

WESTERN WESTMORELAND MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING – APRIL 17, 2025

The Board of Directors of the Western Westmoreland Municipal Authority held a regular monthly meeting on Thursday, April 17, 2025 at 6:00 P.M. in the Authority conference room, duly advertised, as required, and with the following people in attendance:

1. Roll Call:

Board Members in Attendance:

Mr. Stanley Caroline, Jr.

Mr. Charles Konkus

Ms. Lisa Kovac

Mr. Joseph Lapia

Mr. Dylan Mace

Mr. Bob Regola

Absent:

Mr. Kurt Bonnet

Mr. Charles Gilbert

Mr. Kevin McHugh

Mr. John Slivka

Others in Attendance:

Mr. Matthew Racunas, Solicitor

Mr. Chad Hanley, Consulting Engineer

Ms. Amanda Lee, Consulting Engineer

Mr. Stanley A. Gorski, Jr., Authority Manager

Mrs. Johanna Wtorkowski, Finance Director and

Assistant Secretary-Treasurer/Recording Secretary

2. Mr. Caroline led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Public Comments: None

4. Communications: None

5. Secretary's Report: Joseph Lapia:

- A. Mr. Lapia requested the approval of the minutes for the regular monthly meeting of March 20, 2025 as presented. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Konkus and seconded by Ms. Kovac. The motion passed unanimously.

This concluded the Secretary's Report.

6. Treasurer's Report: Charles Konkus:

Mr. Konkus requested the approval of the following requisition:

- A. Revenue Fund Requisition No. 462: \$184,563.13: A motion to approve was made by Mr. Lapia and seconded by Ms. Kovac. The motion passed unanimously.

This concluded the Treasurer's report.

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

A. Monthly Update:

1. There were no NPDES violations or by-pass events for March. There were over four million gallons in the equalization (EQ) tank on April 4, 2025, due to a wet weather event. Rain from April 4-7, 2025 resulted in nearly five million gallons of flow being diverted to the EQ Tank. Mr. Gorski commended the plant employees on draining the tank and dealing with the increased flow at the plant during this period. Average

plant flow was 2.94 mgd. Maximum plant flow was 3.94 mgd. Total rainfall was 1.77". Mr. Gorski stated that the walls of the EQ tank will be hosed within the next two months.

B. Waste Management/Valley Landfill:

1. Mr. Gorski reported that a meeting has been scheduled for April 29, 2025 at 9:00 A.M. with representatives of Waste Management/Valley Landfill.

C. Penn Township Sewage Authority (PTSA) Interceptor Update:

1. Mr. Gorski reported that a meeting has been scheduled for April 29, 2025 at PTSA's office. Mr. Gorski stated that he will update the Board following the meeting.

D. Mr. Gorski requested Board approval of an increase in the amount of \$1,800.00 for the purchase of a direct replacement effluent pump from Kappe Associates, Inc., for a revised COSTARS price of \$14,400.00, plus possible market adjustments for freight, due to a 2025 price increase. A motion to approve was made by Ms. Kovac and seconded by Mr. Mace. Mr. Gorski stated that both effluent pumps need to be replaced, and he would like to order both pumps now, due to possible price increases resulting from implementation of tariffs. Mr. Racunas stated that tonight's agenda cannot be amended to approve the purchase of the second pump. Mr. Racunas stated that he does not recommend using ratification unless the issue is important and cannot wait until the next regular meeting. The motion to purchase one pump passed unanimously.

E. Mr. Gorski requested Board approval of Mockenhaupt Benefits Group/Acrisure's proposal for an Actuarial Valuation of Postemployment Benefits Other than Pension (OPEB) as of January 1, 2026, at an estimated cost of \$3,900.00. Mr. Gorski stated that Mockenhaupt is transitioning to Acrisure, but the transition to Acrisure has not yet been made official. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Lapia and seconded by Mr. Konkus. The motion passed unanimously.

