

WESTERN WESTMORELAND MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING – FEBRUARY 15, 2024

The Board of Directors of the Western Westmoreland Municipal Authority held a regular monthly and annual reorganizational meeting on Thursday, February 15, 2024 at 6:00 P.M. in the Authority conference room, duly advertised, as required, and with the following persons in attendance:

1. Roll Call 6:00 P.M.:

Board Members in Attendance:

Mr. Kurt Bonnet	Mr. Stanley Caroline, Jr.	Mr. Charles Gilbert
Mr. Charles Konkus	Ms. Lisa Kovac	Mr. Joseph Lapia
Mr. Dylan Mace	Mr. Kevin McHugh	

Absent:

Mr. Bob Regola	Mr. John Slivka
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Others in Attendance:

Mr. Chad Hanley, Consulting Engineer  
Mr. Stanley A. Gorski, Jr., Authority Manager  
Mr. Mark J. Wolinsky, Operations and Compliance Manager  
Mrs. Johanna Wtorkowski, Finance Director and Assistant Secretary-Treasurer/Recording Secretary

Attended virtually, through Microsoft Teams:

Mr. Matthew Racunas, Solicitor

2. Mr. Caroline led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Annual Reorganization:

A. Appointment of Officers:

Mr. Caroline turned the meeting over to Solicitor Matthew Racunas for the annual reorganization.

1. Nomination of Chairman/Chairwoman:

Mr. Racunas called for nominations for the office of Chairman. Mr. Konkus nominated Stanley J. Caroline, Jr., and Mr. Gilbert seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations. A roll-call vote was requested.

Mr. Bonnet – yes	Mr. Caroline – yes	Mr. Gilbert – yes
Mr. Konkus – yes	Ms. Kovac – yes	Mr. Lapia – yes
Mr. Mace – yes	Mr. McHugh – yes	

The motion to appoint Mr. Caroline as Chairman passed, 8-0.

Mr. Racunas turned to meeting over to Chairman Caroline.

2. Nomination of Vice-Chairman/Vice-Chairwoman:

Mr. Caroline called for nominations for the office of Vice-Chairman. Mr. Konkus nominated Dylan Mace, and Mr. Lapia seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations. A roll-call vote was requested.

Mr. Bonnet – yes	Mr. Caroline – yes	Mr. Gilbert – yes
Mr. Konkus – yes	Ms. Kovac – yes	Mr. Lapia – yes
Mr. Mace – yes	Mr. McHugh – yes	

The motion to appoint Mr. Mace as Vice-Chairman passed, 8-0.

3. Nomination of Secretary:

Mr. Caroline called for nominations for the office of Secretary. Mr. Konkus nominated Joseph N. Lapia, and Mr. Gilbert seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations. A roll-call vote was requested.

Mr. Bonnet – yes	Mr. Caroline – yes	Mr. Gilbert – yes
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Mr. Konkus – yes                      Ms. Kovac – yes                      Mr. Lapia – yes  
Mr. Mace – yes                      Mr. McHugh – yes

The motion to appoint Mr. Lapia as Secretary passed, 8-0.

4. Nomination of Treasurer:

Mr. Caroline called for nominations for the office of Treasurer. Mr. Lapia nominated Charles T. Konkus, and Mr. McHugh seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations. A roll-call vote was requested.

Mr. Bonnet – yes                      Mr. Caroline – yes                      Mr. Gilbert – yes  
Mr. Konkus – yes                      Ms. Kovac – yes                      Mr. Lapia – yes  
Mr. Mace – yes                      Mr. McHugh – yes

The motion to appoint Mr. Konkus as Treasurer passed, 8-0.

5. Nomination of Assistant Secretary-Treasurer:

Mr. Caroline called for nominations for the office of Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, a non-voting office. Mr. Konkus nominated Johanna Wtorkowski, and Mr. Lapia seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations. A roll-call vote was requested.

