

WESTERN VIRGINIA WATER AUTHORITY  
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING  
November 20, 2025

The Board of the Western Virginia Water Authority (WVWA) met on Thursday, November 20, 2025 in the Board Room at 601 S. Jefferson Street, Roanoke, Virginia. Board Chair Mike Loveman called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

**BOARD ROLL CALL:**

PRESENT: Michael Loveman, Harvey Brookins, Richard Caywood, Randall Hancock, Shirley Holland, Hunter Young ----- 6

ABSENT: Don Halliwill, Valmarie Turner ----- 2

**STAFF PRESENT IN PERSON:**

Mike McEvoy, Executive Director; Scott Shirley, Chief Operating Officer Water Quality; Leana Stoltz, Chief Operating Officer Customer Operations; Tammy Lawfield, Director of Finance; Gayle Shrewsbury, Board Secretary; Will Bulloss, Chief Strategy Officer; Tesha Okioga, Director of Engineering Services; Trent Cox, Deputy Chief Operating Officer Customer Operations; Cedric Lavender, Water Production Superintendent; and Lance Wheeler, retiree of the Authority.

**STAFF PRESENT VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE:**

Scott Kroll, Director of Infrastructure Development; Jeff McInnis, Assistant Director of Field Operations; Neil Norris, Director of Human Resources; Jennifer Meeks, Assistant Director of Finance; Rachel Ramsey, Assistant Director of CS/Billing; Theresa Bell, Engineering Systems Coordinator; Randall Fulton, Engineer II; Stephen Estes, Engineer II; Eric Powers, Water Production Manager; Mackenzie Wilcox, Recruitment, Retention and DEI Coordinator; and Robyn Tuck, Learning & Development Manager.

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Jeremy Carroll, Counsel for the Authority; Brandon Flora, Whitman, Requardt & Associates, LLP (participated by video conference); Paula Moore, Whitman, Requardt & Associates, LLP (participated by video conference); Bart Kreps, Raftelis; Will Kerr, Reftelis; Mason Adams, WVTF; Jason Freund, WSLS; and Tad Dickens, Cardinal News.

Citizens: Adam Murphy; Terri Brockly; Lianna King; Judy King; Misty Vickers; Rayna Christman; Sean Koppel; Ben Verschoor; Gail Verschoor; Debbie Freeman; Bill Freeman; Nikki-Rose Huerta; David Rivera; Hillary Moore; Stephen Sinnes; Lynn Barlow; Greg Rieley; Katie Graves; Ray Gaut;

Palak Pujara; Marius Volkhart; Grace Wilson; Deanna Zivelonghi; Tyler Breeding; Evelyn R Aune; and Steven Langford.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Mr. Brookins pointed out that the topic included as “Other Business” should have come before “Comments From Board Members”. Mr. Hancock moved approval of the October 16, 2025 Board meeting minutes with amendment and Mr. Brookins seconded the motion. The minutes as amended were approved by unanimous voice vote.

**RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF LANCE WHEELER UPON HIS RETIREMENT:** Mr. Shirley read Resolution No. 513 commending the service of Lance Wheeler. A copy of this report in its entirety is attached to the approved minutes.

Mr. Brookins moved to approve Resolution No. 513, Mr. Hancock seconded the motion and it was approved by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Brookins, Caywood, Hancock, Holland, Young, Loveman ----- 6.

NAYS: ----- 0.

A copy of the approved resolution was presented to Mr. Wheeler and the board extended their appreciation and best wishes.

Mr. Lavender shared details of Mr. Wheeler’s history with the Authority, expressed his gratitude and shared that Lance will be missed.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS:** Adam Murphy, Terri Brockly, Lianna King, Misty Vickers, Rayna Christman, Sean Koppel, and Ben Verschoor shared comments.

**COMMUNICATION FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2025:** Mr. McEvoy gave a summary of the October Executive Director’s report which included: Customer Operations, Water Quality Operations, Administration/Engineering, and Regional Efforts/Outreach. A copy of this report in its entirety is filed with the approved minutes.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2025:** Ms. Lawfield noted that year-to-date October 2025 represented 33% of the fiscal year. A copy of this report in its entirety is attached to the approved minutes. Here follows a summary of the report:

Operating revenues for the Water and WPC funds were 38% and 32%, respectively, of budget. Retail revenues for the Water fund were 33% and WPC fund were 32%. Non-operating revenues for Water were 96% and WPC were 57% of budget. Some of these revenues (Investment Income, Office Building Lease Income) lag a month in reporting. Operation & Maintenance expenses for the year-to-date for the Water system were 30% and WPC were 32%. The Operating Margins for Water and WPC were 54% and 32%. Combined Operating Margin was 42%. The Water system has paid 52% of budgeted interest expense and 90% of principal payments. WPC has paid 52% of interest expense and 59% of principal payments.

