

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

February 23, 2026

The Regular Meeting of the Lehigh County Authority Board of Directors was called to order at 12:00 p.m. on Monday, February 23, 2026, Chairman Amir Famili presiding. The meeting was hybrid via in-person attendance 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, Linda Rosenfeld, Sean Ziller, Peter Dent, and Minal Amin were present for roll call and remained for the duration of the meeting. Ted Lyons was present for roll call but left the meeting at 12:52 p.m. Kevin Baker entered the meeting at 12:06 p.m. and was present for the duration of the meeting.

Attorney Kevin Reid of the KingSpry law firm, the Authority’s Solicitor, was present along with Authority Staff, Liesel Gross, Ed Klein, Andrew Moore, Chris Moughan, AJ Capuzzi, Chuck Volk, Phil DePoe, Taylor Stakes, 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.

Chairman Famili introduced a new member of the Board, Minal Amin, and invited her to provide a brief summary of her background and experience.

REVIEW OF AGENDA

Liesel Gross stated that there are no changes to the agenda; however, there will be an Executive Session at the conclusion of the regular meeting to discuss potential property acquisition.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

February 9, 2026 Meeting Minutes

On a motion by Linda Rosenfeld, seconded by Sean Ziller, the Board approved the minutes from the February 9, 2026 meeting as presented (7-0).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

Board of Directors – Election of Officers

Chairman Famili reported that Sean Ziller served as the Nominating Committee. Mr. Ziller provided a report detailing the following slate of nominations for 2026 officers:

Amir Famili, Chair	Ted Lyons, Treasurer
Jeff Morgan, Vice Chair	Kevin Baker, Assistant Treasurer
Linda Rosenfeld, Secretary	Sean Ziller, Assistant Secretary

Chairman Famili asked if there were any other nominations, which there were not. Chairman Famili then closed the nominations and asked for a vote from the Board to complete the election. The Board unanimously elected the officers for 2026 as nominated: Amir Famili as Chair, Jeff Morgan as Vice Chair, Ted Lyons as Treasurer, Kevin Baker as Assistant Treasurer, Linda Rosenfeld as Secretary, and Sean Ziller as Assistant Secretary (7-0).

Safety Process and Procedures

Ed Klein and Jeff Nelson presented the 2025 Safety & Risk Management review along with the Strategic Action Plan for 2026. They reviewed the 33 safety incidents that occurred in 2025 including 13 vehicle incidents, 9 incidents requiring first aid only, and 11 incidents classified as recordable due to medical attention required beyond first aid. Mr. Nelson reviewed certain safety initiatives completed in 2025, including equipment compliance efforts and standardization of fire resistant clothing for employees who complete electrical work. He also reported that the Authority has revamped its insurance model with a new insurance consultant and insurer for more effectiveness and lower costs. Also in 2025, the Authority implemented a new safety management database system called EHS Insight, and implemented a contractor qualifications program to better manage contractor compliance with safety and insurance requirements.

Mr. Nelson reviewed the root causes of the 2025 incidents and the corrective actions to address them. These corrective actions directly support the 2026 goals of moving from reactive reporting to proactive prevention, specifically targeting the high volume of incidents with a root cause related to situational awareness. Key gaps were identified as ergonomic strain, hidden secondary hazards, and visibility deficits. Strategic solutions to these gaps are pre-task safety assessment, formalized hazard identification, and establishing a baseline for visibility safety. In addition to addressing these items in 2026, additional focus will be placed on driver safety training, standardization of tools, and continued work on the protective personal equipment program.

There was discussion regarding the recording of the incidents and assigning corrective action and communicating it to all employees. There was also discussion regarding near misses. Reporting of near misses has increased, which helps to prevent other incidents from occurring. Peter Dent suggested working with the NFPA and IFC regarding hazardous materials. Chairman Famili stressed the importance of promoting a culture of safety in 2026. Mr. Nelson stated that he is developing a framework for Safe Work Practices and also a Point of Work Assessment tool which would be a complacency checklist for employees to review safety functions related to that job. Chairman Famili reinforced that the Authority's safety goal should be zero incidents and that employee safety is the number one priority.

Suburban Division – Applewood Pump Station and CLD Well Station Upgrades

Amy Kunkel provided an overview of the project to meet existing and future water demand from the Applewood Pump Station. The station is currently equipped with three pumps – a jockey pump, a booster pump to supplement flow and pressure as needed, and a fire pump. This project will replace the jockey pump with two new jockey pumps and new variable frequency drives (VFDs). Additional upgrades to the station include piping modifications, valve and pipe replacement, cleaning and painting existing piping, HVAC and electrical upgrades, and repairs to cracked walls.

This project also includes upgrades to the chemical feed systems at Wells 5, 6, and 9 in the Central Lehigh Division (CLD). Improvements to the well sites include upsizing the disinfection systems and chemical feed storage capacities, and HVAC and electrical system upgrades.

Peter Dent asked if the tanks for hypochlorite are permanent. Ms. Kunkel confirmed the tanks are permanent, and the vendor fills the tanks.

On a motion by Sean Ziller, seconded by Peter Dent, the Board approved the Capital Project Authorization for the design phase – Applewood Pump Station and Wells 5, 6, and 9 in the amount of \$164,200.00 which includes the Professional Services Authorization to CHA for design and bid phase in the amount of \$139,200.00 (7-0)

Allentown Division – Large Diameter Valve Rehabilitation & Replacement Program

Chuck Volk provided an overview and background of the project to replace large diameter valves that are in poor condition or inoperable in the City of Allentown. Mr. Volk said the first cycle of the project is substantially complete but requires additional pavement restorations because of additional roadway openings that require a change order for the contract exceedances. The project required additional insertion valves, line stops, and related fittings to accommodate unforeseen subsurface conditions.

