

DRAFT

BUFFALO WATER BOARD MINUTES April 15, 2026

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Brian Gould
William Sunderlin
Debbie Lombardo
Tim Donovan
Bill Hanley

OTHERS PRESENT:

Peter J. Merlo
John D. McMahon
Fouad Arab
David Hill
Charles C. Martorana
Damon Sykes
Damond Rand
Kelly Leeb
Dustin Steiner
Connor Bannochie
Matthew Adam
Mike Wolasz
Jeff Mays
Eric Machin
Zac Cox
Pat Thorton
Sean McLoughlin
Jeff Pozzuto (Metalico Bflo)
Jeff Fader (Metalico Bflo)

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. Donovan, to approve the agenda. Approved.
2. Motion by Mr. Hanley, seconded by Ms. Lombardo, to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2026, meeting. Approved.
3. Public Comment: After the Vice Chair offered an opportunity for public comments, Mr. Pozzuto and Mr. Fader from Metalico Buffalo requested that the Buffalo Water Board extend water service to a new fire hydrant located closer to their commercial facility to meet current City of Buffalo fire protection compliance codes. This will then allow Metalico Buffalo to connect to the water service and provide fire protection at their facility. The City of Buffalo, Division of Water will initiate the design and approval process of a water service extension as part of a current capital improvement project approved by the Buffalo Water Board.
4. Staff Update: Mr. Mays, with Veolia Water, provided a staffing update to the Buffalo Water Board.
5. After a review of competitive bids, and upon the recommendation of the Principal Engineer of the Division of Water, and Wendel, motion made by Mr. Hanley, seconded by Mr. Donovan, to approve a contract in an amount not-to-exceed \$1,698,695.00 with Nova Site Company, LLC for the 2025/2026 Citywide Water Cut Restoration Program. The project and contract will be administered by the City of Buffalo, Division of Water. Approved.
6. 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 \$298,980.00 with Wendel, for the 2025/2026 Citywide Water Cut Restoration Program

(contract #93003155). 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, motion made by Mr. Donovan, seconded by Ms. Lombardo to authorize a contract in an amount not to exceed \$413,800.00 with GHD Consulting Services, Inc., for Professional Engineering Services for Miscellaneous Water Treatment Plant Improvement Projects at the Colonel Ward Water Treatment Plant. The project and contract will be administered by the City of Buffalo, Division of Water. Approved.
8. After a review of competitive bids, and upon the recommendation of the Principal Engineer of the Division of Water, and GHD Consulting Services, Inc., motion made by Mr. Hanley, seconded by Ms. Lombardo, to approve a contract in an amount not-to-exceed \$4,973,000.00 with STC Construction, Inc. for the Colonel Ward Water Treatment Plant Disinfection Conversion – Contract No. 1 – General. The project and contract will be administered by the City of Buffalo, Division of Water. Approved.
9. After a review of competitive bids, and upon the recommendation of the Principal Engineer of the Division of Water, and GHD Consulting Services, Inc., motion made by Mr. Gould, seconded by Mr. Hanley, to approve a contract in an amount not-to-exceed \$397,000.00 with Quackenbush Co., Inc. for the Colonel Ward Water Treatment Plant Disinfection Conversion – Contract No. 3– Plumbing. The project and contract will be administered by the City of Buffalo, Division of Water. Approved.
10. After a review of competitive bids, and upon the recommendation of the Principal Engineer of the Division of Water, and GHD Consulting Services, Inc., motion made by Mr. Donovan, seconded by Ms. Lombardo, to approve a contract in an amount not-to-exceed \$1,495,250.00 with CIR Electrical Construction Corporation for the Colonel Ward Water Treatment Plant Disinfection Conversion – Contract No. 2 – Electrical. The project and contract will 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. Gould, seconded by Mr. Donovan to authorize a Budget Transfer of \$650,000.00 from the Buffalo Water Board Reserves Account into the Structural Improvements Account Number 53023517 473020. Approved.
12. Motion made by Mr. Hanley, seconded by Mr. Gould, to authorize and fund an increase for services as part of the Management Agreement dated as of July 1, 2020, with Veolia Water, specifically the a) High Priority Repairs & Lead Services CY16 in an amount not-to-exceed \$700,000.00 to extend through June 30, 2026; b) Specialty Preventative Maintenance Limit Account in an amount not-to-exceed \$475,000.00 to extend through June 30, 2026; and c) Spoils Limit Account CY16 in an amount not-to-exceed \$50,000.00 to extend through June 30, 2026 These projects and services will continue to be administered by the City of Buffalo, Division of Water, as part of the Management Agreement with Veolia Water. Approved.
13. 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 continuing to assist the Buffalo Water Board and is working with the City of Buffalo, and Veolia Water to prepare and finalize a new Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI) Compliance Draft Policy; (b) GHD has reviewed and made recommendations related to competitive bids received for the Colonel Ward Water Treatment Plant Disinfection Conversion Project's three contracts - General, Plumbing and Electrical; (d) GHD is continuing to provide engineering and oversight services at Colonel Ward Treatment Facility, for among other matters, the electrical

upgrades at the Colonel Ward Water Treatment Facility, and survey of the spoils storage area. GHD continues to participate in weekly contractor meetings for development of Ralph C. Wilson Centennial Park.

14. Mr. Hill and Mr. Sykes of Veolia Water presented Veolia Water’s monthly Management Report. Mr. Hill reported that as of the end of March 2026, 2,243 customers received reduced bills through the Residential Affordable Water Programs (RAWP), and 4,361 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 813 customers are enrolled in a payment plan originated by Buffalo Water. Mr. Sykes reported that \$4.96 million in revenue was received in March 2026 as compared to budgeted estimates of \$4.56 million for March 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 discussed ongoing projects including the Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition (SCADA) replacement project that is nearing completion. This will update the current SCADA system including provisions for better cyber security. City employees are preparing to clean out one solids waste basin. The basin will be out of service to facilitate the cleaning process. A Neptune 360 Meter Reading Platform installation is nearly completely installed, with just punch list items remaining to be completed. Veolia Water is attempting to schedule several important meetings with CIS, HomeServe and members of the Buffalo Water Board to discuss Staffing and Work Force Development ideas.

Motion by Ms. Lombardo, seconded by Mr. Hanley to adjourn at 10:23 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 13, 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.