

## **REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

### **May 12, 2025**

The Regular Meeting of the Lehigh County Authority Board of Directors was called to order at 12:01 p.m. on Monday, May 12, 2025, Chairman Amir Famili presiding. The meeting was hybrid via in-person and video and audio advanced communication technology ("ACT"), using the Zoom internet application, including telephone option. Each Board member and other attendees of the meeting were able to hear each other attendee and be heard by each other attendee. The public could also participate in the meeting in-person or via ACT, using the Zoom internet application, including telephone option. A Roll Call of Board members present was taken. Amir Famili, Jeff Morgan, Ted Lyons, Linda Rosenfeld, Norma Cusick, Sean Ziller, Marc Grammes and Peter Dent were present for Roll Call and remained for the duration of the meeting. Kevin Baker entered the meeting at 12:07 p.m. and remained for the duration of the meeting.

Attorney Kevin Reid, the Authority's Solicitor, was present along with Authority Staff, Liesel Gross, Ed Klein, Chris Moughan, Andrew Moore, AJ Capuzzi, Charles Volk, Phil DePoe, Susan Sampson and Lisa Miller.

Chairman Famili announced that the Board received their electronic and hard copies of the Board packet in advance. A copy of the packet is also available online.

#### **REVIEW OF AGENDA**

Liesel Gross stated there are no changes or additions to the agenda and no executive session is planned.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

##### **April 28, 2025 Meeting Minutes**

On a motion by Linda Rosenfeld, seconded by Jeff Morgan, the Board approved the minutes from the April 28, 2025 meeting as presented (6-0). Amir Famili and Sean Ziller abstained.

##### **Regional Sewer Capacity & Wet-Weather Planning – Regional Act 537 Plan Preparation**

Phil DePoe and Liesel Gross provided background of the project and reviewed a presentation showing updates on the consultant authorizations and next steps. The Kline's Island Sewer System (KISS) faces significant challenges related to aging infrastructure, leaking pipes and manholes, undersized interceptors, and regulatory oversight. These problems result in sanitary sewer overflows during peak wet-weather events and reduced capacity for future growth in the system.

There was some discussion on the relationship between DEP and EPA regulations.

Phil DePoe reviewed the engineering work that has been completed since 2021. He stated that the ongoing challenge is to find the sources of the inflow and infiltration (I&I) into the sewer system. After reviewing the options, the KISS municipalities have agreed on an approach to expand the existing infrastructure at the Kline's Island Wastewater Treatment Plant to handle the wet-weather flows, expand the interceptors to remove bottlenecks, address pretreatment needs with industries directly, and reduce the I&I. DEP has provided guidance that they prefer to see a plan that is focused on I&I removal within a five-year period.

There was some discussion about the feedback provided by DEP and how it has been incorporated into the KISS plan. Liesel Gross discussed the advantages of focusing on the I&I removal first, and the risks associated with how new connections to the system will be addressed. These are topics for further discussion with DEP.

There was additional discussion about how the I&I work will be handled and how municipalities will be held accountable for completing the work on the municipal sewer collection systems. Liesel Gross explained that a new Intermunicipal Agreement will be negotiated to address this issue. Specifically, the KISS municipalities have tentatively agreed to changing the cost-sharing approach for the KISS system to a flow-based billing method, which will help to capture the positive impacts of I&I removal. She also noted that ongoing reporting to DEP is likely to be required, and DEP will be monitoring the success of the program.

Phil DePoe provided a timeline of the KISS plan review and approval process, which should result in submitting the final plan to DEP in October 2025. Liesel Gross added that there is a website, [lehighcountysewer.org](http://lehighcountysewer.org), dedicated to the project for people to view and comment.

### **Arcadia WWTP Screening System Project**

Chuck Volk provided an overview of the project at the Wastewater Treatment Plant located in Weisenberg Township that serves the Arcadia West Industrial Park, nearby businesses, and a school. The project consists of the installation of two automatic mechanical screening units, one per Sequencing Batch Reactor (SBR), and installed at the head of each SBR tank to remove rags and other bulky debris. The plant currently has no screening system for the raw wastewater.

Marc Grammes asked for details on how the screens will operate. Mr. Volk explained that the screens will be programmed to operate each time there is flow in the force main and will be controlled by the SCADA system.

Jeff Morgan asked what the engineer's estimate was for this project. Mr. Volk stated it was estimated at \$500,000.00.

On a motion by Jeff Morgan, seconded by Sean Ziller, the Board approved the Capital Project Authorization for the Construction Phase in the amount of \$578,787.00 which includes the Construction Contract to Blooming Glen Contractors, Inc. in the amount of \$478,187.00 and the Professional Services Authorization for Construction Phase Services to CHA Engineering in the amount of \$58,100.00 (9-0).

### **MONTHLY PROJECT UPDATES / INFORMATION ITEMS**

Liesel Gross noted that the monthly reports are the only items currently listed for the May 19 agenda, and the meeting may be canceled. The monthly reports will be mailed to the Board. She reviewed projects that will be presented to the Board in June, and noted several project updates provided in the report related to the KISS Act 537 Plan, which are supplemental to the presentation provided on that topic earlier in the meeting.

### **STAFF COMMENTS**

Liesel Gross noted that new authorization forms have been drafted in accordance with the Omnibus Resolution adopted earlier this year. The new forms will begin to be used next month, and the Board is welcome to provide feedback on the forms when they begin to appear in the Board agenda materials. She also noted that last week was National Drinking Water Week and the Lehigh Valley Water Suppliers (LVWS) awarded \$5,000 in scholarships to graduating students who are continuing

their education in a water-related field. LVWS held their signature event, HydroMania, to educate students about water conservation and watershed protection, and she recognized Susan Sampson and the Authority staff for their efforts to coordinate this event. Ms. Gross also noted that Chris Moughan and Susan Sampson will be speaking at the Pa. Section of the American Water Works Association conference next week on the lead service line replacement program and crisis communication.

Chuck Volk introduced Anton Siekmann, the new project manager in the Capital Works department.

#### **SOLICITOR'S COMMENTS**

None.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS / OTHER COMMENTS**

None.

#### **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Linda Rosenfeld asked for an update on the status of the bond consent for funding of Allentown projects. Ed Klein reported that the Authority is still finalizing a solicitation agreement with Goldman Sachs and the language is being finalized. There was further discussion regarding the source of funding for the state revolving fund program.

Amir Famili thanked the Board for providing feedback to him and Jeff Morgan during their outreach efforts to assess the Board's performance and goals.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the Vice Chairman adjourned the meeting at 1:14 p.m.

---

Linda A. Rosenfeld  
Secretary