

BUFFALO WATER BOARD MINUTES
February 11, 2026

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Brian Gould
Debbie Lombardo
Tim Donovan
Bill Hanley

OTHERS PRESENT:

Peter J. Merlo
John D. McMahon
David Hill
Fouad Arab
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
Rosa Pizzi
Diane Makey
Maki Becker

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 Ms. Lombardo, to approve the agenda. Approved.
2. Motion by Ms. Lombardo, seconded by Mr. Donovan, to approve the minutes of the January 14, 2026, meeting. Approved.
3. Public Comment: Ms. Diane Makey, a resident of the City of Buffalo, presented some comments concerning the new Infrastructure Fee on Buffalo Water bills and how it relates to lead pipe replacements. Mr. Waldvogel, GHD Consulting Engineers, reported that the Infrastructure Fee's purpose was to help fund upcoming capital investments that the Buffalo Water Board has planned for the Buffalo Water System and was unrelated to lead service line replacements. Mr. Waldvogel offered to contact the resident privately to address her additional questions in more detail after the meeting.
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. Donovan, to authorize an increase in funding in an amount not-to-exceed \$345,000.00, for the contract with GHD Consulting Services, Inc. for additional engineering services (contract # 93003554) for the Buffalo Water Board Engineering Retainer Fiscal Year 2025/2026 project. The project and contract will continue to be administered by the City of Buffalo, Division of Water. Approved.
6. 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. Donovan, seconded by Ms. Lombardo to authorize a no cost change order contract time extension with

Frey Electric Construction Co., Inc. for the Colonel Ward Pumping Station Electrical Improvements Project (contract #93002903). The revised project completion date will be July 31, 2026. The project and contract will continue to be administered by the City of Buffalo, Division of Water. Approved.

7. 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 presented a preliminary report outlining debt service coverage ratios and the structure of upcoming bond issuance as well as the timeline for finalizing documents; (c) GHD is preparing to advertise the chlorine improvement project with a target release date of February 18, 2026; (d) GHD is working with Stohl Environmental who completed a survey of asbestos conditions at the Colonel Ward Water Treatment Facility as part of planning for future capital improvements; (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 survey of the spoils storage area. GHD continues to participate in weekly contractor meetings for development of Ralph C. Wilson Centennial Park.
8. Mr. Hill of Veolia Water presented Veolia Water's monthly Management Report. Mr. Hill reported that at the end of January 2026, 2,180 customers received reduced bills through the Residential Affordable Water Programs (RAWP), and 4,378 senior citizens received assistance from the Senior Discount Program. Mr. Hill reported that 123 customers are enrolled in a payment plan originated by Promise Pay and 581 customers are enrolled in a payment plan originated by Buffalo Water. Mr. Hill reported that \$4.94 million in revenue was received in January 2026 as compared to budgeted estimates of \$4.56 million for January 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. Discussion centered on the repair process, restoration of a 36-inch water main and site challenges posed by winter weather and site conditions. He also noted that recent water line breaks involved both old and more recently installed infrastructure.

Motion by Mr. Donovan, seconded by Mr. Gould adjourn at 9:59 A.M. Approved.

The Buffalo Water Board members and staff will be present in person at the next meeting, which is scheduled for Wednesday, March 11, 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.