**REPORT FROM AUTHORITY COUNSEL:** Mr. Carroll reported on the following:

1. Acquisition of Ferrum Water and Sewage Authority (“FWSA”) System;
2. Acquisition of Bridgewater Pointe Wastewater System;
3. FOIA Issues;
4. Policy Updates;
5. Miscellaneous Issues;
6. Vinton Wrap-Up; and
7. RYT, L.L.C./ Angel Lane Litigation

**REPORT FROM COMMITTEE CHAIRS:** Mr. McEvoy reminded the Audit Committee of the next meeting scheduled for December 4, 2025 at 3:30 p.m.

**ADOPTION OF AMENDED POLICY ON PARTICIPATION AND VIRTUAL MEETINGS:** Mr. McEvoy presented a report regarding Amending the Authority’s policy on board member remote participation and all virtual Board meetings, along with Resolution No. 514. A copy of this report is attached to the approved minutes.

It was clarified that each Board member may remotely attend Board meetings for up to 3 of the 10 regularly scheduled meetings per year for personal reasons and also may attend remotely for a medical condition or to be a care giver for a person with a disability. The entire Board may conduct all virtual meetings for up to 5 of the 10 regularly scheduled Board meetings.

Mr. Hancock moved to approve Resolution No. 514 and Mr. Caywood seconded the motion. The resolution was approved by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Brookins, Caywood, Hancock, Holland, Young, Loveman ----- 6.

NAYS: ----- 0.

**ADOPTION OF POLICY TO ALLOW FOR NEGOTIATION WITH LOWEST BIDDER:** Mr. McEvoy presented a report on the policy regarding negotiation with the apparent lowest responsive and responsible bidder when all bids received exceed available funds for a procurement, and Resolution No. 515. A copy of this report is attached to the approved minutes.

Mr. Brookins moved to approve Resolution No. 515 and Mr. Hancock seconded the motion. The resolution was approved by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Brookins, Caywood, Hancock, Holland, Young, Loveman ----- 6.

NAYS: ----- 0.

**UPDATE ON COST OF SERVICES STUDY:** Mr. Kreps and Mr. Kerr provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the update on Cost of Services Study. A copy of this presentation is attached to the approved minutes.

Discussion Included:

~ The methodology used looks at the fee we charge new customers to connect, to essentially recover the cost of the existing customers investment in the system, and then we use this money for capital for renewal and replacement. A request was made to learn and better understand what goes into the mathematical calculation itself.

~ A request was made for an analysis assuming the addition of a large water user and evaluating how significant usage increases would affect the graphs, rate structure, and overall cost recovery.

~ A request was made for an analysis and chart of a hypothetical ideal 50/50 balanced structure, showing what revenue and cost would look like if all factors were equal, to use as a baseline for comparing rates and overall structure.

**CLOSED SESSION #1:** At 4:25 p.m., Mr. Caywood made a motion to go into Closed session (1) pursuant to Virginia Code § 2.2-3711(A)(7), for the purpose of consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff pertaining to actual litigation concerning the Virginia Freedom of Information Act in the City of Roanoke Circuit Court, where consultation or briefing in an open meeting would adversely affect the Authority's negotiating or litigating posture; and (2) pursuant to Virginia Code § 2.2-3711(A)(8), for the purpose of consultation with the Authority's legal counsel regarding specific legal matters, namely the foregoing actual litigation, requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Brookins and approved by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Brookins, Caywood, Hancock, Holland, Loveman, Young ----- 6

NAYS: ----- 0

At 5:25 p.m. the Board recessed for a five-minute break.

On a motion by Mr. Caywood, and seconded by Mr. Hancock, the Board voted unanimously to return to open session.

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING: Mr. Caywood moved for a roll call vote certifying that to the best of each member's knowledge: (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed, or considered in the closed meeting. It was seconded by Mr. Hancock and approved by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Brookins, Caywood, Hancock, Holland, Loveman, Young ----- 6

NAYS: ----- 0

**CLOSED SESSION #2:** Mr. Caywood made a motion to go into Closed session pursuant to Virginia Code § 2.2-3711(A)(8), for the purpose of consultation with the Authority's legal counsel regarding specific legal matters, namely the Board's legal obligations regarding citizen comment periods, requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Brookins and approved by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Brookins, Caywood, Hancock, Holland, Loveman, Young ----- 6

NAYS: ----- 0

At 5:06 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Caywood, and seconded by Mr. Hancock, the Board voted unanimously to return to open session.

**CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING:** At 5:06 p.m., Mr. Caywood moved for a roll call vote certifying that to the best of each member’s knowledge: (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed, or considered in the closed meeting. It was seconded by Mr. Hancock and approved by the following roll call vote:

**AYES:** Brookins, Caywood, Hancock, Holland, Loveman, Young ----- 6

**NAYS:** ----- 0


**COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS:** None.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** No Board meeting is scheduled for December.

Mr. Loveman adjourned the Board meeting at 5:08 p.m.

APPROVED: January 15, 2026



  
Gayle Shrewsbury, Secretary  
WWA Board of Directors

**From:** Autumn <[autumnrabbit@proton.me](mailto:autumnrabbit@proton.me)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 20, 2025 10:51 AM  
**To:** Mike McEvoy <[Michael.McEvoy@WesternVaWater.org](mailto:Michael.McEvoy@WesternVaWater.org)>  
**Subject:** Opposed to data center & water use

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To the Board of Western VA Water Authority,

I am a resident of Roanoke and I am very concerned about the impacts of the Google data center planned for Botetourt County, which is planned to use the water supply from Carvin's Cove. It is disappointing and unacceptable that the public has been left in the dark about this plan, when the water supply used by the community is directly impacted.

How can Botetourt, Roanoke, and the surrounding hometowns continue to be considered jewels of our beautiful mountains, while a data center is allowed to use up our natural resources? The detrimental effects of data centers to small towns are well documented at this point. How can we hope to bring in tourists and outdoor enthusiasts when the nature that draws them in is placed in jeopardy of being irrevocably changed for the worse?

I hope you will choose to protect our water, our environment, and our hometown communities. Please hold conversations with experts who can shed light on the entire picture, not just the parts that Google wants us all to see, and be more open with the public. Google does not love our beautiful natural environment like we do, and so it's our responsibility to act in its best interest and protect it. Google owns enough already, don't let them own us too.

Sincerely,

Autumn  
Roanoke, VA  
[autumnrabbit@proton.me](mailto:autumnrabbit@proton.me)

From: Colin Cepuran <[cjcepuran@gmail.com](mailto:cjcepuran@gmail.com)>  
Date: Nov 19, 2025 8:40 PM  
Subject: Opposition to Botetourt County Data Center  
To: Mike McEvoy <[Michael.McEvoy@WesternVaWater.org](mailto:Michael.McEvoy@WesternVaWater.org)>  
Cc:

Dear Mr. McEvoy,

I write you in opposition to the Botetourt County Data Center currently being considered by WVWA and to request a public forum on the data center.

[Research done by the EPA highlights](#) that Southwest Virginia already has some of the highest rates of water unaffordability in the Eastern United States. Google's Data Center construction would exacerbate this trend in a time when so many families are already buckling under the cost of living crisis.

Furthermore, the data center would do irreparable harm to Carvin's Cove, depleting its levels far below its already low state. It's unsurprising that google has worked so hard to avoid disclosing their estimated water usage: they know that it residents of the area could see the environmental costs they would oppose the data center. The section of the Appalachian Trail that surrounds Carvin's Cove is one of the most popular weekend destinations in the area, bringing business traffic and tax dollars from the whole area into Roanoke. This will doubtlessly cease when Carvin's Cove becomes Carvin's dirt patch.

I moved to Roanoke City from Michigan, which despite its proximity to the Great Lakes has become known across the country for its toxic water supply. I can tell you from my own experience and the experience of my former neighbors that our water supply is a vital resource that must be protected.

Please do the right thing and do all in your power to oppose the data center and open forums for public comment on the project.

Thank you for your time,

Colin Cepuran

**From:** Maria DeNunzio <mdenunzio8@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Wednesday, November 19, 2025 10:38 PM

**To:** Mike McEvoy <Michael.McEvoy@WesternVaWater.org>; Gayle Shrewsbury <Gayle.Shrewsbury@WesternVaWater.org>

**Subject:** Citizen opinion on AI data center

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To the board of the Western Virginia Water Authority:

My name is Dr. Maria DeNunzio, and I am writing to share my significant opposition to the proposed Botetourt County artificial intelligence (AI) data center. I'm a resident of Roanoke City with a deep love for the unique mountains, rivers, plants, and wildlife in our region. The impacts of the proposed AI center on these natural features is not well understood, largely because of the novelty of such centers and because of the less than forthcoming public information campaign provided by your organization.

