

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

July 14, 2025

The Regular Meeting of the Lehigh County Authority Board of Directors was called to order at 12:00 p.m. on Monday, July 14, 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, Sean Ziller, 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, 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; however, there will be an Executive Session following the close of the regular meeting to discuss potential litigation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

June 23, 2025 Meeting Minutes

On a motion by Linda Rosenfeld, seconded by Sean Ziller, the Board approved the minutes from the June 23, 2025 meeting as presented (6-0).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Roger Lehmann from All County and Associates was present on behalf of his client on Hillsdale Road in Heidelberg Township to discuss a proposed connection to public sewer. He presented the details of the situation where the onsite septic system is failing. DEP informed him that the property must connect to the public sewer system due to the designated public sewer service area designated in the Township's Act 537 Plan. Authority staff have asserted that the property owner must extend the public sewer main in accordance with the Main Extension Policy. Mr. Lehmann said the property owner would like to connect to the sewer system by installing a low-pressure service lateral in the right-of-way to connect to the public system at the closest existing manhole instead of extending the public sewer main. Chuck Volk provided details of the Authority's policy, which requires property owners wishing to connect to the public system to extend the public system to the property being served. Mr. Lehmann said a sewer main extension in this situation is too costly.

There was discussion regarding the Act 537 plan in Heidelberg Township. Mr. Volk explained that DEP would allow a connection to the public sewer system in this case, even though the Authority has insufficient treatment allocation for new connections at the treatment plant. DEP has not conveyed to the Authority that the connection is required, or if an upgrade to the on-lot system would be acceptable. He also noted that the Authority has no plans to extend sewer service in other areas near this property.

Liesel Gross explained that the Authority's Main Extension Policy provides clear guidance on how a situation like this should be handled. If the Authority is agreeable to Mr. Lehmann's request, it would

require Board approval of a waiver of the policy. Solicitor Kevin Reid described the waiver approval process to the Board.

Jeff Morgan asked for a cost comparison of the connection options. Chuck Volk said it is very costly for a main extension, with construction costs in the range of \$20,000 to \$25,000. Mr. Lehmann stated that the total cost for the project may be double that, if a sewer main extension is required. The proposed low-pressure service lateral would be far less expensive, and a new on-lot septic system would also be less expensive.

AJ Capuzzi commented on the force main and the homeowner's responsibility. He noted the staff would be concerned with a private sewer line that is much longer than normal and in the public right-of-way. He said the Authority would have to be assured that it would be repaired by any current or future homeowner and not become the responsibility of the Authority in the case of failure of the sewer line or grinder pump.

Chairman Famili asked that the Board be provided with the documentation from DEP regarding what is actually required in this situation. He also requested a cost breakdown of the different options prior to making a decision regarding a waiver. Liesel Gross added that the Authority is dealing with these types of connections all the time and it is important to remain consistent with our decisions.

LCA Strategic Plan – Progress Reporting

Liesel Gross provided a presentation and update of the Strategic Plan, adopted in December 2021. The plan outlines the Authority's Mission, Vision, Values, and Priorities. Every year the priorities and strategies are reviewed by staff, and a list of annual goals is established.

Ms. Gross provided a brief description and update of each initiative and the strategic plan priority area it addresses. There was some discussion regarding adding targeted completion dates to the report where applicable. The Board also requested a brief presentation at a future meeting on the Tyler EERP program and benefits expected as a result of this project. The Board also requested a modification to the key performance indicators dashboard to show all historical data points in the Environmental Compliance section of the report.

Buss Acres Water System Interconnection & PFAS Remediation

Chuck Volk provided an overview of the project to address PFAS levels in the Buss Acres Water System wells. The preferred remedy is an interconnection with the Authority's Central Lehigh Division (CLD). Mr. Volk noted that it is very costly to treat the wells onsite. Amy Kunkel reviewed the different PFAS removal treatment options from the study that was completed in 2024 by Bucharthorn. She also reviewed the different factors that were considered in the decision to connect to the CLD system. The project design would consist of an approximate 1.6-mile, 8-inch water main extension with connection to the Kohler Pump Station system to the Buss Acres storage tank. Modifications to the pumping system at the Kohler Pump Station would be required to convey water to Buss Acres. The PFAS levels are lower than the current Pennsylvania DEP limits but above the future limits established by the U.S. EPA.

There was some discussion regarding drilling new wells. Mr. Volk noted the challenges and costs associated with developing new wells. He also noted there is no public sewer in this area which complicates options because the wastewater generated from the PFAS treatment system would need to be disposed of in a safe manner. Amir Famili asked if the Authority would be providing filter pitchers to the customers in this development while the project is being constructed. Andrew Moore said this hasn't been discussed because the current PFAS levels are below the state limits.

On a motion by Linda Rosenfeld, seconded by Jeff Morgan, the Board approved the Capital Project Authorization for the Design Phase of the Buss Acres/Central Lehigh Division Water System Interconnection in the amount of \$299,653.00 that includes the Professional Services Authorization for Design & Bid Phase Services to Bucharthorn in the amount of \$204,653.00 (5-0).

MONTHLY PROJECT UPDATES / INFORMATION ITEMS

Liesel Gross reviewed items that will be on the agenda for the next meeting. She also provided a preview of some items to be presented in August, noting that the Capital Plans will be presented in August as well. The Budget will follow in September.

STAFF COMMENTS

None.

SOLICITOR'S COMMENTS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS / OTHER COMMENTS

None.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Liesel Gross stated there will be an executive session following the close of the regular meeting to discuss a matter of potential litigation.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 1:15 p.m.

Linda A. Rosenfeld
Secretary