

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

**March 12, 2026**

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

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

WAWB Staff present were Butch Mastrantoni; Charles Smith; Connie Wright; Brian Kuntz; Chuck Tenaglio; Brent Reckner; Brandon Gelder; and Dan Guida.

Also attending were Jesse Alden and Chuck Kelly of Thrasher Engineering; Carlo Fabian of the BHJ; Craig Howell of the Weirton Daily Times; and Tim Connell, First Ward Councilman.

**MINUTES**

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

**REPORTS**

**Administrative Report** –With no discussion from Board members regarding the Administrative Report, the report was approved as submitted.

**Finance Report:** Mr. Kuntz reviewed the finance report, which was included in the Board packet. Mr. Bragg asked what the bulk of the \$38,000.00 in the R & R Account went to. Mr. Kuntz replied that we just bought a bunch of fire hydrants, and that was the majority of it. Mr. Bragg made a motion to reimburse the General Fund for the shared expenses for the month of March 2026 in the amount of \$3,826.00. Mr. Jones seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Paolo made a motion to approve the Smart Bill for the month of January 2026 in the amount of \$3,272.73 and the month of February 2026 in the amount of \$3,224.30. Mr. Bragg seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Delinquent Report:** Mr. Reckner gave the delinquent report. The shut-off date for the January 2026 bill run was March 4, 2026. The 30-day cycle ends on April 2, 2026. Total accounts to be collected or terminated on or after the March 4, 2026, shut-off date were 1,161. Of this number, 400 were more than one bill past due, 71 have paid in full, 12 made partial payments and still have an outstanding past due balance, 31 have been shut off, 47 received time extensions and will be collected in regular procedure should they fail to pay

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as agreed, 13 customers received pledges, and 4 customers are under multi-payment contracts. Six hundred seventy-three single bills are past due.

**Citizens' Comments and Communications:** There were no citizens' comments or communications.

**Utility Director Communications:** Mr. Mastrantoni had nothing to report.

**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. Although the contractor has not officially asked for a time extension, Mr. Kelly gave an update and justification for completion dates being pushed out by the contractor. He reported that one major activity that they pushed out this month that they had originally planned at the end of February, beginning of March, has now been pushed to March 18. The contractor has to get into the existing clear well to drill some pilot holes and put some plates on for future penetration to connect the new clear well to the existing clear well. With line breaks and system reliability, they didn't want to take that down while they had any chance of service interruptions. It's a pretty critical activity. They have been working with the plant to try to schedule that for the last couple of months. They are finally at a point that they can feel good about that plan. That's mainly the reason they pushed out ten days. That one single activity was rescheduled from last month. We are still working with the contractor on some other smaller things, trying to get activities to coincide with each other. Once they get those penetrations done and get the pipe into the new clear well, they can backfill the clear well and start pulling sheet piling and backfilling and they can start doing some things in sequence like they're planned. Mr. Bragg asked based on where they are today, even though they haven't formally asked for it, he feels they will ask to push it out a little bit further. Mr. Kelly replied that he thought so. He said he felt they would hit partial substantial completion by the dates they have on there. The majority of the equipment will be up and running by the original dates. He thinks the final completion date will need to be pushed. Mr. Bragg asked, since they haven't requested an