I am a resident of Roanoke because of the abundance and quality of our natural resources, and I am deeply fearful that the AI data center will lead to the destruction of local ecosystems. I purchase a season pass to Carvin's Cove yearly, and spend multiple days a month recreating on the reservoir and trails. The Western Virginia Water Authority has not provided damage mitigation plans to the public. What will happen to the best parts of Roanoke when there is an inevitable construction or operations mishap?

I am a research scientist who specializes in policy equity for people and planet. In addition to my personal opposition to the AI data center, my professional opinion is that this data center will disproportionately harm the most vulnerable residents of our region. When vulnerable communities lose access to an essential resource, such as clean water, entrenched disparities in health and social outcomes are often exacerbated. Effects from climate change also compound these disparities, and it is well-established that AI data centers drive processes that contribute to climate change.

In closing, I urge you to stop progress on the AI data center. The risk is too high for harms to our beloved region and neighbors.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions or would like to discuss.

Sincerely,

Maria DeNunzio, PhD, MS

717-468-8108

**From:** Caitis Fitzpatrick <[caits.fitzpatrick@gmail.com](mailto:caits.fitzpatrick@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2025 11:22 AM  
**To:** Mike McEvoy <[Michael.McEvoy@WesternVaWater.org](mailto:Michael.McEvoy@WesternVaWater.org)>  
**Subject:** Google AI Data Center Concerns

Hello Mr. McEvoy or To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my deep concern over the planned Google AI Data Center in Botetourt County and to urge you to please reconsider this endeavor for the betterment of Botetourt, Roanoke and all surrounding areas.

My husband and I moved to the Roanoke Valley two years ago and I we instantly fell in love with the sense of community and caring in this region that seems to be rapidly fading from so many other places. To bring something like the AI Data Center here would disrupt and ultimately destroy what makes the region so special. I'm concerned about the impact it will have on Carvin's Cove, on residents' utility bills and access to water, and on the morals of our leadership.

If building the AI Data Center is inevitable, then the community at least deserves access to ample information, full transparency and understanding, as well as a commitment to not allow it to disrupt residents' lives in financial or daily ways.

How will google's water use be monitored? Will those records be public? What will happen if they violate their terms? Who will be responsible for the cost of added infrastructure needs? What if google's water needs increase? What does this mean for residents drinking water supply? Who gets priority access to the water supply in the case of a drought? Will google be paying the same rate as residential consumers? Are the most effective technologies for water conservation being used by google? What does this mean for the ecosystem of Carvin's Cove?

I am unable to attend the board meeting this Thursday and still wanted to express my concerns. I hope you will take this feedback openly and know that these concerns stem from a deep love for our home and a lifelong detestation of greed.

**Caitis Fitzpatrick**  
[caits.fitzpatrick@gmail.com](mailto:caits.fitzpatrick@gmail.com) | (720) 579-1749

**Explore | Create | Be Weird**

**From:** Thomas Spencer <[tlspencer.4512@gmail.com](mailto:tlspencer.4512@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2025 9:55 AM  
**To:** Mike McEvoy <[Michael.McEvoy@WesternVaWater.org](mailto:Michael.McEvoy@WesternVaWater.org)>  
**Subject:** AI Data Center Water/Electricity Concerns

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Good Morning Mr. Mcevoy,

I'm writing to you as a concerned resident of the Roanoke Valley, a customer of the WVWA, and a member of the community that relies on Carvin's Cove. I want to express my concerns with the possibility of an AI data center relying on the water from Carvin's Cove and the surrounding area.

I am aware of a Non-disclosure agreement between the water-authority and Google that will hide details of how much and how the water itself will be used for the data center.

I come from a family of electricians. My wife is a IBEW member, and I currently work as an employee that helps electrical cooperatives with their control house systems across the east coast of the USA.

I understand how much power & water this new data center will use as well as the possible jobs that may be created for the citizens of the Roanoke Valley. Based upon facts and information that I cannot openly disclose, giving this data center access to the water supplies in the Roanoke area will cause much more harm than good for the people of Roanoke.

I strongly urge you to preserve the way of life for Roanoke's citizens.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Thomas Spencer