Mr. Bonnet – yes                      Mr. Caroline – yes                      Mr. Gilbert – yes  
Mr. Konkus – yes                      Ms. Kovac – yes                      Mr. Lapia – yes  
Mr. Mace – yes                      Mr. McHugh – yes

The motion to appoint Mrs. Wtorkowski as Assistant Secretary-Treasurer passed, 8-0.

B. Appointment of Solicitor:

Mr. Caroline called for nominations for appointment of Solicitor. Mr. Lapia nominated Racunas Law Group, LLC, and Mr. Mace seconded the motion. There were no other nominations. A roll-call vote was requested.

Mr. Bonnet – yes                      Mr. Caroline – yes                      Mr. Gilbert – yes  
Mr. Konkus – yes                      Ms. Kovac – yes                      Mr. Lapia – yes  
Mr. Mace – yes                      Mr. McHugh – yes

The motion to appoint Racunas Law Group, LLC as Solicitor passed 8-0.

Mr. Racunas thanked the Board for the appointment.

C. Appointment of Consulting Engineer:

Mr. Caroline called for nominations for appointment of Consulting Engineer. Mr. Lapia nominated Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc. (HRG), and Mr. Konkus seconded the motion. There were no other nominations. A roll-call vote was requested.

Mr. Bonnet – yes                      Mr. Caroline – yes                      Mr. Gilbert – yes  
Mr. Konkus – yes                      Ms. Kovac – yes                      Mr. Lapia – yes  
Mr. Mace – yes                      Mr. McHugh – yes

The motion to appoint HRG as Consulting Engineer and authorize the Authority Manager to sign the Engineering Services Contract on behalf of the Authority, passed 8-0.

Mr. Hanley thanked the Board for the appointment.

D. Appointment of Auditor:

Mr. Caroline called for nominations for appointment of Auditor. Mr. Konkus nominated Opst & Associates, LLC, and Mr. Lapia seconded the motion. There were no other nominations. A roll-call vote was requested.

Mr. Bonnet – yes                      Mr. Caroline – yes                      Mr. Gilbert – yes  
Mr. Konkus – yes                      Ms. Kovac – yes                      Mr. Lapia – yes  
Mr. Mace – yes                      Mr. McHugh – yes

The motion to appoint Opst & Associates as Auditor passed 8-0.

E. Appointment of Trustee:

Mr. Caroline called for nominations for appointment of Trustee. Mr. Gilbert nominated U.S. Bank, and Ms. Kovac seconded the motion. There were no other nominations. A roll-call vote was requested.

Mr. Bonnet – yes                      Mr. Caroline – yes                      Mr. Gilbert – yes  
Mr. Konkus – yes                      Ms. Kovac – yes                      Mr. Lapia – yes

Mr. Mace – yes                      Mr. McHugh – yes

The motion to appoint U.S. Bank as Trustee passed 8-0.

F. Appointment of Bond Counsel:

Mr. Caroline called for nominations for appointment of Bond Counsel. Mr. Mace nominated Clark Hill PLC, and Mr. McHugh seconded the motion. There were no other nominations. A roll-call vote was requested.

Mr. Bonnet – yes                      Mr. Caroline – yes                      Mr. Gilbert – yes  
Mr. Konkus – yes                      Ms. Kovac – yes                      Mr. Lapia – yes  
Mr. Mace – yes                      Mr. McHugh – yes

The motion to appoint Clark Hill PLC as Bond Counsel passed 8-0.

G. Appointment of Bond Servicing Agent/Financial Advisor:

Mr. Caroline called for nominations for appointment of Bond Servicing Agent/Financial Advisor. Mr. Konkus nominated Commonwealth Investment Management, Inc., and Mr. Lapia seconded the motion. There were no other nominations. A roll-call vote was requested.

Mr. Bonnet – yes                      Mr. Caroline – yes                      Mr. Gilbert – yes  
Mr. Konkus – yes                      Ms. Kovac – yes                      Mr. Lapia – yes  
Mr. Mace – yes                      Mr. McHugh – yes

The motion to appoint Commonwealth Investment Management, Inc. as Bond Servicing Agent/Financial Advisor passed, 8-0.