F. Mr. Gorski reported that the Authority has large used breakers from the old switch gear that are being stored on the dock. The breakers are approximately fifteen years old. Mr. Gorski reached out to Radwell, who offered to purchase the used equipment for \$2,490.00. Mr. Gorski requested Board authorization to sell used breakers to Radwell for \$2,490.00. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Lapia and seconded by Ms. Kovac. The motion passed, 5-1, with Mr. Konkus voting against the motion.

General Updates:

1. WWTP Disinfection Improvements-Sodium Hypochlorite Project:

Mr. Gorski stated that he is still waiting for a response from the PaDEP regarding the permit application.

2. LSA Grant Process Improvements Project:

Mr. Gorski reported that the Authority has narrowed the vendor search to two COSTAR vendors. HRG is currently working with those vendors on the drawings and specifications for the blowers, valves, actuators, sensors, etc.

3. COA-Phase III CCTV Inspection:

Mr. Gorski reported that he met with a representative of Kukurin Contracting, Inc., on April 10, 2025. Mr. Gorski stated that Kukurin will plug the line and run a camera (at their cost) when the flow has receded. Mr. Gorski stated that he would like a second video assessment of the section of the interceptor that is in question. Kukurin stated that they would repair any defects.

4. Hydrogen Sulfide (H₂S) Gas Remediation:

Mr. Gorski reported that he met with HRG to discuss options to remediate H₂S gas from the Centrifuge Room. A temporary flex pipe was installed that extends the vent in the Centrifuge Room to the exhaust fan, expelling the H₂S gas into the environment. Mr. Gorski stated that, at the 2025 Wastewater Summit, he learned of interesting bacteria that could be added to the system to reduce H₂S gas. Mr. Gorski stated that he will look into this option.

5. Dornan Property:

Mr. Gorski reported that he had J.P. Operations, Bittner Excavation, and Kukurin Contracting, Inc., look at the Dornan property, regarding a drainage issue that resulted from a change in elevation in the Brush Creek Interceptor. Kukurin stated that they would correct the drainage issue.

6. Mr. Gorski stated that the two boilers for the digesters need to be replaced. The methane gas that is being produced at the plant is eroding the boilers. The boilers are scheduled for inspection in 2026. Combustion Services has repaired the system as well as they can, but the system should be replaced before 2026. Mr. Gorski stated that it would be less expensive to replace the entire system at once, rather than separately. Mr. Gorski stated that the estimated cost is \$417,000.00 to replace both boilers. Mr. Gorski stated that, if the Authority switched to a system that only uses natural gas, the cost would be \$47,000.00 less, but the natural gas costs would skyrocket. Mr. Gorski stated that ideally, he would like to move to an aerobic system, in which case the Dystor covers would be removed, and there would be no methane gas production.

7. Flooring:

Mr. Gorski reported that he will finish the installation of vinyl plank flooring in the Control Building, including the three offices, the conference room, and the file server room. Mr. Gorski has obtained a quote from Empire Today, and he will be getting a quote from Lint Flooring.

8. 2025 Wastewater Summit:

- a. Mr. Gorski stated that during his attendance at the 2025 Wastewater Summit, he learned about a co-op purchase agreement program called Source Well that is similar to COSTAR but can offer better pricing than COSTAR. There is no cost to join the program. Mr. Gorski stated that he will register WWMA in the program.
- b. Mr. Gorski reported that the topic of Artificial Intelligence (AI) was discussed at the 2025 Wastewater Summit. Mr. Gorski stated that while he wants to be conscientious about AI, there are applications that could benefit the Authority. Mr. Gorski stated that representatives of WWMA, North Huntingdon Township Municipal Authority, and Western Butler Authority will meet jointly with a vendor to discuss long-term preventative maintenance options using AI.

This concluded the Authority Manager's report.

8. Consulting Engineer: Chad Hanley, HRG:

A. Update:

1. The contract documents for the odor control carbon media replacement project were issued to the contractor. The contractor had made a few errors in the contract. Those errors were corrected, and Mr. Hanley received the final contract documents today.

This concluded the Engineer's report.

9. Solicitor's Report – Matthew Racunas:

- A. Mr. Racunas stated that the Personnel Committee, Mr. Gorski, and he believe that the Authority's Drug and Alcohol Policy is in an appropriate shape to present to the Union. This policy will be presented to the Board for approval later in the meeting.

