

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

May 14, 2026

A regular session of the Weirton Area Water Board was called to order at 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 14, 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; Brian Kuntz; Chuck Tenaglio; Brent Reckner; and Dan Guida.

Also attending were Jesse Alden and Chuck Kelly of Thrasher Engineering; and Ben Erste and Carlo Fabian of the BHJ.

MINUTES

With no additions or corrections requested, Mr. Jones made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 16, 2026, Board meeting. Mr. Paolo seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS

Administrative Report – Mr. Paolo stated he received something in the mail regarding turbidity in January, and he was wondering why they got it in May and not sooner. Mr. Mastrantoni explained that the action was taken at the direction of the Bureau for Public Health. We don't determine their schedule. We got a notice that it had to be published and out. There was a ten-day action period, so we concurred with that and acknowledged that. The activities outlined in the letter were surrounded by cleaning out the clearwell as part of the upgrade project. The turbidity normally has to be .3 NTUs or less for a certain specified time – 95% of the time. We were 1% deficient. The Bureau for Public Health issued the order that we had to give public notice, and we did so consistent with the time frame given to us. We don't set the review period. We turn the reports in on time, and it's their schedule that prescribes the action to be taken. Mr. Paolo commented that we were timely. Mr. Mastrantoni replied yes. With no further 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 made a motion to reimburse the General Fund for the shared expenses for the month of May 2026 in the amount of \$3,826.00. Mr. Jones seconded. The motion

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passed unanimously. Mr. Paolo made a motion to approve the Smart Bill for the month of April 2026 in the amount of \$3,221.97. Mr. Jones seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Delinquent Report: Mr. Reckner gave the delinquent report. The shut-off date for the March 2026 bill run was May 5, 2026. The 30-day cycle ends on June 4, 2026. Total accounts to be collected or terminated on or after the May 5, 2026, shut-off date were 1,157. Of this number, 393 were more than one bill past due, 30 have paid in full, 5 made partial payments and still have an outstanding past due balance, 21 have been shut off, 46 received time extensions and will be collected in regular procedure should they fail to pay as agreed, 7 customers received pledges, and 4 customers are under multi-payment contracts. Eight hundred thirteen single bills are past due.

Citizens' Comments and Communications: Chris Gruda addressed the Board. The first thing was he disagreed with what Mr. Mastrantoni said. The public reporting of violations is not something you wait for them to get back to you. If you look at the verbiage in the public reporting law, they are responsible within 24 hours with a Tier 1 violation to report that. Right now, a letter is being penned to the Bureau for Public Health, Department of Health and Human Resources, State DEP, and Federal EPA about the way this was responded to, also the verbiage in that report does not comply with the law either. He doubts that's gonna hold for very long. The second thing is this could have been avoided. They could have managed, engineered the project to account for the cleaning of the clearwell. When he was there, for 10 years, they tried to clean it one time and found out it was like concrete down there and didn't want to pay the expense and gave up on the effort. They could have had engineering methods in place to use outside trailers or tanks to divert the clearwell during cleaning, or they could have made a partition so that didn't happen. So they've invited themselves by making decisions to give us a public violation. And then months later our citizens, who don't know if they are at health risk, are now finding out. It's disgusting. I'm sorry. Water Board members, you guys should have somebody here who knows what they're talking about to help make this right. Mr. Rocchio said he found out when he got the letter. Mr. Gruda replied "Exactly." Mr. Rocchio said, "Calm down, buddy." Mr. Gruda replied, "Roger that." Mr. Gruda continued, saying the next issue is this. He hears we have three operators operating the plant on 24/7 cycles. One of them has worked 24-hour shifts multiple times. Two of them are looking for jobs in other places right now. Does this Board know that of the five of its certified operators, three are working shifts and two of them are refusing to cover because they aren't comfortable with the upgrades yet? Do you guys know that you have people looking on the outside because they aren't happy? It's hearsay because he did hear it secondhand. But if it's a reality, are you prepared to deal with it? He doesn't know. He hope so. Because people in this town

