

**WESTERN BUTLER COUNTY AUTHORITY
607 MARKET STREET
ZELIENOPLE, PA 16063
PHONE: (724) 452-5501**

Regular Meeting Minutes – April 9, 2026

CALL TO ORDER:

A quorum was reached, and after reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, Chairman Thomas Tomayko called the April 9, 2026 meeting of the Western Butler County Authority Board of Directors to order at 5:00 p.m.

PRESENT ON ROLL CALL:

The following board members were in attendance:

Ed Eckenrode
Paul J. Kremer Jr.
Greg Such
Thomas Tomayko
Dave Weber
Marietta Reeb
Jeff Fyock
Dennis Blakley

OTHERS PRESENT:

Manager: Autumn Kobe
Solicitor: Matt Racunas
Consulting Engineer: Chad Hanley
Project and Construction Administrator: Jason Mack
Laboratory Supervisor: Jeremy Houk
Recording Secretary: Natalie Hacker (remotely)

MEMBERS ABSENT:

No members were absent.

VISITORS:

Representatives from McClure Company were in attendance.

MINUTES:

In a motion made by Greg Such and seconded by Jeff Fyock, the Board unanimously approved the March 12, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes, as amended.

BILLS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

A list of bills in the amount of \$124,790.95 (Operating) and \$629,807.47 (Capital) was presented to the Board in the form of Expense by Vendor summaries with checks dated April 9, 2026. Manager Autumn Kobe answered questions that board members had regarding the bills.

In a motion made by Greg Such and seconded by Jeff Fyock, the Board unanimously approved all of the bills for payment as presented by the Manager in Expense by Vendor summaries with checks dated April 9, 2026 in a roll call vote.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY:

The Secretary had nothing to report.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEES:

Personnel Committee

The Committee highlighted the following report items:

- WBCA has one open position.
- Two employees got their CDL licenses and will be receiving a raise of \$1/hour.

Finance Committee

The Committee highlighted the following report items:

- The Finance Committee is reviewing a 10-year capital improvement plan.
- The Authority is able to apply for the Beaver County interest rate for Pennvest funding, which is lower than Butler County's rate, due to servicing the Zelianople Airport.

Facilities Maintenance Committee

The Committee highlighted the following report items:

- **McClure Laboratory Proposal:** Representatives from McClure Company presented the McClure Laboratory Proposal to the Board. They gave an overview of RS Means, which is a construction cost database, and TIPS contracts, which are federal contracts similar to COSTARS. McClure also answered specific questions board members had regarding the proposal. They will start work in September.

In a motion made by Greg Such and seconded by Dennis Blakley, the Board unanimously agreed to move forward with the McClure Laboratory Proposal in the amount of \$1,729,800, with a 20% down payment, in a roll call vote.

Administrative Review Committee

The Committee had nothing to report.

REPORT OF THE SOLICITOR:

The Solicitor highlighted the following report items:

- The Solicitor worked with an individual who filed bankruptcy by adjusting the credits in the post bankruptcy debt versus the pre bankruptcy debt.
- The Solicitor dealt with an issue regarding a corporate user who is disputing charges. They originally did not allow WBCA to do an inspection, but after the Solicitor sent them a letter, they are allowing the inspection.
- The Solicitor has not heard back from the customer who had the water leak.

REPORT OF THE ENGINEER:

The Engineer highlighted the following report items:

- The Engineer submitted the Chapter 94 report.

- **Route 19 South Service Area Extension:** The Engineer is working to get the pump started after the pump skid was delayed.
- **Harmony Pump Station Upgrade (HPSIIP):** Construction continues and the Engineer is dealing with any issues as they arise.
- **Water Resource Recovery Facility (WRRF) Upgrade:** The Engineer held kick-off meetings with all the subcontractors, most notably Skanska who is doing a constructability review. The Engineer provided plans to Larson Design Group (LDG). The Engineer gave an update to the Board about the possibility of having an overflow to Glade Run and his conversations with DEP about the necessary permit for it. The Engineer will start getting permits in June and July.
- **Administration Building:** A final payment application for VendRick Construction is covered in the Manager's report. The Engineer is waiting on some maintenance and warranty information from three other contractors.
- **NPDES Permit Renewal:** The Engineer is still waiting to hear back from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).
- **Paige Place Development:** The development applied for a planning module exemption, which was rejected by DEP.