H. Appointment of Depository:

Mr. Caroline called for nominations for appointment of Depository. Ms. Kovac nominated First National Bank, and Mr. Konkus seconded the motion. There were no other nominations. A roll-call vote was requested.

Mr. Bonnet – yes                      Mr. Caroline – yes                      Mr. Gilbert – yes  
Mr. Konkus – yes                      Ms. Kovac – yes                      Mr. Lapia – yes  
Mr. Mace – yes                      Mr. McHugh – yes

The motion to appoint First National Bank as Depository passed 8-0.

I. Mr. Caroline appointed the committee members as follows:

Legal & Engineering Services Committee:

Charles Gilbert  
Kevin McHugh  
Kurt Bonnet

Finance & Budget Committee:

Charles Konkus  
Bob Regola  
Lisa Kovac

Personnel Committee:

Joseph Lapia  
Dylan Mace  
John Slivka

Mr. Caroline stated that the committee members will elect the committee chairs and vice-chairs at the first committee meeting following the Authority's annual reorganization.

4. Public Comments: None

5. Communications: None

6. Secretary's Report: Joseph Lapia:

A. Mr. Lapia requested the approval of the minutes for the regular meeting of January 18, 2024, as presented. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Konkus, and seconded by Mr. Mace. The motion passed unanimously.

This concluded the Secretary's Report.

7. Treasurer's Report – Charles Konkus:

Mr. Konkus requested the approval of the following requisitions:

- A. Revenue Fund Requisition No. 441: Scott Electric: \$111.08: A motion to approve was made by Mr. Lapia, and seconded by Mr. McHugh. The motion passed, 7-0, with an abstention by Mr. Konkus, who is an employee of Scott Electric. A memorandum, signed by Mr. Konkus, is attached to these minutes.
- B. Revenue Fund Requisition No. 442: \$194,603.06: A motion to approve was made by Mr. Lapia, and seconded by Mr. Bonnet. The motion passed unanimously.

This concluded the Treasurer's report.

8. Authority Manager's Report – Stanley Gorski, Jr.:

- A. Mr. Gorski reported that there were no NPDES violations for January. There were no plant by-passes during January. A total of 5.29 million gallons was transferred to the equalization (EQ) tank, due to rain events on January 9, 2024 and January 28, 2024. Average plant flow was 4.68 mgd. Average plant flow for the same period in 2023 was 4.85 mgd. Rainfall was 4.89". Mr. Lapia asked if the EQ tank needs to be cleaned. Mr. Gorski stated that the tank is hosed periodically, but heavy cleaning is not required, as the effluent entering the tank goes through the screens at the pump station.
- B. COA-Phase III Project:
  - 1. Mr. Dale Mills, of the PaDEP, approved the final change order. Mr. Gorski anticipates that Mr. Mills will issue final approval of the contract within a week.
- C. General Updates:
  - 1. Mr. Gorski reported that the Authority's new employee, Slater McGonigle, has been scheduled for CDL training starting March 4, 2024, with Allstate Driving School. Mr. Gorski obtained three quotes: Sage Trucking, 160 Driving Academy, and Allstate Driving School. Allstate came in the lowest, at \$3,800.00. Mr. McGonigle will complete two separate training sessions, with each course totaling forty (40) hours of training. After the initial training, Mr. McGonigle will be able to practice with the Authority's truck. He will then have additional tractor-trailer training, in order to obtain a CDL-A license. Mr. Lapia asked for clarification on Mr. McGonigle being required to reimburse the Authority for the cost of training if he leaves the Authority within five (5) years of receiving the training. Mr. Gorski confirmed that the Union contract stipulates reimbursement as Mr. Lapia stated.
- D. Plant Operations:
  - 1. Mr. Gorski reported that the plant started to go into nitrite lock at the end of January. Plant personnel made appropriate adjustments, which took the plant out of nitrite lock within three to five days. Mr. Gorski explained that cold weather can trigger nitrite lock.
- E. Mr. Gorski thanked Ms. Kovac for providing him with contact information for North Irwin Borough. Mr. Gorski stated that he met with Ms. Kovac on a Saturday to address an apparent sewer manhole overflow. The problem was actually caused by a water line break above the manhole.
- F. Mr. Gorski stated that he has one item to bring up during the Executive Session, regarding the Penn Township Sewage Authority Service Area.
- G. Mr. Gorski requested Board approval of Opst & Associates, LLC's Audit Proposal for the years 2024 through 2026. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Lapia, and seconded by Mr. Gilbert. The motion passed unanimously.
- H. Mr. Gorski deferred to Mr. Mark Wolinsky, Operations and Compliance Manager, who presented a detailed explanation of the Brush Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant's sewage treatment process, the effects of ammonia in landfill leachate to wastewater treatment, potential future PaDEP ammonia limits, ammonia concentration vs ammonia loading and methods for setting ammonia limits for the landfill, establishing surcharges for the landfill that would level their monthly costs, procedures available to the landfill that can level the amount of ammonia entering WWMA's wastewater treatment plant, various plant improvements and upgrades to treat ammonia that would benefit the Authority as well as the landfill, and benefits provided to the Authority by the landfill under the current agreement between WWMA and Waste Management. A discussion followed. The Board thanked Mr. Wolinsky for presenting the information in a way that was easy to understand, while holding their interest.

