

WESTERN VIRGINIA WATER AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
April 16, 2026

The Board of the Western Virginia Water Authority (WVWA) met on Thursday, April 16, 2026 in the Board Room at 601 S. Jefferson Street, Roanoke, Virginia. Board Chair Mike Loveman called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

BOARD ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Michael Loveman, Harvey Brookins, Richard Caywood, Don Halliwill, Randall Hancock, Shirley Holland, Valmarie Turner and Hunter Young ----- 8

REMOTE: None ----- 0

ABSENT: None ----- 0

STAFF PRESENT:

Mike McEvoy, Executive Director; Tammy Lawfield, Director of Finance and Board Treasurer; Gayle Shrewsbury, Board Secretary; Sarah Baumgardner, Director of PR and Assistant Board Secretary; Scott Shirley, COO Water Quality; Leana Stoltz, COO Customer Operations; Trent Cox, Deputy COO Customer Operations; Will Bulloss, Chief Strategy Officer; Tesha Okioga, Director of Engineering Services; David Barnhart, Assistant Director of Engineering; and Bryan Thompson, Spec Conservator of Peace.

LEGAL COUNSEL PRESENT:

Jeremy Carroll, Counsel for the Authority.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mr. Halliwill moved approval of the March 19, 2026 Compensation Committee meeting minutes and the March 19, 2026 Board meeting minutes. Mr. Hancock seconded the motion and both sets of minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

Ms. Turner joined the meeting at 3:05 p.m.

CITIZENS COMMENTS: Ben Verschoor, Scott Yates and Chloe J.

COMMUNICATION FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 2026: Mr. McEvoy gave a summary of the 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.

- ~ USA Cycling will be back in the Roanoke Valley on July 12th and racing at Carvins Cove.
- ~ Legislation for 2 bills related to Paid Leave Benefits have been amended by the governor and are now back to the general assembly for consideration.
- ~ PFAS compounds found in one of our stand-alone systems. Work is already in progress to place a water line in the Poages Mill area which will provide a long-term solution.

FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 2026: Ms. Lawfield noted that year-to-date March 2026 represented 75% of the fiscal year. A copy of this report in its entirety is attached to the approved minutes.

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 Litigation;
4. Idlewood Shores;
5. New Hope Church;
6. Wallace Avenue; and
7. Miscellaneous.

REPORT FROM COMMITTEE CHAIRS: Mr. Brookins shared that the IDEA team met and noted its four-year milestone. The team is refining its focus while continuing onboarding and HR initiatives, as well as exploring improved employee recognition, and planning participation in upcoming local events.

Mr. McEvoy introduced Ms. Samantha Villegas of Raftelis.

BUDGET DEVELOPMENT – UPDATE ON DEBT, CAPITAL PLAN, REVENUE ITEMS OUTSTANDING: Ms. Lawfield, Ms. Okioga and Mr. McEvoy provided a presentation regarding Budget Development-update on debt, capital plan, revenue items outstanding. A copy of this presentation is attached to the approved minutes.

Discussion included:

- ~ Bore obstruction on Woodhaven required redesign and delay with timeline to be determined. Contractor responsible for added costs.
- ~ New technology enables condition assessment of large pipes without service disruption.
- ~ Several projects are shovel-ready; funding targeted early FY27 with construction to follow: 3 Brandon Avenue sections, Cedar Avenue, Delnita Hills water line connection, Falling Creek Dr replacement project, Ferdinand water system, Starkey pump station, Hollins Rd, Mason Mill Rd, Phase 2 of Poages Mill project and more.
- ~ Interest rates are being assumed at 4%.
- ~ Projected FY29 costs are undetermined at this time and staff explained that a phased approach to small AMI meter replacement, estimated at approximately \$10 million annually over the next five years, is a priority. The savings and operational benefits of the meters were noted as justifying the investment.
- ~ Strong debt capacity; may shift between debt and reserves depending on interest rates (~5% threshold).
- ~ Key challenges: contractor availability and rising construction costs.
- ~ Staff noted ongoing discussion with the state regarding relocation of watershed reference location 20+ miles upstream, citing concerns that the new site is not comparable to the impacted area; the issue is currently being deferred.
- ~ Tier four is a work in progress for high volume users and will be presented at a future meeting.