This completed the Solicitor's report.

10. Reports of Committees:

A. Personnel Committee – Joseph Lapia:

1. Mr. Lapia requested the adoption of the amended Drug and Alcohol Policies (CDL (DOT) and Non-CDL (Non-DOT)) and authorization for the Authority Manager to present the policies to the Collective Bargaining Unit for acceptance. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Regola and seconded by Mr. Mace. Mr. Lapia asked if employees' Social Security numbers or driver's licenses are required. Mr. Gorski stated that driver's licenses as identifiers are required by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA). Mr. Lapia expressed concern about having employees' confidential information released. Mr. Gorski explained that the drug testing company stated that the use of driver's license numbers as identifiers is a requirement of FMCSA. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Finance and Budget Committee – Lisa Kovac:

1. Ms. Kovac requested that the Board approve investments listed under Agenda Items 10B (1) (a) and 10B (1) (b), including:
- a. Authorization to purchase a one-month United States Treasury Bill in the amount of \$10,635,000.00, *and*
 - b. Authorize the Trustee, upon the maturity or other redemption of the tax-exempt municipal bonds (CUSIP Nos. 121638FC9, 97705ML37, 118565XD7, 677522K78 and 97705MST3) currently held in the Debt Service Reserve Fund ("DSRF") and scheduled to mature or otherwise be redeemed on May 1, 2025, to purchase with moneys then held in the DSRF, and accept delivery of for deposit in the DSRF, such tax-exempt municipal bonds that are DSRF Permitted Investments as may be purchased by Commonwealth Investment Management ("CIM") on the Authority's behalf for delivery to the Trustee for the purpose, at an aggregate cost (excluding accrued interest) which, when added to the cost (excluding accrued interest) of all other tax-exempt municipal bonds then held in the DSRF, shall not exceed \$2,175,262.50, provided that the aggregate cost thereof, including accrued interest, does not exceed the available cash balance in the DSRF. CIM, as the Authority's Financial Advisor, is hereby authorized to arrange for the aforementioned purchases by and sales to the Trustee.

A motion to approve was made by Mr. Lapia and seconded by Mr. Regola. The motion passed unanimously.

This concluded the Finance and Budget Committee report.

C. Legal and Engineering Services Committee – There was no report.

11. Requisitions:

Mr. Caroline requested Board approval of the following Requisition:

- A. Approval of Capital Improvement Fund Requisition No. 131, in the amount of \$19,498.03: A motion to approve was made by Ms. Kovac and seconded by Mr. Regola. The motion passed unanimously.

12. Board Member Comments: None

13. Old Business: None

14. New Business:

- A. Mr. Caroline requested that the Board adopt Resolution No. 2025-02 Amending and Supplementing Resolution No. 2005-06, 2005-09, and 2007-04 to Establish Procedures for a Capacity Tapping Fee Refund. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Mace and seconded by Ms. Kovac. Mr. Lapia stated that people will need to read four separate Resolutions to see all of the information. Mr. Lapia stated that the previous Resolutions should be rescinded and a new Resolution prepared. Mr. Racunas stated that the Resolution being approved this evening is solely regarding refunds. Mr. Gorski stated that this Resolution should be added to the Sewer Use Rules and Regulations. Mr. Lapia asked why the administrative fee is stated in the Resolution. He said that, if the fee is amended, the Resolution will need to be amended. Mr. Racunas stated that the language in this Resolution states that the fees can be set from time to time. A discussion followed. Mr. Racunas stated that he included a modest administrative fee because the Authority will incur some cost to process a refund. The motion to approve the Resolution (as written) passed unanimously.

15. Executive Session: None

16. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms. Kovac and seconded by Mr. Lapia. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:38 P.M.



Joseph N. Lapia, Secretary



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CONSULTING ENGINEER'S REPORT

WESTERN WESTMORELAND MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY

Attn: Mr. Stanley A. Gorski, Jr., Authority Manager
Report Period: March 2025
HRG Project Number: R008234.0426
Prepared: April 10, 2025



April 17, 2025 Authority Meeting

RETAINER SERVICES (.0426)

- HRG attended the March Board Meeting and shall attend the April Board Meeting.
- HRG provided the updated tap fee calculation on April 2nd.

