

DRAFT

BUFFALO WATER BOARD MINUTES March 11, 2026

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Brian Gould
William Sunderlin
Debbie Lombardo
Tim Donovan
Bill Hanley
Scott Billman

OTHERS PRESENT:

Peter J. Merlo
John D. McMahon
Fouad Arab
David Hill
Charles C. Martorana
Stephen Waldvogel
Bill Ferguson
Doug Fultz
Damon Sykes
Damond Rand
Kelly Leeb
Dustin Steiner
Connor Bannochie
Matthew Adam
Mike Wolasz
Roger Lis
Nolan Skipper
Jeff Mays
Eric Machin
Zac Cox
Pat Thorton

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

1. Motion by Ms. Lombardo, seconded by Mr. Billman, to approve the agenda. Approved.
2. Motion by Mr. Hanley, seconded by Mr. Donovan, to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2026, meeting. Approved.
3. Public Comment: After the Vice Chair offered an opportunity for public comments, no comments were received.
4. Staff Update: Mr. Hill, with Veolia Water, provided a staffing update to the Buffalo Water Board.
5. The Principal Engineer of the Division of Water and Mr. Waldvogel of GHD Consulting Services, Inc. provided the Buffalo Water Board with an update on recent Bond Sale Activities. The Bond Sale pricing will be finalized on March 11, 2026 and will be approved by the Buffalo Municipal Water Finance Authority at a meeting at 3:00 P.M. on March 11, 2026. Moody's has ranked the Buffalo Water Board's credit rating up one grade in their rating analyses. Mr. Waldvogel informed the Board that approximately \$10 million will be added to their reserve account following the Bond Sale increasing that fund from \$13 million to \$23 million.
6. Upon the recommendation of the Principal Engineer of the Division of Water, motion made by Mr. Hanley, seconded by Mr. Billman, to approve a contract increase in an amount not-to-exceed \$89,000.00 with Wendel for the Structural Retainer Contract (contact #93002452).

The project and contract will continue to be administered by the City of Buffalo, Division of Water. Approved.

7. Upon the recommendation of the Principal Engineer of the Division of Water and the project engineering consultant GHD Consulting Services, Inc., motion made by Mr. Billman, seconded by Mr. Donovan to authorize a contract increase in an amount not to exceed \$157,619.61 with Frey Electric Construction Co., Inc. for the Colonel Ward Pumping Station Electrical Improvements Project (contract #93002903). 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 Ms. Lombardo to authorize a contract increase in an amount not to exceed \$130,000.00 with GHD Consulting Services, Inc., for the Colonel Ward Pumping Station Electrical Improvements Project (contract #93002484). The project and contract will continue to be administered by the City of Buffalo, Division of Water. Approved.
9. Mr. Waldvogel 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 has been involved with engineering reviews and documentation to support the upcoming bond issuance; (b) GHD is working closely with the R.A. Mercer & Co., Rate Consultant, Mr. Roger Lis, who has been finalizing documents for the upcoming bond issuance; (c) GHD has prepared the advertisement of the chlorine improvement project with a bid date of March 25, 2026; (d) 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 survey of the spoils storage area. GHD continues to participate in weekly contractor meetings for development of Ralph C. Wilson Centennial Park.
10. Mr. Hill of Veolia Water presented Veolia Water's monthly Management Report. Mr. Hill reported that all Limit Accounts as presented on page 15 of their monthly report are on target based on current projections. Also, as of the end of February 2026, 2,202 customers received reduced bills through the Residential Affordable Water Programs (RAWP), and 4,370 senior citizens received assistance from the Senior Discount Program. Mr. Hill reported that 130 customers are enrolled in a payment plan originated by Promise Pay and 661 customers are enrolled in a payment plan originated by Buffalo Water. Mr. Hill reported that \$5.47 million in revenue was received in February 2026 as compared to budgeted estimates of \$5.68 million for February 2026. There is a notable increase in customers enrolling in affordability programs and payment plans. He attributed the increase to heightened communication regarding accounts in arrears and potential for service disconnections. Mr. Hill commended the entire Distribution personnel responding to challenging recent main breaks and repairs and restoration of water service. He also commended the crews working to repair the Colonel Ward Washwater Line for their dedication and efforts to restore that line.

Motion by Ms. Lombardo, seconded by Mr. Hanley to adjourn at 9:51 A.M. Approved.

The Buffalo Water Board members and staff will be present in person at the next meeting, which is scheduled for Wednesday, April 8, 2026, 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.