As per Mr. McEvoy's suggestion the May 21st Board meeting was moved to 4:00 p.m. so that those board members interested in visiting Beaver Dam and the Hollins pump station could attend a tour from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS: None.

OTHER BUSINESS: The potential to move the June meeting to 4:00 p.m., followed by a Public Meeting, will be decided at the May meeting.

Mr. Loveman adjourned the Board meeting at 4:56 p.m.

Responses to questions asked by a citizen at the April Board Meeting

Proposed Rate Increase for FY 27

Q. During this year's budget process for FY27, the literature today mentions a proposal for increasing residential water rates increases by about 3%. Can you clarify how those rate increases are or are not related to current capacity augmentation projects that are going into areas of need, like the new technology park in Roanoke County and the Botetourt area? As we know there is a giant, there is a proposal for a large water user in Botetourt area.

A. The proposed rate increase covers salary, benefit and operational expense increases. A portion of the increase provides support for debt service for capital expenditures but none of the budgeted projects for FY27 are related to industrial park development in Roanoke and Botetourt Counties.

Discussion on Creation of Tier 4 rate for high volume customers / Other policies

Q. Can you summarize or clarify your discussions on proposal to create a tier 4 rate for high volume customers? And are you considering any other policies that might apply to those high-volume customers?

The Board has discussed with staff the creation of an additional tier to the Authority's three-tier rate structure for high volume users. The current rate structure for water is an increasing block with the cost per gallon increasing with each tier. The purpose is to provide an economic incentive to be efficient with water use. As most of the consumption for the pending project will be charged at the highest tier rate, this effectively becomes a flat rate for this customer class.

As previously stated publicly, amendments to the Authority's drought management plan are being considered.

Questions about Wastewater

Q. Referencing the same project, just some clarifying questions. If the waste goes into Roanoke River, the heavy nitrates go into the creek, also wondering how this potential flooding impacts where the pollution spreads to? Children swim in the Roanoke River and James in the summer, I do. I take a lot of the clients that I serve down to the Roanoke River. So, the people really must know where the effluent flow is located, that is the polluted flow of water that (couldn't understand) and it becomes increasingly clear for people that have been told at community meetings, Board

of Supervisor meetings, Water Authority meetings, on their own time not getting paid to do so, that the lens of this is coming from view of how much money will come to the counties and cities, but the question from the people is how much their bill is going to continue to raise? Like I said, I have clients in Roanoke and a partner in Roanoke, and it is unbearable how much the bills have continued to rise and what it takes to keep the water on. So that is really it. Thank you for letting me speak.

A. Wastewater from homes and businesses served by the Authority in the City of Roanoke, Roanoke County, including the Town of Vinton, and the portion of Botetourt County south of the Town of Fincastle is collected through a series of pipes and transported to the Roanoke Regional Water Pollution Control Plant (WPC Plant) for treatment. The plant, which has been in operation since 1951 and upgraded many times, is a state-of-the-art facility permitted to treat 55 million gallons per day (mgd) of wastewater and treats a daily average of 32 mgd. Treated water from the plant is released to the Roanoke River.

Wastewater from the Google project will be sent to the WPC Plant for treatment through the existing pipe network serving the business park. The Authority already treats wastewater from dozens of cooling towers around the valley without issue. With regard to nitrates, the project will be using potable water free of nitrates so no nitrates will be present in the discharged wastewater. There is no plan to discharge this wastewater to the James River or area creeks as the pipe and treatment plant capacity already exist.

APPROVED: May 21, 2026



Gayle Shrewsbury

Gayle Shrewsbury, Secretary

WVWA Board of Directors