intake Rehabilitation			300	3,000		
	27	Additional Building Improvements**				1,000	1,000	2,000
		Estimated Total Annual Capital Project Costs:	\$82,800	\$83,600	\$69,550	\$55,650	\$55,050	\$53,050

Notes:

* This item includes miscellaneous funds to be used to perform additional upgrades in the treatment, pumping, storage, transmission, sanitary survey items construction, and other systems as required.

** This item includes funds to be used to perform improvements to the buildings including structural beams, walls, floors, windows, roofs and other items as required.

*** The Water Board will also receive Federal and State funding for this plan.