

**WEIRTON AREA WATER BOARD
REGULAR SESSION- 2025 AGENDA**

April 16, 2026

A regular session of the Weirton Area Water Board was called to order at 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 16, 2026, in Room 201 of the City Building, by James Shockley, Chairman.

Members in attendance were James Shockley; Ron Jones; Joseph Paolo; Rocky Bragg; George Ash (phone); and Anthony Rocchio, ex-officio member.

WAWB Staff present were Butch Mastrantoni; Charles Smith; Lori Veltri; Chuck Tenaglio; Brent Reckner; and Dan Guida.

Also attending were Jesse Alden and Chuck Kelly of Thrasher Engineering; Ben Erste and Carlo Fabian of the BHJ; Craig Howell of the Weirton Daily Times; and Bill Steinbach of WTOV 9.

MINUTES

With no additions or corrections requested, Mr. Jones made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 12, 2026, Board meeting. Mr. Bragg seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS

Administrative Report – Mr. Shockley commented that there were fourteen line breaks. Six of them were on Overlook Drive on Marland Heights, but four of them were on Overlook and Capitol. He asked if there is anything major going on up there. Mr. Mastrantoni replied that we had a break there that required some additional work. We had to install an isolation valve in order to make the final repair. With no further discussion from Board members regarding the Administrative Report, the report was approved as submitted.

Finance Report: In the absence of Brian Kuntz, Mr. Smith reviewed the finance report, which was included in the Board packet. Mr. Paolo made a motion to reimburse the General Fund for the shared expenses for the month of April 2026 in the amount of \$3,826.00. Mr. Jones seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Bragg made a motion to approve the Smart Bill for the month of March 2026 in the amount of \$3,186.97. Mr. Paolo seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Delinquent Report: Mr. Reckner gave the delinquent report. The shut-off date for the February 2026 bill run was March 31, 2026. The 30-day cycle ends on April 30, 2026. Total accounts to be collected or terminated on or after the March 31, 2026, shut-off date

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were 1,213. Of this number, 341 were more than one bill past due, 134 have paid in full, 23 made partial payments and still have an outstanding past due balance, 12 have been shut off, 115 received time extensions and will be collected in regular procedure should they fail to pay as agreed, 5 customers received pledges, and 4 customers are under multi-payment contracts. Eight hundred ten single bills are past due.

Citizens' Comments and Communications: Karen Mentzer addressed the Board. She commented that she had two members of the Water Department at her house last week. They were very professional, but they also took their time. They explained why they were there. She just wanted people to know that it was a good experience. She also wanted to thank Chuck Smith for all the help and information that he has been able to help her with. With that said, we know there is a little bit of a problem as far as transparency goes, and they have to complete FOIA requests. A resident took their time and came up with a form for the Water Board as well as the Sanitary Board. She just wanted us to look it over and see which one we would prefer to use. She tries to print as small as she can on the current one because of the limited amount of space. You can't fit everything, so you have to go onto another page. This one, the person has the choice. They can fill it out right online or they can print it. This one has a whole lot more space. There's a page two that is blank as far as putting in any additional information. For her it's easier. She has been working with them. She thinks it clears up any type of questions as far as if there's a word that maybe an a looks like an e or what have you. Anyway, just hoping you will take some time and look it over. With that said, she does have FOIAs to submit. She can either give them to Lori or she can give them to Chuck, whoever wants to take them. Mr. Guida told her to give them to Lori.

Utility Director Communications: Mr. Mastrantoni reported that most of the Board is aware that we were the happy recipient of \$1,000,000.00 from the Army Corp of Engineers from the 571 Program, and that we also were the happy and fortunate recipient of a matching \$3.34 million from the EEG fund through Governor Morrissey's office. He did think it was appropriate for the record to read in some recognition and thanks. Pat McGeehan was truly pivotal and helpful in getting these funds. His hard work brought these finances back to us. The support that we got from Senator Laura Wakim Chapman was significant in bringing these dollars home, as well as Mark Zatezalo, our delegate from Hancock County. We wanted to recognize their work and effort in bringing those funds back to us. Those funds, in addition to the million from the Army Corp, fully fund that Walnut Street project. Fully funds it. We're very thankful and just felt it was appropriate, in the record, to say thank you to those individuals. While we were working with those individuals and getting them the information they needed, he wanted to acknowledge Dan Guida's assistance as well. He was on the phone with the delegation quite a bit, and we

appreciate his keeping us on the rails. He wanted to say thank you publicly on behalf of the Board. We've already said thank you, but we are very appreciative of Charleston's support in this first phase of upgrading our distribution system.