GENERAL SERVICES (.0427)

- Landfill agreement. No updates; previously:
 - HRG provided final exhibits to WWMA Staff and HRG and WWMA met with Waste Management (WM) on January 24th to present the exhibits and agreement. HRG and WWMA Staff met with WM on February 12th to review the draft agreement. No response has been received from WM as of the writing of this report.
- HRG is working with Authority Staff to troubleshoot equipment restarting issues after power outages at the plant.
- HRG assisted with SCADA and instrumentation reviews.
- HRG conducted a site visit on March 26th to assess odor concerns in the centrifuge room and begin developing solutions.

PLANNING MODULE REVIEWS (.0428)

- HRG provided a capacity verification for the Huss Subdivision and a planning module review for the Tuscan Hills Phase 8 & 9 development.

NPDES PERMIT RENEWAL (.0429)

No updates. Previously:

- Phase 2 – TRE Report
 - HRG submitted the TRE Report on February 19th. Results demonstrated a lab interference and indicated that free cyanide limits and testing requirements may be removed from the NPDES permit. DEP has completed their completeness review and is working on Technical Review with a target completion date of November 5, 2025.

- Phase 03 WQBEL Compliance Report
 - Given the findings of the TRE and pending approval of the permit amendment application, this phase will not be required.
- Phase 05 Permit Amendment Application
 - HRG submitted an NPDES permit modification application to remove free cyanide requirements and the need for the WQBEL Compliance Report. This application was submitted as an appendix item to the final TRE Report.

WWTP PROCESS IMPROVEMENTS (.0430)

WWTP Evaluation Study

- No activity this month. HRG and WWMA will meet with PADEP to discuss required permitting for the WWTP rerate in the future; it is intended that we first work through the permitting for the TRE and the disinfection projects before approaching DEP on the rerate.

GIS SERVICES (.0431)

- No updates.

SMALL CAPITAL PROJECTS (.0432)

Phase 03: Odor Control Carbon Replacement

- HRG is working with the bidder to finalize agreements, bonds, and insurance.

WWTP DISINFECTION IMPROVEMENTS: SODIUM HYPO (.0434)

- HRG is in final design of the sodium hypochlorite system, inclusive of dosing pumps, bulk storage, and chemical containment.
- HRG coordinated with vendors to select and size equipment and prepare technical specifications.
- HRG submitted the Water Quality Management (WQM) permit application to DEP on January 10th. The permit application has passed the completeness review and is currently under technical review. DEP estimates a return date at the end of May 2025. DEP contacted HRG asking for additional information. This information was promptly returned to DEP on March 4th.
- HRG conducted a site visit on February 21st to finalize some design decisions.

LSA – PROCESS CONTROL IMPROVEMENTS (.0435)

- HRG is preparing drawings and valve schedules for existing conditions and proposed upgrades to include replacement of blowers, valves, actuators, instrumentation, and control panel.
- HRG began preparing process calculations and reviewing SCADA needs for the project.
- HRG and WWMA met with Aerzen on February 11th to learn more about their blowers and control system. An additional meeting with Aerzen was held on March 13th to finalize scope.

PTSA SERVICE AREA EXPANSION (.0436)

- No activity this month. Previously,
- HRG attended a meeting with WWMA and PTSA in December 2024.

PHASE III INTERCEPTOR CCTV PROJECT (.0437)

- Insight Pipe mobilized and completed the work in January.
- HRG has received all videos, has completed the review, and compiled findings. HRG provided an update to WWMA on March 5th and discussed a sag that was present. HRG is reviewing initial CCTV captured at the time of the project to determine if the sag in the pipe has progressed over time and if the sag exceeds contract requirements and industry standards. HRG will provide a recommendation to WWMA should a repair be required.

END OF ENGINEER'S RETAINER SERVICES AND ACTIVE PROJECTS REPORT

Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc.



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

CEH/LBL/ALP/SCS/AEL

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c: Ms. Johanna Wtorkowski
Mr. Mark Wolinsky