



MINUTES

**Business Meeting of the
Niagara Falls Water Board
January 26, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.**

**Water Treatment Plant Conference Room
5815 Buffalo Avenue, Niagara Falls New York 14304**

Meeting could be attended in person or via videoconference. Minutes do not represent a complete summary of all matters discussed. Complete video recordings of meetings are posted online at: <https://tinyurl.com/nfwbMedia>.

1. Preliminary Matters

a. Call To Order

Chairman Sirianni called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

The Chairman welcomed Daniel Weiss, appointed to the Board upon recommendation of Senator Robert Ort. Mr. Weiss previously had served as a member of the Board of the Niagara Falls Public Water Authority from 2016 to 2025. Dan has a Masters of Education degree and a Bachelor of Education degree from Buffalo State College. He is an elementary teacher for the Niagara Falls Board of Education, and also serves as President of the Niagara Falls City Schools Teachers' Union 801.

b. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America

c. Attendance: Cole *Present*, Dean *Present*, Kimble *Present via Zoom*, Sirianni *Present*, Weiss *Present*

d. Public Comments

e. Correspondence

- i. 2025-12-09 - Giancola to NFWB - NFHA High Bill**
- ii. 2025-12-19 - WIA Award Letter - DWSRF Project Number 19056**
- iii. 2026-01-22 - Memorandum - Commending Alexander Hailey**
- iv. 2026-01-22 - Memorandum - Commending Christopher Ketch**

f. Prior Meeting Minutes

i. Draft December 15, 2025 Business Meeting and Executive Session Minutes

Motion by Board Member Dean and seconded by Board Member Weiss to accept the December 15, 2025 business meeting minutes.

Board Member Kimble raised that Board Member Weiss was not present at the meeting and should not second the motion to approve the minutes and moved to amend the motion to accept the minutes, substituting a second by Chairman Sirianni.

The motion to amend was carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion by Board Member Dean and seconded by Chairman Sirianni to accept the December 15, 2025 business meeting minutes.

Cole Y Dean Y Kimble Y Sirianni Y Weiss Abstain

Motion carried, 4-0, with one abstention.

2. Executive Director & General Counsel – Sean Costello

Mr. Costello noted the commendatory memoranda in the Board packet relative to Alexander Hailey and Christopher Ketch. In addition, earlier the day of the meeting, he received a call from a resident expressing appreciation for Mitchell and Mason Shumate helping to shovel out her car so she could make it to work.

The Board received a WIIA grant of \$5 million toward projects with a total cost of approximately \$10 million. These projects include hydrant and large valve replacements, WTP SCADA upgrades, and several water mains. The water mains included are sections on Beech Avenue from the elevated water storage tank to Ontario Street, Laughlin Drive from 82nd Street to Bollier, Ontario Avenue from 13th Street to Main Street, the 900 block of Van Rensselaer Avenue, Witkop Avenue, and parts of 85th Street. DOH has approved plans and specifications for two of these mains and they will be going to bid soon.

Mr. Costello discussed the need to upgrade software used by the Cross Connection Inspector to track the inspection status of 3,000 backflow prevention devices in the City. The current software no longer is supported, and staff have identified a new software called BSI Online. The cost to the NFWB will be about \$2,000 per year and plumbers submitting backflow inspection reports will pay \$18.95 per report. These fees cover BSI Online mailing all the necessary compliance letters and the NFWB will save a considerable amount on postage.

3. Finance – Deborah Ziolkowski

- a. Bank Account Balance Report**
- b. Invested Funds Balance Report**
- c. Wilmington Trust Account Report**
- d. Analysis of 2024 Tax Transfer – Percent Received**

Ms. Ziolkowski was unable to attend the meeting. Mr. Costello summarized information compiled by Ms. Ziolkowski on collection of unpaid water bills through City taxes. As of June 30, 2025, the NFWB received 44% of the sums transferred to City taxes from the City. For the most recent remittance from the City for water and sewer bills transferred to taxes, 85% related to 2024 taxes and the remaining sum was for amounts transferred to taxes as far back as 2015. In 2025, the NFWB reinstated service disconnections for unpaid bills. The total transferred to taxes dropped substantially, from about \$3.5 million in 2024 to \$2.5 million in 2025.

4. Administrative Services – Caleb Holman

- a. January 26, 2026 Personnel Actions**

Mr. Holman described recent safety training and a meeting of the NFWB safety committee, which includes participation by the NFWB’s Workers Compensation carrier and insurance broker’s safety consultants.

Motion by Board Member Dean and seconded by Board Member Weiss to approve Line Item 1 on the January 26, 2026 Personnel Actions, authorization to hire a Compliance Officer/Industrial Waste Inspector.

Cole Y Dean Y Kimble Y Weiss Y Sirianni Y

Motion carried, 5-0.

Motion by Board Member Dean and seconded by Chairman Sirianni to approve Line Item 2 on the January 26, 2026 Personnel Actions, permanent Civil Service appointment of Erin Macri as Senior Administrative Assistant.

Cole Y Dean Y Kimble N Weiss Y Sirianni Y

Motion carried, 4-1.

Chairman Sirianni congratulated all those noted on the Personnel Actions as having attained permanent Civil Service status. He feels the Civil Service system is about bringing in qualified personnel, and that benefits the residents and ultimately the employees as well.