OLD BUSINESS

Update on the WTP Expansion Project – Jesse Alden reviewed a report from Thrasher Engineering that he passed out. There will be a construction progress meeting today at 1:30 p.m. with the contractor, staff, EPA, BHJ, and Thrasher. He stated that Mr. Kelly continues to hold his weekly coordination meetings with staff and the contractor to ensure communication and coordination as the project continues along. Those will continue for the duration of the project. Mr. Alden reported that the schedule has slid a little bit. We discussed that at the last couple of meetings. He stated that if anyone had any questions on the current schedule, Mr. Kelly was here to discuss them. He stated the contractor has not formally requested any additional time at this point, but their schedule does show them being beyond the two dates in the report. Mr. Paolo asked if it would be Octoberish. Mr. Alden said he thinks that is where they are as of now. Mr. Paolo asked about the reason for the slide. Mr. Kelly responded there were two things this month. One was the new filter clear well area. It took them some time to get those penetrations in. They did the initial interior plating for those penetrations around the time of the last progress meeting. By the time they got the pipes in and were ready for backfill around that area, it added about two to three weeks there. And the piping in the ceiling above the filter gallery is taking some time. The second one was the air stripper. He thought Mr. Bragg had asked if there is any equipment they are still waiting on. They are still waiting on the air stripper equipment. The delivery got pushed back. Mr. Paolo asked if we have another delay because it was pushed back. Mr. Kelly replied that it had been pushed back since the last meeting. Mr. Alden commented that the current schedule reflects that. Mr. Kelly commented that they are still looking at the majority of the new equipment, the plant and everything, being operational in July. The original substantial completion date was July. The critical path here is to get the filter area done. It looks like they won't be test running that until August or September. They are doing their best to trim that schedule back. As of right now, Triton is working six days a week. They are trying their best to trim that back. Mr. Paolo asked if Triton could give us a document explaining why the equipment is being delayed so often. Mr. Alden said they could request it. Part of that issue is the original company went out of business, and they were trying to work through that. He said they would request it and see what they can get.

Mr. Alden gave an update on the Distribution System Upgrade Project. He stated that Mr. Mastrantoni brought up that the Army Corp grant was awarded, and we did have the kickoff meeting with the representatives from the Army Corp and lined out all of their requirements for environmental approvals and plan and spec approvals and all the administrative requirements that they have for that million-dollar grant. That meeting was held on April 8, and they will continue giving them the documents they need to expedite the approval of everything to move that project along. In addition to that, the EEG application was filed and the award conference was held so the project now sits as a fully grant funded project. That process happened pretty quickly, and we'll work through all the administrative requirements with EEG to make sure we don't have any delays with that. BHJ submitted a cost and funding change letter to the Infrastructure Council, which is a requirement. Anytime you have a change in your funding scenario, you have to go back to the Council so they can update that. That was submitted last week, and the new project cost and funding scenario is listed below. Essentially it replaced a DWTRF component and an IJDC component, and those funds were replaced with the EEG grant dollars. They are working to schedule an internal meeting to push the design along and get an updated schedule to make sure that everything is in line with the Army Corp's documents and that we're submitting things in a timely manner. We do not have an agreement executed for that project. He has the Engineering Services Agreement here today to present for the Board's approval. It is for all of the engineering, construction, bidding and negotiating, RPR, all the work for the entirety of the project that is in line with the funding scenario and what was submitted as part of that preliminary engineering report. The total amount for the basic services is \$515,000.00. That includes study and report, preliminary design, final design, bidding and negotiating, construction phase, and post construction phase. In addition to that, there is \$120,000.00 for Resident Project Representation, which is the inspection services as part of the project. And then there are \$75,000.00 of what is listed in the agreement as additional services that aren't defined in the basic services so that's environmental assessment and impact statement, engineering and topographic survey, land survey and easement preparation, aerial mapping, and asset management plan. Those fees match what was submitted to the Infrastructure Council and what was included in the funding applications as well. That would require a motion from the Board for approval. This is part of the Army Corp's requirements to have all professional services agreements executed. Mr. Alden said he didn't know if we wanted to do that now or wait until the end of the update. He then passed the agreement to Mr. Guida and Mr. Shockley for their review.

