

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

Regular Meeting Minutes – May 20, 2026

CALL TO ORDER:

A quorum was reached, and after reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, Chairman Thomas Tomayko called the May 20, 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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Manager: Autumn Kobe
Solicitor: Matt Racunas
Consulting Engineer: Chad Hanley
Samantha Schmucker of HRG
Office Administrator: Evan George
Project and Construction Administrator: Jason Mack

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Jeff Fyock and Dennis Blakley were absent.

VISITORS:

John Beighey from BNZ Materials was in attendance to discuss billing and meter readings.

MINUTES:

In a motion made by Greg Such and seconded by Ed Eckenrode, the Board unanimously approved the April 9, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes.

BILLS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

A list of bills in the amount of \$155,966.81 (Operating) and \$1,297,543.27 (Capital) was presented to the Board in the form of Expense by Vendor summaries with checks dated May 20, 2026. Manager Autumn Kobe answered questions that board members had regarding the bills.

In a motion made by Greg Such and seconded by Marietta Reeb, the Board unanimously approved all of the bills for payment as presented by the Manager in Expense by Vendor summaries with checks dated May 20, 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:

- The Manager received a resignation and is advertising the position. The Authority currently has two open positions.

Finance Committee

The Committee had nothing to report.

Facilities Maintenance Committee

The Committee highlighted the following report items:

- The next Committee meeting will be in August.

Administrative Review Committee

The Committee had nothing to report.

REPORT OF THE SOLICITOR:

The Solicitor highlighted the following report items:

- The Solicitor is pursuing one active delinquent account.
- The Solicitor is working with the Manager on a dispute involving a corporate user's water meter.
- The Solicitor attended a call with WBCA staff and the Engineer regarding possible funding for the plant upgrade.
- The Solicitor drafted a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) relating to pump station construction and developer operations.

REPORT OF THE ENGINEER:

The Engineer highlighted the following report items:

- The Engineer worked on capacity verification letters and the annual report.
- **Route 19 South Service Area Extension:** Pump startups are scheduled for this week. Substantial completion is expected soon.
- **Harmony Pump Station Upgrade (HPSIIP):** The general contractor and electrical contractor have not started work yet. The general contractor for the gravity sewer and force main is currently working on South Jefferson Street and Spring Street.
- **Water Resource Recovery Facility (WRRF) Upgrade:** The next design meeting with WBCA is May 21. The Engineer had a pre-application meeting with PennVest.
- **National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit Renewal:** The Engineer is working with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to perform

additional testing for free cyanide in order to prove that the preservative in the test creates a false positive.

REPORT OF THE MANAGER:

ADMINISTRATIVE

- **Fund Transfer:** In a motion made by Ed Eckenrode and seconded by Paul Kremer, the Board unanimously transferred \$665,000 from the PLGIT account to the Capital account in a roll call vote.
- The Manager discussed purchasing a tractor to replace the dump truck with a broken bed. This would also help with fork lift and snow removal capabilities, along with maintaining rights of way. She presented two tractor options to the Board. The Finance Committee recommended that WBCA buy a new 2026 Kubota L3902HST for \$33,500.

In a motion made by Ed Eckenrode and seconded by Tom Tomayko, the Board unanimously decided to purchase a new 2026 Kubota tractor for \$33,500 in a roll call vote.

DEVELOPER PROJECTS

- **Seneca Trails:** In a motion made by Ed Eckenrode and seconded by Dave Weber, the Board unanimously approved the Set Aside Agreement for Phase 4a in the amount of \$309,978.68 in a roll call vote.
- **Glade Run Farm:** In a motion made by Dave Weber and seconded by Greg Such, the Board unanimously approved the Developer's Agreement for 39 Townhomes in a roll call vote. A traditional bond was posted in the amount of \$432,496.08.

WBCA PROJECTS

- **HPSIIP:** WBCA and HRG recommend payment of Payment Application No. 3 and 4 for Konzel Construction in the amount of \$55,220.53. In a motion made by Tom Tomayko and seconded by Ed Eckenrode, the Board unanimously approved Payment Application No. 3 and 4 for Konzel Construction in the amount of \$55,220.53 in a roll call vote.

WBCA and HRG recommend payment of Payment Application No. 2 for McCurley Houston Electric in the amount of \$4,779.90. In a motion made by Marietta Reeb and

seconded by Dave Weber, the Board unanimously approved Payment Application No. 2 for McCurley Houston Electric in the amount of \$4,779.90 in a roll call vote.

WBCA and HRG recommend payment of Payment Application No. 4 for W.A. Petrakis in the amount of \$281,226.76. In a motion made by Paul Kremer and seconded by Ed Eckenrode, the Board unanimously approved Payment Application No. 4 for W.A. Petrakis in the amount of \$281,226.76 in a roll call vote.

- **Rt. 19 South Project/Abbey Woods:** WBCA and HRG recommend payment of Payment Application No. 12 for W.A. Petrakis in the amount of \$58,065.14. In a motion made by Marietta Reeb and seconded by Paul Kremer, the Board unanimously approved Payment Application No. 12 for W.A. Petrakis in the amount of \$58,065.14 in a roll call vote.

WBCA and HRG recommend payment of Payment Application No. 12 for McCurley Houston Electric in the amount of \$32,765.52. In a motion made by Ed Eckenrode and seconded by Greg Such, the Board unanimously approved Payment Application No. 12 for McCurley Houston Electric in the amount of \$32,765.52 in a roll call vote.

- **Admin Building:** WBCA and HRG recommend payment of the final Payment Application No. 9 for Newman Plumbing in the amount of \$30,201.60. In a motion made by Dave Weber and seconded by Greg Such, the Board unanimously approved the final Payment Application No. 9 for Newman Plumbing in the amount of \$30,201.60 in a roll call vote.

PAST DUE ACTIVITY

A total of 62 customers failed to respond to the 30-day past due notification and were posted for water shut-off. Payment was due on or before 5/12/2026. Only customers on a public water service with a balance in excess of \$20 at least 60 days past due are included for shut off.

LABORATORY

- The Manager discussed this month's chlorine violations because of an issue with the effluent flow meter. She has reported it to DEP and discussed it with PennVest. It will be resolved with the plant upgrade.

REPORT OF THE PROJECT ADMINISTRATOR:

WBCA PROJECTS

- **Rt. 19 South Extension:** The pumps were started on May 20. Substantial completion is expected May 29. Final completion is at the end of July.
- **HPSIIP:** Construction will be on Spring Street.
- **WRRF:** Construction on the lab will begin in September.

DEVELOPER PROJECTS

- The Project Administrator has 5 drawings in preliminary review, 2 projects under construction, and 3 as-builts under review.

OLD BUSINESS:

No old business was discussed.

NEW BUSINESS:

No new business was discussed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The Board went into Executive Session at 5:15 p.m. to discuss litigation and exited at 5:38 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

As there was no further business to discuss, Ed Eckenrode motioned to adjourn, seconded by Greg Such, and the 5/20/2026 Regular Meeting adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Natalie Hacker, Recording Secretary
Western Butler County Authority