5. Engineering – Douglas Williamson

Mr. Williamson noted ongoing work on the preliminary engineering report on WWTP upgrades that is due to DEC at the end of February. There is a Resolution on the agenda to award the bid for the West Rivershore Drive water main replacement, with a supporting memorandum from the project engineer, CPL. The 2025 combined sewer overflow report has been completed and submitted to DEC. Last, there will be a meeting later in the month to discuss potential projects to submit for grant funding in 2026.

6. Outside Infrastructure Updates – Michael Eagler, Sr.

Mr. Eagler noted that the Collection and Distribution Team will be busy with the anticipated water main replacements in Summer 2026. The Laughlin Drive main replacement is looked forward to with particular anticipation, as it has had many breaks in the past year. The Board asked Mr. Eagler questions about slip lining, which has been used for some NFWB projects.

7. Information Technology (IT) – Jonathan Joyce or Elton Mensah-Selby

Mr. Mensah-Selby updated the Board regarding ongoing IT projects, including a rollout of new network switches at the WTP. A quote for UPS units for all necessary locations at the WWTP is under review. Testing of new SCADA software for the WTP is underway, with the goal of cost savings and more efficiency. National Grid is reviewing a pole attachment application for a security camera to be mounted in a position to monitor the Gorge Pump Station. IT also is working with Cross Connections to implement the BSI Online backflow software migration.

8. Questions Regarding December 2025 Operations and Maintenance Report

9. Resolutions

2026-01-001 - AWARD BID FOR WEST RIVERSHORE DRIVE WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT

- a. 2026-01-19 - CPL Award Recommendation and Bid Tabulation for W Rivershore Water Main Replacement**

Mr. Costello discussed the project, which includes replacement of 3,500 feet of water main plus hydrants, and the recommendation to select the alternate for ductile iron given soil conditions in the installation location. The Board also discussed installation of an automatic flushing device to ensure water quality on that one-way stretch of water main, as looping to connect to another section of main is not feasible. Part of the construction contract is making sure that resident access is maintained throughout the work.

Motion by Board Member Dean and seconded by Board Member Weiss to approve.

Cole Y Dean Y Kimble Y Weiss Y Sirianni Abstain

Motion carried, 4-0, with one abstention.

2026-01-002 - AMENDMENT TO ORDER ON CONSENT R9-20230411-13

- a. Draft Amendment to Order on Consent R92023041113**

Motion by Board Member Kimble and seconded by Board Member Dean to approve.

Cole Y Dean Y Kimble Y Weiss Y Sirianni Y

Motion carried, 5-0.

2026-01-003 - WWTP AIR SCOUR PIPING REPAIR

- a. 2025-12-31 - Mollenberg Betz Invoice 83329 for WWTP Air Scour Piping Repair**

Motion by Board Member Dean and seconded by Board Member Kimble to approve.

Cole Y Dean Y Kimble Y Weiss Y Sirianni Y

Motion carried, 5-0.

2026-01-004 - LUCITY SOFTWARE SUPPORT AND MAINTENANCE RENEWAL

- a. 2025-12-02 - Lucity Renewal Invoice No 452810**

Motion by Board Member Dean and seconded by Board Member Weiss to approve.

Cole Y Dean Y Kimble Y Weiss Y Sirianni Y

Motion carried, 5-0.

**2026-01-005 - PAYMENT FOR EMERGENCY 15 INCH COMBINED SEWER REPAIR,
24TH STREET AND SENECA AVENUE**

- a. 2025-12-15 - Award Recommendation and Bid Tabulation for Emergency
Repair to 15 Inch Combined Sewer, 24th Street and Seneca Avenue**

Motion by Board Member Kimble and seconded by Board Member Weiss to approve.

Cole Y Dean Y Kimble Y Weiss Y Sirianni Y

Motion carried, 5-0.

**2026-01-006 - PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE AGREEMENTS FOR WTP
GENERATORS**

- a. 2026-01-06 - Milton CAT Preventative Maintenance Agreement for
WTP Generator 1**
**b. 2026-01-06 - Milton CAT Preventative Maintenance Agreement for
WTP Generator 2**

Motion by Board Member Kimble and seconded by Board Member Cole to approve.

Cole Y Dean Y Kimble Y Weiss Y Sirianni Y

Motion carried, 5-0.

**2026-01-007 - EXTENSION OF AGREEMENT WITH AECOM FOR ONSITE
ENVIRONMENTAL MONITOR SERVICES**

- a. 2026-01-14 - AECOM Proposal for Extension of Onsite Environmental Monitor
Services**

Motion by Board Member Kimble and seconded by Board Member Weiss to approve.

Cole Y Dean Y Kimble Y Weiss Y Sirianni Y

Motion carried, 5-0.

2026-01-008 - UPDATING AUTHORIZED SIGNERS FOR BANK ACCOUNT

a. CNB Bank Authorized Signer Update - Resolution of Corps., Partnerships and LLCs

Motion by Board Member Kimble and seconded by Board Member Dean to approve.

Cole Y Dean Y Kimble Y Weiss Y Sirianni Y

Motion carried, 5-0.

10. Unfinished/Old Business

11. New Business & Additional Items for Discussion

Chairman Sirianni praised the individuals who have been passing Civil Service tests and feels it makes the organization stronger and ensures qualified individuals are holding positions.

12. Executive Session (if needed)

13. Adjournment of Meeting

Motion by Board Member Dean and seconded by Board Member Weiss to adjourn the meeting at 5:37 p.m.

Cole Y Dean Y Kimble Y Weiss Y Sirianni Y

Motion carried, 5-0.