

BUFFALO WATER BOARD MINUTES
May 13, 2026

MEMBERS PRESENT:

William Sunderlin
Bill Hanley
Debbie Lombardo
Tim Donovan

OTHERS PRESENT:

Peter J. Merlo
John D. McMahon
Fouad Arab
David Hill
Doug Fultz
Bill Ferguson
Stephen Waldvogel
Damon Sykes
Damond Rand
Dustin Steiner
Connor Bannochie
Mike Wolasz
Jeff Mays
Eric Machin
Zac Cox
Pat Thorton
Sean McLoughlin
Nolan Skipper
Luis Hernandez

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

1. Motion by Mr. Donovan, seconded by Mr. Hanley, to approve the agenda. Approved.
2. Motion by Ms. Lombardo, seconded by Mr. Donovan, to approve the minutes of the April 15, 2026, meeting. Approved.
3. Public Comment: After the Vice Chair offered an opportunity for public comments, no comments were received.
4. Staff Update: Mr. Fultz, and Mr. Mays, with Veolia Water, as well as Mr. Hernandez, City of Buffalo Public Works and Streets Administrator, 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. Donovan, seconded by Ms. Lombardo to authorize and fund a contract in an amount not to exceed \$605,023.00 with the University of Buffalo Research Foundation. This contract will begin July 1, 2026, and continue through June 30, 2029, at the Colonel Ward Water Treatment Plant. The project and contract will be administered by the City of Buffalo, Division of Water. The contract shall be funded in 3 yearly increments totaling \$605,023.00. Approved.
6. Motion made by Mr. Hanley, seconded by Ms. Lombardo, to approve the proposed amendment to the Policies and Practices: Discontinuance of Water Service for Non-Payment Policy granting Veolia Water discretion to accept down payments of less than 10% for water service restoration in hardship cases, with oversight and reporting to the Buffalo Water Board. Approved.

7. Upon the recommendation of the Principal Engineer of the Division of Water and the project engineering consultant Arcadis of New York, Inc., motion made by Mr. Donovan, seconded by Mr. Hanley to authorize a no cost change order contract time extension with State Group for the Colonel Ward Pumping Station Residuals Systems Improvements Project (contract #93002898). The revised project completion date will be September 30, 2026. The project and contract will continue to 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 Nussbaumer & Clarke, Inc., motion made by Mr. Hanley, seconded by Mr. Donovan, to approve a contract in an amount not-to-exceed \$10,943,000.00 with American Contracting and Environmental Services, Inc. (ACE) for the Massachusetts Avenue Pump Station Electrical Upgrades Project PH II – General Contract. 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 Nussbaumer & Clarke, Inc., motion made by Mr. Hanley, seconded by Ms. Lombardo, to approve a contract in an amount not-to-exceed \$2,197,000.00 with Quackenbush Co., Inc. for the Massachusetts Avenue Pump Station Electrical Upgrades Project PH II – HVAC Contract. 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 Nussbaumer & Clarke, Inc., motion made by Mr. Hanley, seconded by Mr. Donovan, to approve a contract in an amount not-to-exceed \$14,819,797.00 with O’Connell Electric Co. for the Massachusetts Avenue Pump Station Electrical Upgrades Project PH II – Electrical Contract. 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. Hanley, seconded by Ms. Lombardo to authorize a contract increase in an amount not to exceed \$4,516,000.00 with Nussbaumer & Clarke, Inc., for the Massachusetts Avenue Pump Station Electrical Upgrades Project (contract #93002522). This will be for additional work items such as design, bidding, Construction Administration (CA), Construction Inspection (CI) and Records phase services for both Phase 1 and Phase 2 over a 36-month construction period. The project and contract will continue to be administered by the City of Buffalo, Division of Water. Approved.
12. Motion made by Mr. Hanley, seconded by Ms. Lombardo, to approve the Resolution of the Buffalo Water Board Regarding Adoption of Replacement of Old Lead Lines Capital Improvement Plan and State Environmental Quality Review Act (see attached). Approved.
13. Mr. Fultz and Mr. Sykes of Veolia Water presented Veolia Water’s monthly Management Report. Mr. Fultz reported that the new pump station built to aid Basin Cleaning operations is performing well. The North Basin has had more solids material removed in a shorter time, reducing personnel overtime costs. The 16-inch backwash water supply leak has been located and repaired. As a result, power costs for pump operations due to the leak are anticipated to be significantly reduced or eliminated. Mr. Sykes reported that as of the end of April 2026, 2,285 customers received reduced bills through the Residential Affordable Water Programs (RAWP), and 4,354 senior citizens received assistance from the Senior Discount Program. Mr. Sykes reported that 171 customers are enrolled in a payment plan originated by Promise Pay and 975 customers are enrolled in a payment plan originated by Buffalo Water. Mr. Sykes reported that \$5.66 million in revenue was received in April 2026 as compared to budgeted

estimates of \$4.99 million for April 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.

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 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 will be meeting with the Rate Consultant and will collaborate to monitor collections, in an effort to avoid a rate adjustment in 2026; (c) Mr. Damond Rand was introduced as a new GHD employee with a portion of his new job to engage the community and do public outreach (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.

Motion by Mr. Hanley, seconded by Ms. Lombardo to adjourn at 10:03 A.M. Approved.

The Buffalo Water Board members and staff will be present in person at the next meeting, which is scheduled for Wednesday, June 10, 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.