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deserve clean water. They really do. Has anybody clarified publicly the manganese issue that arose a couple months ago? He's getting a lot of questions about it on Facebook. It's serious. Manganese and some of the effects it can have, especially on young people. It's pretty dangerous. So we should work on being more transparent about stuff. Making public announcements. Talking publicly. Coming to the news. Speaking about it at the City Council meetings. This is out of control. The new generator at the water plant. A Cat generator way bigger than needed for the project, somebody involved with the install was telling him. It's big enough to support a small city, not a water plant. It was over-engineered to help generate money is what he was told by that man. It's unrealistic. We can buy this cheaper generator. It will work. But we want to buy this one. And a valid reason why. This kind of stuff is why he is trying to get on the Board. He is concerned that we are just being taken for a ride. When he was there, there was a plant upgrade then. It was a good plant upgrade. It was supposed to be for disinfection byproducts. They never received a manual on how to operate that plant and disinfection byproducts. At that point, the timer sounded. He told the Board they could reach out. His number is available.

The next person to address the Board was Karen Mentzer. She passed out a handout. She stated she wasn't going to address it. It speaks for itself. What she did want to address was this letter. This is so unprofessional. She cannot believe that somebody would send it out with this type of information and, conveniently, it's dated May 4, but everybody got it after the Council meeting. We don't want to be able to bring that up at Council, do we? What's the date of the public health notification? She's sorry. Maybe one month might be acceptable, but when you see at the top where it says "cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during that time", and now they get notice of it. This is unacceptable. Completely and truly unacceptable. And why any of you, because you are the Water Board, you are responsible. And why you continue to accept the mismanagement is beyond her. You've got a whole town full of people, and you've got a couple people here, that are telling you, oh it's somebody else's fault. It's either the PSC, it's Public Health, it's EPA, but it's never that person. Ok? The other thing is, she can tell there was white out done. She'd like to know what information was put on there and then whited out. Why weren't we privy to that? Again, unprofessional. And it says this is no longer an issue. Ok. What did you do? Who and why should we trust a letter that says it's no longer an issue when it's four months late? And she has no problem. She will call Public Health. This goes deeper. It goes deeper than this letter. It's sad that any of you would be willing to accept this and assume that whatever this person tells you is true and correct because there's a track record here. That paper that she gave you. Twenty-two violations. It's not one, it's not two, it's twenty-two. She's hoping, and she is praying that you people will stand up and do what's right, because this town can't afford any more of these things four months late.

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Mr. Shockley stated that before he goes on to Mr. Mastrantoni, he needed to add an item to the agenda. He asked the Board to add to the agenda George Ash's resignation from the Board. Mr. Jones made a motion to add the item to the agenda. Mr. Bragg seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Ms. Veltri asked where it should be placed on the agenda. Mr. Guida replied that the Board would have to vote on it. He said it would be a new #3 under New Business. Mr. Guida added that we also need to appoint a new vice chairman. Ms. Veltri asked if that would all be one. Mr. Guida replied that it should be a separate one. Ms. Veltri replied that the resignation would be #3 and the appointment would be #4. And Mr. Guida replied #5 would be the next meeting date. Mr. Paolo made a motion to add the appointment of a new vice chairman as Item #4 on the agenda. Mr. Bragg seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Utility Director Communications: Mr. Mastrantoni reported that he received a text from Mr. George Ash, and he represented to him that he would present it to the Board. Mr. Guida commented that we would take this up under New Business. Mr. Mastrantoni just wanted to read the text into the record as an item under Utility Director communications.

OLD BUSINESS

Update on the WTP Expansion Project – Mr. Shockley stated that we had a rather lengthy discussion last month, and he wanted to ask the Board members if they had any questions. Was there anything from last month that didn't get resolved? Mr. Paolo stated that there was a contract that needed reviewed. That was the only thing that he remembered. Mr. Alden replied that was on the agenda this month. He then 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 at their office. 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. Mr. Paolo commented that he looked at the schedule, and it mirrors last month's schedule; however, there were some pieces that were moved around and some of the contract items were moved forward from the end of August to the middle of August and stuff like that, so he appreciated that work. It looks like they are trying to actually be closer to October because that's the last two months. The other thing that he had asked for at the last meeting was, there was a piece of equipment that was causing some problems, and we don't know if it still is but he did ask for something in writing to tell us why and when it would be resolved. Did we get that? Mr. Kelly replied that they did. He said he could give it to him after the

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meeting. He said that was the air stripper equipment. It's still going to be an issue. They're still looking to receive that equipment in August. That will be the last piece of equipment they install. He has a letter from Hazelton Environmental, the manufacturer, to the contractor detailing how they got to this point. They do say in there that they already tried to expedite the shipping two weeks earlier if they can. Mr. Alden commented that there was a lot of progress this month. They are into better weather. Not necessarily today, but Triton is definitely trying to crunch their schedule down and get this project completed. Still a lot of work to go, but they're making big strides.

