

DRAFT

BUFFALO WATER BOARD MINUTES AUGUST 12, 2026

MEMBERS PRESENT:

**William Sunderlin
Bill Hanley
Debbie Lombardo
Brian Gould
Tim Donovan**

OTHERS PRESENT:

**Peter J. Merlo
John D. McMahon
Fouad Arab
David Hill
Doug Fultz
Charlie Martorana
Bill Ferguson
Stephen Waldvogel
Damon Sykes
Ahmed Giwa
Dustin Steiner
Connor Bannochie
Zac Cox
Mike Wolasz
Jeff Mays
Erin Haines
Damond Rand**

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. Hanley, to approve the agenda. Approved.
2. Motion by Mr. Hanley, seconded by Ms. Lombardo, to approve the minutes of the July 8, 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, 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. Gould, seconded by Mr. Donovan, to authorize and fund an increase and extension to an existing contract (contract # 93003208) in an amount not to exceed \$65,475.04 with Erdman Anthony for engineering services for the Wright Alley Waterline Replacement Project. The project and contract will be administered by the City of Buffalo, Division of Water. Approved.
6. Motion made by Mr. Gould, seconded by Mr. Sunderlin, to table consideration of the Buffalo Water Board Mission Statement and Performance Measurements until the September 2026 Buffalo Water Board meeting. Approved.
7. Mr. Hill and Mr. Sykes of Veolia Water presented Veolia Water's monthly Management Report. Mr. Hill reported that as of the end of July 2026, 2,390 customers were enrolled in the Residential Affordable Water Programs (RAWP), and 3,850 customers were enrolled in the Senior Discount Program, and received the benefits allowed by each Buffalo Water Board program. Mr. Hill reported that 411 customers are currently enrolled in a payment plan originated by Promise Pay and 2,102 customers are currently enrolled in a payment plan

originated by Buffalo Water. Mr. Sykes reported that \$5.51 million in revenue was received in June 2026 as compared to budgeted estimates of \$5.94 million for the same period. He reported a \$9 million reduction in accounts receivable from February 2026 through July 2026, with collections improving from \$3.9 million to \$5.5 million for July and a current monthly revenue budget of \$5.9 million. He attributed the improvement in collections to heightened communication with customers regarding accounts in arrears and potential for enforcement measures, including service disconnections. He also reported a notable increase in customers enrolling in affordability programs and payment plans.

8. 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 is working closely with the Rate Consultant preparing a report to be presented to the Buffalo Water Board regarding the current and projected financial condition; (b) GHD is continuing to assist the Buffalo Water Board, in coordination with the City of Buffalo and Veolia Water to develop a Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI) Compliance Draft Policy; (c) GHD has prepared the application to submit to NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation for a LCRI grant and will assist with submitting the documents soon; (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. GHD continues to participate in weekly contractor meetings for development of Ralph C. Wilson Centennial Park.
9. Motion made by Mr. Hanley, seconded by Mr. Sunderlin, to appoint and designate the City of Buffalo Commissioner of Public Works, Parks and Streets, as the Buffalo Water Board's representative and agent, and grant the Commissioner or his designate a Power of Attorney, in compliance with the requirements and documents prescribed by the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance for such designations. Barclay Damon, LLP, the Buffalo Water Board's counsel, will assist the Commissioner to address claims by the State for tax liability imposed on the Buffalo Water Board in connection with its disposal of hazardous waste. Approved.

Motion by Ms. Lombardo to enter Executive Session to discuss litigation matters. Seconded, by Mr. Donovan. Approved.

Motion by Ms. Lombardo to exit Executive Session. Seconded, by Mr. Hanley. Approved.

Motion by Mr. Hanley, seconded by Ms. Lombardo to adjourn at 10:43 A.M. Approved.

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