This concluded the Authority Manager's report.

9. Consulting Engineer: Chad Hanley, HRG:

- A. Monthly Update:
  - 1. Mr. Hanley reported that HRG is currently working on the annual Chapter 94 Report, which will be submitted by March 31, 2024.
  - 2. Mr. Hanley reported that HRG is continuing to work on the Process Improvements Project. Mr. Hanley spoke with the Xylem representative today regarding pricing for equipment. The addition of aeration grit replacement has added cost to the project.

Mr. Konkus stated that he was happy to have HRG on board.

This concluded Mr. Hanley's report. The complete report is attached to these minutes.

i. Solicitor's Report – Matt Racunas:

A. Mr. Racunas thanked the Board for his reappointment.

B. United Concordia:

Mr. Racunas stated that he does not think that an appeal has been filed. Mr. Racunas stated that there was some lack of communication regarding delivery of finding of fact by Mr. Korn to United Concordia.

C. The remaining item will be discussed during the Executive Session.

This concluded the Solicitor's Report.

11. Reports of Committees:

A. Personnel Committee: Joseph Lapia: There was no report.

B. Finance and Budget Committee: Charles Konkus:

1. Mr. Konkus requested that the Board authorize a transfer in the amount of \$130,949.75 from the Revenue Fund to the PENNVEST Account. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Lapia, and seconded by Mr. McHugh. The motion passed unanimously.

This concluded the Finance and Budget Committee report.

C. Legal and Engineering Services Committee: Kevin McHugh: There was no report.

12. Requisitions and PENNVEST Payments:

Mr. Caroline requested Board approval of the following Requisitions:

A. Approve Capital Improvement Fund Requisition No. 116: Scott Electric, in the amount of \$181.16: A motion to approve was made by Mr. Mace, and seconded by Mr. Gilbert. The motion passed, 7-0, with an abstention by Mr. Konkus, who is an employee of Scott Electric. A memorandum, signed by Mr. Konkus, is attached to these minutes.

B. Approve Capital Improvement Fund Requisition No. 117, in the amount of \$3,128.42: A motion to approve was made by Ms. Kovac, and seconded by Mr. Konkus. The motion passed unanimously.

13. Board Member Comments:

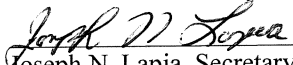
A. Mr. Caroline thanked Mr. Wolinsky for his presentation.

14. Executive Session: A motion was made by Mr. Lapia, and seconded by Mr. Gilbert, to enter into an executive session to discuss legal matters and potential litigation. The motion passed unanimously. The executive session began at 7:18 P.M.