Mr. Alden gave an update on the Distribution System Upgrade Project. The cost and funding change request was approved at the WV Infrastructure & Jobs Development Council meeting yesterday. The project costs and new funding scenario are listed on the handout. Mr. Paolo wanted to make sure that we took note or documented somewhere that one of the key pieces of that project is the environmental piece. Mr. Alden agreed. Mr. Paolo thinks that we ought to put a focus on that as part of this discussion as we move forward. Mr. Alden said he will do that. Just for his information, as part of their internal design kick off meeting, their environmental folks sat in on that. They need to provide them some engineering drawings so they can put their environmental assessment document together and get that to the Army Corp. They are trying to work parallel together so they can get that submitted as early as possible. The review process for that is a long lead item, so they want to get that submitted as soon as they can. He will incorporate a schedule here just like he has done on the other projects.

Mr. Alden also provided an update on the Cast Iron and Galvanized Line Replacement Project. They are continuing to work with staff to get the PER completed. They've had several funding scenario discussions. The 90% PER review meeting is scheduled for the 21st, which is next Thursday. One of the big things they need to get completed is the accountant's Rule 42. They are working with them to get that ironed out as well. Just a note here. They did work with BHJ, and a CDS grant application was submitted to both Senator Capito's and Justices's offices in the amount of \$10,000,000.00. If you look down at the schedule, their next milestone is the 90% review, and then they are scheduled to have the PER submitted to the Infrastructure Council prior to the June 10th deadline. To complete the application, it requires the preliminary engineering report, it requires an administrative initiation form by BHJ, and a Rule 42 is also required to be submitted by the project accountant, which is Griffith & Associates. They are working together as a collective group to make sure that happens by June 10.

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Mr. Alden then provided an update on the PFAS Treatment Plant Upgrade Project. The preliminary engineering report was completed, and that application was submitted to the Infrastructure Council prior to the April 10 deadline. The project will be on the May 28 IJDC Technical and Review Committee meeting agenda. He does plan to attend that meeting on behalf of the Board for representation. If there are any questions, he will make sure they get answered so the project does not get held up at Infrastructure Council. The current project cost and funding scenario is \$11,180,000.00. This includes the request for \$4,000,000.00 from the Drinking Water Treatment Revolving Fund's Emerging Contaminant Grant and then a \$7,180,000.00 CDS grant application that was submitted to both Capito's and Justice's offices. Neither one of those components to the funding scenario have commitment at this point, but that's the current funding package and that's what they're working toward.

Mr. Erste presented Draw #23 for the project in the amount of \$720,428.15 consisting of payments to The Thrasher Group for \$37,709.61, Triton Construction for \$680,911.01, and BHJ-MPC in the amount of \$1,807.53. Mr. Bragg made a motion to approve the payment of Draw #23. Mr. Jones seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Approval of James White Construction Invoice Dated March 31, 2026, in the amount of \$15,840.48 for Repairing Waterline Break on 12th St.** – Mr. Smith stated that crews had been out that Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Mr. Gelder was on call. They had been out 16 hours plus. Mr. Smith had Mr. Gelder call Thomas Gianni. James White put in 16 feet of line on 12th Street down by the apartments. When that crew finished up, the Water Department crew came back in the morning and repaired the last one down on the bottom of 12th. That all stemmed from mid-12th where we had a pilot valve failure on a PRV pit, and we had 190 psi coming off 15th Street into the pit that blew out about four sections of pipe clear down to the bottom of North 12th St. Mr. Bragg asked about the condition of the pit now. Mr. Smith replied they put in a new pilot valve that day down there, and everything has been working fine. It's got 70 psi coming out of it. Mr. Bragg asked if they were keeping an eye on it and checking it regularly. Mr. Smith replied that they were. Mr. Paolo commented that he had asked Mr. Mastrantoni to get some detail on this invoice before approving it. He thanked him for doing that. With that, Mr. Paolo made a motion to approve payment

of the March 31, 2026, invoice to James White Construction. Mr. Jones seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