Mr. Alden also provided an update on the Cast Iron and Galvanized Line Replacement Project. They are continuing to work with staff on the preparation of the PER and everything involved in that project. They've had several funding discussions with the project team to talk about how the project would be funded. They are planning to have their 90% PER review meeting with staff by the end of this month, which is in line with the schedule. As they talked over the past few months, the initial total project cost estimate is \$190,000,000.00. They have had some discussions with the Public Service Commission and will continue to have those discussions to finalize how that selected alternative looks and what the cost of the project that is recommended to pursue will be. Before they submit anything to the Infrastructure Council, they want to make sure the PSC is on board with everything. They are having those discussions and will continue to do that. In addition, since last month Senator Capito and Senator Justice both released applications for Congressionally Directed Spending Grants. When those came out, they had a very short window and time frame to submit applications. We had a discussion, and we worked with regional council and submitted a request in the amount of \$10,000,000.00 to both Senator Capito and Justice. He has no inclination on whether or not it will be approved, but they thought it was prudent to submit something. Those are in. He has no idea when they propose to make announcements or anything like that but just be on the lookout for an email or something indicating whether or not those may or may not be funded. Someone asked if that would come through Ben. Mr. Erste replied that ultimately Mr. Mastrantoni would get a correspondence whenever Congress figures out a budget. Mr. Alden said the next thing on there is the schedule. You can see all the items that they've completed at this point. The next milestone that they've got listed there is the 90% PER review, which they will have before the end of this month. They are working toward getting that document submitted in June.

Mr. Alden then provided an update on the PFAS Treatment Plant Upgrade Project. They completed their preliminary engineering report, and the WV IJDC application was completed last Friday. They worked with the project team and got everything submitted, and it will be on the IJDC's agenda for discussion in May. The project cost and funding scenario is \$11,180,000.00 with a \$4 million DWTRF Emerging Contaminant Grant. In addition to the Cast Iron and Galvanized Project CDS submission that they did, they also submitted an application to both Capito's and Justice's offices for a CDS Grant for this project in the amount of \$7,180,000.00. Initially they were hoping that DWTRF would fund that project in total through their Emerging Contaminant Fund, but they had several discussions with DEP about that, and they were wanting applicants to limit their requests to \$4 million. They pared that back and then made the CDS requests and submitted the IJDC application with that funding scenario. If that grant is received, they won't have to go

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back to Council to revise anything, but if that grant is not awarded then they'll have to go back to the drawing board to figure out how that additional \$7 million could be acquired.

Mr. Guida commented that on the Engineering Services Agreement, it's not on the agenda so we're not going to take it up. There's nothing to table because it's not on there, so he asked Ms. Veltri to put it on next month's agenda. That will give him a chance to review it.

Mr. Mastrantoni commented that oftentimes you can see by the number of projects that we have simultaneously going on, the Weirton Area Water Board is like a juggler keeping all the balls in the air at the same time. The back of the shed things that often people don't see is the ability to file these things on a timely basis. Everything has a deadline. Were the staff trying to do our normal day's work and trying to incorporate these things into that schedule, he thinks it would be disastrous. He wanted to thank Ben Erste at BHJ. If the regional council wasn't there to generate some of the paper and communicate some of the issues that are vital in the community, we wouldn't be as successful as we have been up to this point. And he wanted to say thank you to Jesse Alden from Thrasher. Oftentimes without contract or without worrying about money, he does a lot of work back in the shed for us. It's like that timepiece keeps ticking and is right on time but we often don't see the gears inside that it takes to make that timepiece dependable, and he wanted to at least acknowledge it in this format that we appreciate both their efforts significantly.