On a motion by Peter Dent, seconded by Linda Rosenfeld, the Board approved the Capital Project Authorization: Construction Phase Change Order to Joao Bradley Construction Co., Inc. in the amount of \$106,998.00 (7-0).

Allentown Division – WFP HVAC Upgrade Phase 2

Anton Siekmann explained the project noting that Phase 2 of the project consists of HVAC upgrades to the Laboratory, Operators control room, and the entire second floor at the Water Filtration Plant. The project has been approved by the City of Allentown as a Major Capital Improvement and is eligible for Capital Cost Recovery. The upgrade will improve the heating and cooling of these occupied spaces and improve temperature control for the staff that utilize these areas on a regular basis.

On a motion by Linda Rosenfeld, seconded by Sean Ziller, the Board approved the Capital Project Authorization – Construction Phase in the amount of \$1,533,822.90 which includes the Professional Services Authorization – Construction Administration – CHA Consulting in the amount of \$115,200.00, HVAC Contract Award to ASL Refrigeration, Inc. in the amount of \$1,206,370.00, the Electrical Construction Contract Award to Bilitier Electric in the amount of \$97,252.90 (7-0).

Suburban Division – KISS Act 537 – Upper Western Lehigh Pump Station & Force Main

Amy Kunkel gave an overview of the Upper Western Lehigh Interceptor Pump Station project. She explained that after a sinkhole was repaired in November 2025, a second sinkhole formed to the east of the original sinkhole and directly over the existing interceptor. Earth Engineering Inc. recommended that grouting be installed to minimize damage to the interceptor lines. This change order is a time and material-based estimate for the investigation, design, and repair of the sinkhole.

On a motion by Peter Dent, seconded by Jeff Morgan, the Board approved the Capital Project Authorization Amendment No. 2 Construction Change Order #3 to Contract 1 to Blooming Glen Contractors Inc. in the amount of \$152,875.83 (7-0).

Suburban Division – Industrial Pretreatment Plant Master Plan

Liesel Gross provided a presentation and update of the Pretreatment Plant (PTP) stating that this is an extremely important facility to the region because of the service it provides to the industries located in the service area. The PTP also provides benefits due to the high performance of the plant, which creates more organic capacity in the system that is available for other downstream users. Ms. Gross highlighted the engineering evaluations that have been completed to date.

The challenge of the project relates to determining an appropriate funding mechanism and long-term cost-sharing approach, which has been difficult due to the limited number of direct customers but recognition of broad regional benefit. She reviewed projected cash flows of the PTP for the next 10 years, noting a significant deficit occurring beginning in 2028 due to the loss of revenue from Boston Beer when they complete their on-site pretreatment facility. She explained that discussions are

ongoing with the County of Lehigh and Upper Macungie Township regarding upfront contributions to the capital project. However, capital contributions alone will not correct the financial structural challenge that generates the deficit in the years ahead. A more robust long-term cost-sharing agreement is required. If this is not achieved, Ms. Gross stated that the Authority may be required to consider shutting the PTP down. The result of a PTP shutdown would include new stringent requirements for all industrial users to develop their own pretreatment systems on-site, along with potential costly upgrades at the Kline's Island Wastewater Treatment Plant.

There was some discussion regarding the agreements with the municipalities and industrial users in the service area, as well as PTP capacity and the region's future growth potential. Ms. Gross explained that the current recommended approach to the PTP upgrade would include the potential for about 1 million gallons of additional capacity for future industrial growth. Peter Dent asked about impact of a proposed data center locating in Upper Macungie Township at the former Air Products site. Ms. Gross stated that no plans have been received for a data center, so it is too early to provide an opinion on the impact. However, she noted that the Air Products site is located downstream of the PTP.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REVIEW

Ed Klein provided a presentation of the December 2025 Financial statements noting variances from the Budget. Net income was favorable for the Suburban Water and Wastewater divisions, but down in the City Division due to the delayed closing on the grant funding for the lead service line replacement program. Performance on primary financial metrics was positive for 2025 with the exception of the Suburban Wastewater Division falling below 180 days cash on hand as a result of using reserves for some capital improvements in an effort to limit borrowing.

MONTHLY SYSTEM OPERATIONS OVERVIEW

Andrew Moore reviewed the January 2026 report noting that water production and water levels in Schantz and Crystal Springs, and the Lehigh River are lower than normal as a result of the drought conditions. He also noted that the flow at Kline's Island Wastewater Treatment Plant is lower in January which is also related to the drought. In February, DEP moved Lehigh County from a drought watch to a drought warning. The Authority is asking customers to reduce water consumption by 10 to 15%. Mr. Moore reported that in January, 13 main breaks occurred in the City of Allentown due to abnormally cold temperatures. There were also two permit exceedances at the Sand Spring Wastewater Treatment Plant related to ammonia. There was a line break that pumped an excessive amount of water to the Sand Spring plant in January, causing a loss of biomass which resulted in the permit exceedances.

Chairman Famili thanked the Authority employees for their work and repair efforts during this very cold weather.

STAFF COMMENTS

None.

SOLICITOR'S COMMENTS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS / OTHER COMMENTS

None.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

An Executive Session will be held following the close of the regular meeting to discuss potential property acquisition.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 2:01 p.m.

Linda A. Rosenfeld
Secretary