It is noted that Mr. Wolinsky left the meeting at this time.

A motion to return to the regular order of business was made by Mr. Konkus, and seconded by Mr. McHugh. The motion passed unanimously. The Board returned to the regular meeting at 8:11 P.M. The items discussed were matters of potential litigation.

15. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Lapia, and seconded by Ms. Kovac. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 P.M.

  
Joseph N. Lapia, Secretary

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Secretary of the Board of Directors of  
Western Westmoreland Municipal Authority

FROM: Charles T. Konkus

DATE: February 15, 2024

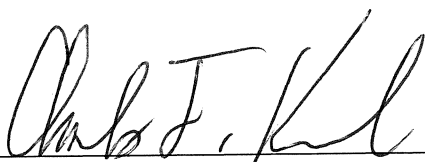
I, the undersigned, Director of Board of the Western Westmoreland Municipal Authority do hereby publicly announce and disclose that due to the following conflict, or possible conflict of interest, I am abstaining from voting of the hereinafter set forth matter coming before the Board of the Western Westmoreland Municipal Authority.

Nature of Possible Conflict:

Employee of Scott Electric, a supplier of electrical purchases made by the Authority

Subject to be acted upon:

Approve Capital Improvement Fund Requisition No. 116: Scott Electric, in the amount of \$181.16



\_\_\_\_\_  
(Member's Signature)

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Secretary of the Board of Directors of  
Western Westmoreland Municipal Authority

FROM: Charles T. Konkus

DATE: February 15, 2024

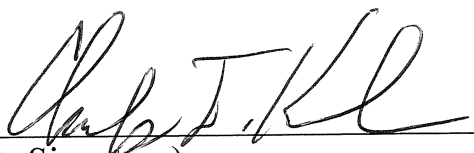
I, the undersigned, Director of Board of the Western Westmoreland Municipal Authority do hereby publicly announce and disclose that due to the following conflict, or possible conflict of interest, I am abstaining from voting of the hereinafter set forth matter coming before the Board of the Western Westmoreland Municipal Authority.

Nature of Possible Conflict:

Employee of Scott Electric, a supplier of electrical purchases made by the Authority

Subject to be acted upon:

Approve Revenue Fund Requisition No. 441, Scott Electric, in the amount of \$111.08

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Member's Signature)

The Western Westmoreland Municipal Authority  
 COA Improvement Project - Phase III  
 Bushy Run, Paintertown, & Manor Sewer Interceptor Upgrades



**Construction Status Report**

Report Period: January-23

Prepared By: BMB  
 Date: Feb 8, 2024

Total Days: 730  
 Days Expended: 898  
 Days Remaining: -168

Construction Start Date: May 19, 2021  
 Construction Completion Date: May 19, 2023

Contract	Contract Award	B Approved Change Orders	C=(A+B) Current Contract Amount	D Value of Work Completed to Date	E=(D/C) Percent Complete	F=100-E Percent Remaining	F=(B/C) Percent Change Orders
Kukurin Contracting, Inc.	\$ 4,744,447.00	\$ (200,946.95)	\$ 4,543,500.05	\$ 4,543,500.05	100%	0%	-4%

Retainage: \$ -  
 Net Amount Earned to Date: \$ 4,543,500.05  
 Previous Payments: \$ 4,543,500.05  
**Balance Due This Pay Period: \$ (0.00)**

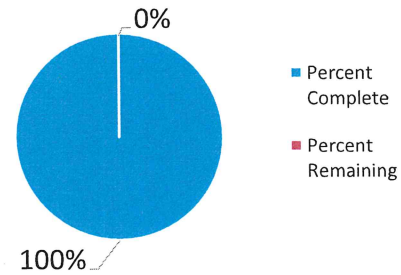
**Balance to Finish Plus Retainage: \$ -**

**COMMENTS:**

**Work Completed This Period:**

- Coordination of PENNVEST closeout
- Coordination with Dan Mikesic from PENNVEST regarding project closeout
- Coordination with Dale Mills regarding Change Orders and project closeout
- Attended final DEP Inspection on 1/24
  