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extension yet, does he think they are hoping for better weather days and they think they're going to get a lot more done if that happens. Mr. Kelly replied that in the update it shows that the last of the pre-cast tankage is getting leak tested next week. After that's done, it opens up a whole lot. They can probably hit it with a lot more labor and try to get some things done. Up until that point, getting the tanks in place, which were delayed by the weather, has delayed the equipment installing. They leak tested the new clarifier this week, leak testing the new decant next week. After that, they're wide open on what they can install. Mr. Paolo asked if he thought the Gant chart was a conservative estimate at this point. Mr. Kelly said he did. He thinks it's conservative, but it's accurate too. He thinks they can get a little bit better. He wouldn't say it's worst-case scenario because you can always have some equipment that's not on site or whatever. Mr. Bragg asked if there was anything they were waiting on equipment-wise to come in. Mr. Kelly said yes – some check valves, they have temporaries in place, but the raw water check valves and the Marland Heights check valve, and the air stripper equipment. The air stripper equipment is very proprietary. It was designed exactly for our site. That is scheduled to be on site in May. That's one piece of equipment that could delay it. Mr. Alden added that the air stripper situation was quite an ordeal. The manufacturer that was originally going to provide that equipment, after we reviewed their submittal, they sent a letter and said they were going out of business and were cancelling all their orders. So we were scrambling trying to figure out what to do. We ended up being able to work with the folks that, it's not under that same manufacturer anymore, but it's the same people that did all that work. We are going to end up with the same equipment that was originally designed, but that delayed it substantially. Mr. Kelly commented that it happened in October, and it took until January to get a new submittal on it. We went back to square one. A year behind really. We had been working with that manufacturer since the beginning of the project. Other than that, the majority of the equipment is on site. Mr. Paolo asked in light of the air stripper supplier who was supposed to make it and have it here in a timely manner, what does the contract say as to who has liability for this change which had to take place in getting another supplier to build it because it's a critical component and a lot of other things were around that particular item to complete the project. Mr. Alden explained that regardless of what manufacturer is used for the project, there is a specification for the parameters of any equipment on the project, and whoever manufactures x or y piece of equipment is required to meet those specifications. Mr. Paolo commented that the timeliness is what he was concerned about. Mr. Guida asked if there is a force majeure in the contract. Mr. Alden replied that there is. Mr. Guida explained that is if something is beyond their control or if there is a supply chain issue. Mr. Alden stated that when the guy sent the letter, it caught everyone off guard. They said all contracts were being terminated, and they were sending

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refunds back for whatever work had not been done. Mr. Kelly added we had to pay \$14,000.00 for submittals, and they refunded all of that.

Mr. Alden gave an update on the Distribution System Upgrade Project. We are in a holding pattern on this one waiting on the Army Corp grant award that is pending. He hasn't heard anything at this point. It's submitted, it's in the docket, and we're just waiting to hear back from the funding agency and then determine our next step to move forward.

Mr. Alden also provided an update on the Cast Iron and Galvanized Line Replacement Project. The Water Board, in coordination with Thrasher, conducted a meeting on Monday evening at the Council meeting to provide the Council with an update on where this project stands. Most of you were there and sat in on that presentation. He thought it went well. We provided them with all the information that was discussed here at these meetings. We are continuing along with working through the schedule with staff. We had our 60% PER meeting in February. Our next step is to get the PER to a 90% position to have our meeting in April and go over that with staff and make sure that everyone is on the same page. We have been coordinating with the Public Service Commission and had an initial discussion with them about the scope of the project just to keep them apprised on where we stand with the project and how we're proposing to move forward. We are going to continue to keep them in the loop as we go along. Mr. Bragg asked about their feedback. Mr. Alden replied that they appreciated the information, and he thinks the call was ok. We were tasked with providing them some additional information by the end of the month, which we are planning to do. We've had a few discussions regarding funding for the project and where that's going to come from. We have a call scheduled next Tuesday with representatives from the DEPs DWTRF program as well as the WV Infrastructure and Jobs Development Council.

Mr. Alden then provided an update on the PFAS Treatment Plant Upgrade Project. We have a draft PER prepared for that. We've had discussions with the project team about funding for that job as well. We need to have some additional discussion with the accountant before we get that into a position to submit it to the Infrastructure Council.