- 2. Approval of Engineering Services Agreement with Thrasher Engineering for Walnut Street Project** - Mr. Guida commented that Mr. Alden brought this to us last month, but Mr. Guida wanted an opportunity to review the contract. Mr. Guida wanted Mr. Alden to do a quick overview as to what this is and what the costs are. Mr. Alden stated that he went over it last month, but he would review it one more time. This agreement is listed here as the Distribution System Upgrade Project that is funded by the EEG grant and Army Corp grant. As part of the funding requirements, we have to have an executed professional services agreement in place. This agreement includes costs for the study and report phase, which are already complete; preliminary design phase; final design phase; bidding and negotiating; resident project representation; construction phases; and additional services as defined by the EJCDC. The total 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. The RPR fees for the project are \$120,000.00. The additional services are listed at \$75,000.00. Those are all part of the project cost that was submitted to the Infrastructure Council, and it's all included with the overall costs for the project. The Army Corp will need to have an executed copy in hand as part of the PPA agreement that the Water Board has with the Army Corp. Mr. Paolo asked if this was a time and material or lump sum. Mr. Alden replied that the only fees that are time and materials are the RPR fees, which are standard for any EJCDC agreement. Mr. Guida commented that one nice thing about having dealt with Thrasher over the years is they kind of know what we want in an agreement and not want. He does not have any changes to the actual agreement itself. Mr. Alden commented that there are certain terms and conditions of the contract that are specific to the Water Board that they consulted with counsel on and made sure that those were incorporated. Mr. Jones made a motion to approve the Engineering Services Agreement with Thrasher Engineering for the Walnut Street Project and to authorize Mr. Shockley to execute the agreement on behalf of the Board. Mr. Paolo seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- 3. George Ash Resignation** – Mr. Guida stated that Mr. Ash is asking the Board to accept his resignation effective May 31, 2026. Mr. Guida asked Mr. Ash if he had any additional comments he wanted to make. He did make some comments, but he was very hard to understand. Mr. Jones asked Mr. Ash if he could text his comments to him, since the Board members were having trouble hearing him. Mr. Guida commented that this was the end of an era. Not just with the Water Board, but with the city. He's been off City Council for about two years now. He wanted to stay on this Board until health conditions prevented it. It is the end of an era. It goes back 50 years, it seems

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like. Not that long, but at least 40+. It's been a while. It's sad. Mr. Jones made a motion to approve the resignation of George Ash. Mr. Bragg seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

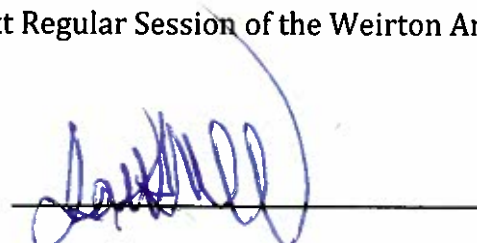
- 4. Appoint New Vice Chairman** – Mr. Guida stated that they should appoint someone temporary. Mr. Bragg asked if they should go by longevity on the Board. He asked Mr. Jones if he would be interested in serving as Vice Chairman. He agreed. He commented that they would be voting again in a few months anyway for a Chairman and Vice Chairman. This is just temporary to bridge the gap. Mr. Bragg made a motion to nominate Mr. Jones as the Vice Chairman on a temporary basis. Mr. Paolo seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Paolo asked Mr. Ash if he was still on the call, and he replied that he was. He told Mr. Ash that the Board had voted to accept his resignation and appreciated all that he had done and they nominated Ronnie Jones to fill his position in the short term and then when they get the new member, they will revote. He thanked him again for all he did for the Water Board and the City of Weirton. Mr. Jones thanked him also. Mr. Bragg commented that it was from all of them. Mr. Shockley said that was from all of them. From the Board and its entirety we really thank you for the Board's service, the Water, but also it's been at least 40 years that you have given to the City of Weirton so thank you. Mr. Ash replied that he appreciated it.
- 5. Next Meeting Date** – June 11, 2026

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the May 14, 2026, Regular Session of the Weirton Area Water Board, the meeting was adjourned at 12:58 p.m. The motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Bragg and seconded by Mr. Jones. The next Regular Session of the Weirton Area Water Board was set for June 11, 2026.



James Shockley, Chairman