Mr. Erste presented Draw #22 for the project in the amount of \$987,634.34 consisting of payments to The Thrasher Group for \$89,362.86, Triton Construction for \$896,485.86, and BHJ-MPC in the amount of \$1,785.62. Mr. Bragg made a motion to approve the payment of Draw #22. Mr. Paolo seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Approval of Bowles Rice Invoice Dated May 1, 2025, in the amount of \$27,557.12 for Services Connected to the PSC Investigation – Mr. Mastrantoni explained that this was a payment invoice for services rendered to that point. We did not formally approve this payment because it was billed incorrectly. We've now got the billing correct and addressed properly so now we are submitting it for consideration. Mr. Jones made a motion to approve the payment of the invoice. Mr. Paolo seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
2. Resolution #278 - To Renew Yearly West Virginia National Pollution Discharge

Elimination System Fee to the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection – Mr. Bragg commented that it never changes. Mr. Mastrantoni stated that it was \$5,000 traditionally. There was an increase, but apparently there was a glitch in their billing system, and they charged us double. Fortunately, Ms. Veltri saw it, made a call, and it was verbally directed that the appropriate amount was \$7,550.00. That should take care of us this year. Moving forward it will probably be \$7,500.00 or whatever it is instead of the former \$5,000.00 that we used to pay. Ms. Veltri added that their system did not allow them to provide a corrected invoice, so we were told to just pay half. Mr. Bragg made a motion to approve Resolution #278. Mr. Jones seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Resolution #279 – Purchase of 2026 GMC Sierra 3500 HD Crew Cab for Water Treatment Plant Maintenance Department at a Cost of \$71,119.00 – Mr. Smith reported that this truck will replace the 2012 Ford one ton that they have down there that is rusting out and hasn't run since January. That truck also has a utility bed already on it, and it is a dually. We are asking the Board to replace the existing truck with the new utility bed truck that is already set up right now. Mr. Bragg asked if that's the maintenance truck. Mr. Smith replied that it is. He said it has the utility bed, it's a one ton dually, so if we want to put a bigger crane or something on it, we can do that in the future. Mr. Bragg clarified that the old one has a crane, but the new one is not going to have one to start. Mr. Smith replied yes. Mr. Shockley asked if we were keeping the old truck. Mr. Smith replied that we are going to auction it off. Mr. Paolo commented that he looked at the details of the invoice. He wanted to know what the \$12,000.00 market adjustment increase to the price. Mr. Smith replied that it is probably for the utility bed. When you buy them, the utility bed is an up kit. Mr. Bragg made a motion to approve Resolution #279. Mr. Paolo seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
4. Resolution #280 – To Rebuild Cla-Val 60-11 AM and Reset Pump Clearance for Lee Avenue – Mr. Smith said it is for the Lee Avenue tanks. It will fill Marland Heights. Right now we are down to a single pump up there instead of being duplex. When they go to replace that manifold they're not going to be able to use those pumps. We would like to have two pumps up at Lee Avenue in case something would happen with the duplex up there while we're going through the upgrade. Mr. Bragg asked how long the second pump has been down. Mr. Smith replied that it runs, it just doesn't have enough PSIs. He said what they are going to do is rebuild that valve and then reset the pump bowls and they think that will get the pressure up. Mr. Bragg commented that we need to have that continuity, two pumps at each site, because if they both go down we've got trouble. Mr. Mastrantoni stated especially since part of the construction has to take offline the 8" line header pipe that serves Marland Heights now. We would

only be relying on one pump as backup so we felt it was prudent to get both pumps operating so we have redundancy. In case one failed we still had an alternate method while a month or so goes by that we can reconfigure the header and the 8" line that serves Marland Heights. Mr. Smith said the parts should be in on the 20th. He is just waiting to hear back from PumpMan to see when they actually can start on it. Mr. Jones made a motion to approve Resolution #280. Mr. Bragg seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Next Meeting Date - May 14, 2026

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

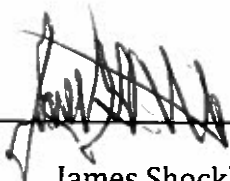
EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Jones made a motion to go into executive session at 12:45 p.m. Mr. Paolo seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Paolo made a motion to come out of executive session at 1:17 p.m. Mr. Bragg seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

ADIJOURNMENT

With no further business before the March 12, 2026, Regular Session of the Weirton Area Water Board, the meeting was adjourned at 1:18 p.m. The motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Jones and seconded by Mr. Bragg. The next Regular Session of the Weirton Area Water Board was set for May 14, 2026.



James Shockley, Chairman