- Total Number of Construction Meetings:  
 (6) Virtual Check-ins after bid during pipe shortage, (1) Preconstruction, (27) Construction Progress Meetings
- Total Number of full Inspector Days: 300.5

**Project Status**







Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc.  
220 West Kensing Drive, Suite 100  
Cranberry Township, PA 16066  
724.779.4777  
www.hrg-inc.com

## CONSULTING ENGINEER'S REPORT

### WESTERN WESTMORELAND MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY

Attn: Mr. Stanley A. Gorski, Jr., Authority Manager  
Report Period: January 2024  
HRG Project Number: R008234.0426



February 15, 2024, Authority Meeting

### RETAINER SERVICES (.0426)

- HRG prepared the 2023 Q4 Tap Fee Calculations on January 2, 2024.
- HRG is preparing the Wasteload Management (Chapter 94) report, which is due to DEP by March 31, 2024.

### GENERAL SERVICES (.0427)

- Service Area review
  - HRG has attended meetings regarding the service area agreement.
- Landfill discharge:
  - HRG reviewed field study data provided by Authority Staff that includes ammonia-nitrogen, BOD, and free cyanide levels in samples from five manholes in the WWMA system (Bushy Run, Larimer, Manor, Paintertown, and Tinkers Run). The samples were conducted during a time when the landfill was purportedly not discharging leachate. A meeting is scheduled to discuss the landfill with staff on February 21<sup>st</sup> and with Valley Landfill on February 27<sup>th</sup>.
  - Previously:
    - HRG provided PFAS data review from the landfill discharge and WWTP sampling and attended a meeting with WWMA and PTSA staff to discuss the service area agreement.
    - HRG evaluated whether it is beneficial to accept leachate from Valley Landfill and prepared a memo to provide a more comprehensive understanding of both the financial and operational impacts to the WWTP. A draft memo was provided to the Authority Manager and a final memo was provided prior to the September 21<sup>st</sup> meeting.
- Peracetic Acid:
  - On July 12<sup>th</sup> HRG met with Authority Staff and DEP to discuss the potential for a pilot peracetic acid disinfection program.
  - At the request of the Authority, HRG has been preparing a net present value (NPV) of disinfection alternatives. HRG is waiting on further information from vendors.

## PLANNING MODULE REVIEWS (.0428)

- A planning module exemption request was reviewed in January for Lincoln Center.

## NPDES PERMIT RENEWAL (.0429)

- The final NPDES permit was received on December 8, 2023.
  - HRG reviewed the requirements of the permit with Authority Staff on January 4, 2024.
- HRG will coordinate with Authority Staff to prepare a sampling plan and begin the TRE work plan that is due to DEP by July 1, 2024.

## WWTP PROCESS IMPROVEMENTS (.0430)

### LSA State-Wide Grant Project

- HRG met with Sanitaire (Xylem), Kappe Associates, and Authority Staff on January 4, 2024 to determine the extent of drawings that will be necessary to prepare.
  - Grant funds need to be spent by June 2026 and due to lead times, the goal is for HRG to complete drawings and scope of work specifications in spring 2024, have COSTARS proposal and submittals approved in summer 2024, and for construction to commence in early spring 2025.
  - HRG reviewed the proposal provided by Xylem on January 24, 2024 and provided comments.

### WWTP Evaluation Study

- HRG received the preliminary effluent limits from DEP on May 22, 2023. HRG reviewed these and concluded there are significant differences between the effluent limits of the current stream conditions and a waterway that receives mitigated acid mine drainage flow. HRG continues to evaluate WWTP alternatives.

## GIS SERVICES (.0431)

- No updates.

## END OF ENGINEER'S RETAINER SERVICES AND ACTIVE PROJECTS REPORT

Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc.



Chad E. Hanley, P.E.  
Group Manager | Water & Wastewater

CEH/SCS/kmg  
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c: Ms. Johanna Wtorkowski