

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

June 9, 2025

The Regular Meeting of the Lehigh County Authority Board of Directors was called to order at 12:00 p.m. on Monday, June 9, 2025, Vice Chairman Jeff Morgan 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, Kevin Baker, Sean Ziller, Marc Grammes and Peter Dent were present for Roll Call 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 and Lisa Miller.

Vice Chairman Morgan 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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

May 12, 2025 Meeting Minutes

On a motion by Linda Rosenfeld, seconded by Peter Dent, the Board approved the minutes from the May 12, 2025 meeting as presented (9-0).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

Suburban Water & Wastewater Facilities – SCADA System Upgrade

Chris Moughan provided an overview of the ongoing SCADA project that will incorporate several smaller well sites and align them with the remaining SCADA installations in the Suburban Division, enhancing remote monitoring capabilities for these small well sites. This is the final phase of the project and will focus solely on programming. Overall, the project has increased operational efficiencies and decreased response times.

Liesel Gross noted that this project marked the first use of a new authorization request form following recent policy changes. If any Board members have comments on the new form, they should be directed to Ms. Gross.

On a motion by Marc Grammes, seconded by Norma Cusick, the Board approved the Capital Project Authorization Amendment for the Suburban Water/Wastewater SCADA Upgrade in the amount of \$264,500.00, which includes the Professional Services Authorization to Keystone Engineering in the amount of \$239,500.00 (9-0).

Water Filtration Plant – Redundant Raw Water Line

Chuck Volk and Amy Rohrbach provided an overview of the design phase for the redundant raw water line project and explained that the current raw water line suffers from poor performance due to blockages caused by bends in the line. The existing raw water line cannot be taken offline due to its continuous use. Therefore, this project will improve resilience and capacity by adding a redundant pipeline that will allow for maintenance to occur as needed. The proposal also includes a new intake from the Little Lehigh Creek to the raw water pumps.

Ted Lyons asked what the total budget is for this project. Ms. Rohrbach said around \$3,000,000. There was additional Board discussion about the technical details of the project, which Ms. Rohrbach provided.

On a motion by Norma Cusick, seconded by Peter Dent, the Board approved the Capital Project Authorization for Design and Bidding Phase in the amount of \$358,894.00 which includes a Professional Services Authorization to Verdantas in the amount of \$323,894.00 (9-0).

Allentown Division – 30” & 36” East Side Transmission Main Repair Project

Jason Peters provided an overview of the project that was part of the Authority's asset management program that is designed to reduce the risk of catastrophic main breaks, service disruptions, and regulatory issues by addressing known vulnerabilities before failure occurs. In 2022, a pipeline assessment was conducted to identify weaknesses and active leaks within the East Side 30-inch and 36-inch water transmission mains. The assessment identified six distinct locations where repairs or pipe section replacements were deemed necessary. Following design phase of the project, the bidding phase resulted in six competitive bids being received. Mr. Peters recommended approval of the contract to Wexcon, Inc.

There was some Board discussion about the types of leaks that exist in the transmission line and the repair techniques and materials to be used. Mr. Peters provided additional detail, noting that the leaks are not currently suspected to be large, but repairing them will address the loss of water as well as improve the integrity of the pipeline. Amir Famili inquired about the method used to evaluate the effectiveness of the repairs, and Mr. Peters explained a full inspection will be conducted while each section of the pipeline is exposed during construction.

On a motion by Norma Cusick, seconded by Linda Rosenfeld, the Board approved the Capital Project Authorization for the Construction Phase in the amount of \$832,320.00 which includes the Professional Services Authorization to Gannett Fleming in the amount of \$120,020.00 and the General Construction Contract to Wexcon, Inc. in the amount of \$592,300.00 (9-0).

Kline's Island WWTP – Plastic Media Trickling Filter Rehabilitation

Amy Rohrbach provided an overview of the project that has been identified as a near term project in the recently completed Kline's Island Wastewater Treatment Plant (KIWWTP) Master Plan. There are four 100-foot diameter, 32-foot tall, plastic media trickling filters (PMTFs) at the plant. The plastic media located inside the filters has exceeded the end of its useful life and needs to be replaced. The project will start with PMTF #4 and will entail having all the existing plastic media removed and replaced with new media. Because of seasonal effluent permit limits, the PMTF cannot be taken offline during the spring and summer months. To maintain the schedule, it is recommended that the Authority procure the replacement media ahead of construction to allow for its manufacture and delivery in line with the planned construction schedule this winter. The construction contract will be brought to the Board for review and approval at a later date.

Ms. Rohrbach noted the recommended supplier for the plastic media is located in Reading, Pa., so there will be some savings due to lower shipping costs. The plastic media will be replaced in kind

and there are a limited number of suppliers who can provide the material. The purchase was competitively bid through the Costars cooperative purchasing program.

There was some discussion regarding the disposal of the existing media and liability for any environmental concerns. Ms. Rohrbach explained that the contractor will be responsible for disposing of the used media. She also noted that there will be some odor management necessary during this project, and a public notification will be issued to inform the neighboring communities of the potential impact.

On a motion by Norma Cusick, seconded by Peter Dent, the Board approved the Capital Project Authorization for the KIWWTP Plastic Media Trickling Filter Rehabilitation for the Equipment Purchase Phase in the amount of \$2,251,000.00 which includes the award of the purchase contract to Brentwood Industries, Inc. c/o Geiger Pump and Equipment Co. in the amount of \$2,251,000.00 (9-0).

MONTHLY PROJECT UPDATES / INFORMATION ITEMS

Liesel Gross reviewed items that will be on the agenda for the next meeting, highlighting that the auditors will be present at the next meeting to present the 2024 Audit and Financial Statements. She also reported that the Munis ERP system re-implementation project is nearing completion and the "go live" date has been scheduled for July 1st.

STAFF COMMENTS

Liesel Gross commented that she will be working with Amir Famili to schedule an Executive Committee meeting immediately following the June 23rd meeting.

SOLICITOR'S COMMENTS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS / OTHER COMMENTS

None.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Sean Ziller thanked Phil DePoe for doing a great job presenting the Kline's Island Sewer System Act 537 Plan at the North Whitehall Township planning commission meeting.

Peter Dent reported on the PMAA workshop he attended where they discussed various PFAS issues.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Vice Chairman adjourned the meeting at 12:55 p.m.

Linda A. Rosenfeld
Secretary