Mr. Fabian presented Draw #21 for the project in the amount of \$1,031,346.56 consisting of payments to The Thrasher Group for \$60,314.65, Triton Construction for \$968,517.21, and BHJ-MPC in the amount of \$2,514.70. Mr. Jones made a motion to approve the payment of Draw #21. Mr. Paolo seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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Mr. Mastrantoni commented that before we left this topic, he would like to make a report. The report that Mr. Kelly gave concerning the clear well activities, once again for clarity and transparency for the community, on Wednesday, March 18, 2026, the activities that Mr. Kelly was talking about regarding the clear well are going to require a plant shut down. The shutdown will start at 7:30 p.m. All these activities are going to take place overnight. The plant will be shut down for approximately 8 ½ hours. During this shutdown, residents don't have to do anything. They won't see any change in their water availability. We're pumping the tanks to as much capacity as we can, and we will feed the community water through the tanks overnight. We'll also have fire protection through the tanker task force for that night. It's highly hopeful that all the activities take place and by morning, roughly around 3:00 a.m. – 4:00 a.m., the plant will be brought back online, high services, clear well will be filled, settled for turbidity, and then high service pumps will begin pumping again into the community so that when everyone wakes up around 5:00 a.m. or 6:00 a.m., we ought to be back online and it should be business as usual. In the interest of transparency, he did want to advise the community of those activities that were going to be happening overnight. Mr. Rocchio asked if we were going to make an announcement to the community. Mr. Mastrantoni responded that we are going to send notices out through our regular communication. Mr. Guida asked if it's not business as usual, what's the worst-case scenario. Mr. Kelly replied just settling for turbidity. They are going to get in the clear well at 9:00, get out by 3:00, hopefully a little bit earlier than that. Six hours is worst-case scenario. Fill it back up and let the turbidity settle. They're not doing anything mechanically, changing pumps out or anything like that, that might not come back online. All of the water in the system comes through the clear well so they have to drain that to get in to do this work. Mr. Bragg asked if this would be a complete drain. Mr. Alden replied that there would be about 18" left in the bottom. Mr. Bragg commented that it had probably been a while since we had a complete drain of the clear well so we might have some buildup. Mr. Kelly commented that we cleaned it with divers earlier in the year. Mr. Guida said he thought that was in March. Mr. Alden replied that is part of this project. Mr. Kelly replied this part is putting plates on the inside so we can come from the outside, drill a hole, and then put in a 30" pipe to connect the two clear wells. Mr. Connell asked if we are going to notify the news media as well, through Channel 9, Channel 7, on the radio. Mr. Mastrantoni replied just the same as with our boil orders and everything, same mechanism will be sending the notices out. They'll hit all of the media as well as bounce off of the city web page. Mr. Guida asked about Facebook. Mr. Mastrantoni replied yes.

Mr. Paolo asked if we put a fence around having some assistance in collections. He knew we were going to contact another city or agency to see how we can improve them. Mr.

Kuntz replied he heard back from that company, and they don't want to do business with us. We are still looking.

**NEW BUSINESS**

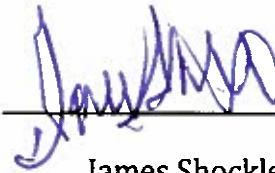
- 1. Next Meeting Date – April 16, 2026**

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

Mr. Mastrantoni advised that we have reached a stage in our project where the Step 2 rates for the upgrade of the Water Treatment Plant will be coming into effect. Gallons sold in March will be billed at the new Step 2 rate and will appear on customer bills in April. Mr. Rocchio asked what the new rate is in comparison to the old. Mr. Mastrantoni replied that currently we charge \$7.75 per 1,000 gallons. It's going to be moving to \$9.00 per 1,000 gallons. The customer charge is currently \$9.25. That will be moving to \$11.00. Mr. Rocchio asked if he had an actual amount for then versus now, like \$20.00? Mr. Guida asked what the percentage increase would be. Mr. Mastrantoni replied about 16%. The minimum bill for 1,000 gallons is currently \$17.00. In the new scenario it will move to \$20.00.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business before the March 12, 2026, Regular Session of the Weirton Area Water Board, the meeting was adjourned at 12:34 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 April 16, 2026.



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James Shockley, Chairman