REPORT OF THE MANAGER:

ADMINISTRATIVE

- **Fund Transfer:** In a motion made by Marietta Reeb and seconded by Jeff Fyock, the Board unanimously transferred \$250,000 from the Operating account and \$935,000 from the PLGIT account to the Capital account in a roll call vote.
- The Manager updated the Board on emergency work on 588 due to a dislodged lid and frame.

WBCA PROJECTS

- **HPSIIP:** WBCA and HRG recommend payment of Payment Application No. 1 for McCurley Houston Electric in the amount of \$96,976.88. In a motion made by Dennis Blakley and seconded by Paul Kremer, the Board unanimously approved Payment Application No. 1 for McCurley Houston Electric in the amount of \$96,976.88 in a roll call vote.

WBCA and HRG recommend payment of Payment Application No. 3 for W.A. Petrakis in the amount of \$520,161.90. In a motion made by Paul Kremer and seconded by Tom Tomayko, the Board unanimously approved Payment Application No. 3 for W.A. Petrakis in the amount of \$520,161.90 in a roll call vote.

- **Rt 19 South Project/Abbey Woods:** WBCA and HRG recommend partial payment of Payment Application No. 11 for W.A. Petrakis in the amount of \$283,831.12. In a motion made by Paul Kremer and seconded by Ed Eckenrode, the Board unanimously approved partial payment of Payment Application No. 11 for W.A. Petrakis in the amount of \$283,831.12 in a roll call vote.

WBCA and HRG recommend payment of Payment Application No. 11 for McCurley Houston Electric in the amount of \$37,020.23. In a motion made by Marietta Reeb and seconded by Tom Tomayko, the Board unanimously approved Payment Application No. 11 for McCurley Houston Electric in the amount of \$37,020.23 in a roll call vote.

- **Admin Building:** WBCA and HRG recommend payment of the final Payment Application No. 18 for VendRick Construction in the amount of \$214,602.93. In a motion made by Paul Kremer and seconded by Greg Such, the Board unanimously approved the final Payment Application No. 18 for VendRick Construction in the amount of \$214,602.93 in a roll call vote.

PAST DUE ACTIVITY

A total of 51 customers failed to respond to the 30-day past due notification and were posted for water shut-off. Payment was due on or before 4/13/2026. Only customers on a public water service are included for shut off. Customers with a balance in excess of \$20 who are 60 days past due are included.

LABORATORY

- WBCA is contesting the positive results of cyanide samples with DEP because of a preservative in the testing samples.
- **HPSIIP:** A bypass pump failed and the sewer overflowed and backed up into a house. The Authority reported the sanitary sewer overflow (SSO) to DEP and took proper measures for restoration.

REPORT OF THE PROJECT ADMINISTRATOR:

WBCA PROJECTS

- **Rt. 19 South Extension:** Substantial completion for the project is May 30th, so the Project Administrator is hoping to have the pump skid working by then.
- **HPSIIP:** Construction is on Walnut Street and will be on Jefferson Street in a few weeks. The Pump Station Contractor will begin laying out manholes by the end of the month.
- **WRRF Upgrade:** The Project Administrator is working on subdividing and consolidating lots.

DEVELOPER PROJECTS

- The Project Administrator has 6 preliminary drawings under review, 4 phases under construction, and 7 as-builts under review.

OLD BUSINESS:

No old business was discussed.

NEW BUSINESS:

No new business was discussed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The Board did not go into Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT:

As there was no further business to discuss, Greg Such motioned to adjourn, seconded by Jeff Fyock, and the 4/9/2026 Regular Meeting adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Natalie Hacker, Recording Secretary
Western Butler County Authority