



MINUTES

Business Meeting of the Niagara Falls Water Board June 15, 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.

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 (all other topics): Speakers must register with the Secretary by 5:00 p.m. and are limited to three minutes per person – total time for all speakers may not exceed one hour.

e. Correspondence

i. 2026-06-08 - IIJA Lead Service Line Replacement Grant Award

f. Prior Meeting Minutes

i. Draft May 18, 2026 Business Meeting Minutes

Motion by Board Member Dean and seconded by Board Member Cole to accept the May 18, 2026 business meeting minutes.

Cole Y Dean Y Kimble Y Sirianni Y Weiss Abstain

Motion carried, 4-0, with 1 abstention.

2. Executive Director & General Counsel – Sean Costello

Mr. Costello noted that the Board's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2025 is being distributed with quarterly bills and is available online. In 2025, there were no exceedances of maximum contaminant levels.

He discussed the slides appended to these minutes, thanking WWTP Mechanic and USW Operators' Unit President Jerry Chandler and teacher Jennifer Mettler for bringing the NFWB the opportunity to participate in the Touch-a-Truck at Harry F. Abate Elementary School for the Say Yes Saturday Academy. NFWB employees Mason Shumate and Tracy Miracle-Petrillo showed participants our camera truck and a combination vacuum truck and ably represented the NFWB at the event.

Mr. Costello updated the Board on the John Avenue Sewer Collapse, including the repair plan, which is to use a 42" outside-diameter HDPE pipe slipped into the sound ends of the sewer. He also discussed the ongoing West Rivershore water main replacement project and DEC and DOH approval of installation of the final approximately 500' using open trench excavation but with protective measures because of potential contamination. These include a Community Air Monitoring Plan, immediate landfill disposal of excavated materials, and dust control with water mist.

Mr. Costello discussed preparation of grant applications. In the upcoming round of WIIA grant applications, the Board will pursue water treatment plant improvements to optimize corrosion control and to recoat the 56th Street water tank. It also will pursue WIIA and WQIP grant funding for the WWTP biological conversion. Finally, Mr. Costello reviewed the recently received lead service line grant award, which provides a grant of \$3,417,134 and interest-free financing of \$1,464,487. The next step will be to issue an RFP for engineering services.

Board resolutions will be needed for the grant applications, which are due on July 24. To meet the grant application deadline, Mr. Costello may request that the Board re-schedule its July meeting from July 27 to July 20.

3. Finance – Deborah Ziolkowski

- a. Bank Account Balance Report
- b. Invested Funds Balance Report
- c. Wilmington Trust Account Report
- d. Budget Performance Reports
 - i. Revenue
 - ii. Sewer
 - iii. Water
 - iv. Board

Mr. Ziolkowski updated the Board on the audit, she expects it will be complete in the next few weeks.

Water revenue is trending slightly higher than last year, but it is lower than budget. Sewer revenue is down 10% from last year, largely due to a 33% decrease in SIU billing. Personnel expenses are within budget, as is overtime. Contractual expenses are down significantly because we are using less sodium hypochlorite because of decreased industrial flows. The Board discussed budgeted expenses and revenues and monitoring applicable trends. Bill timing and fluctuations in industrial utilization are factors that impact revenue collected as of a given date.

4. Administrative Services – Caleb Holman

- a. June 15, 2026 Personnel Actions

Mr. Holman updated the Board on annual workplace violence training conducted in May. Outdoor hazard training is scheduled for June. The personnel action sheet requests authority to hire an intern for the IT department, to work during college breaks. The current intern is moving on to a new opportunity.

Motion by Board Member Dean and seconded by Board Member Weiss to approve Line Item 1 on the June 15, 2026 Personnel Actions, authorization to hire a temporary/seasonal IT Intern.

Cole Y Dean Y Kimble Y Sirianni Y Weiss Y

Motion carried, 5-0.

5. Engineering – Douglas Williamson

Mr. Williamson advised the Board of recent submissions of projects for the NYS EFC Intended Use Plan, including various WWTP projects totaling approximately \$11.6 million. These include belt filter press rebuilding, sodium hypochlorite storage, and electrical projects.

Recently he completed updates to the Spill Prevention Report, which is required for facilities with Chemical Bulk Storage permits. We have two tanks that require such permits.

Flow meters were installed by TecSmith at the WWTP last week, which will be used for the Hazen and Sawyer hydraulic model work.

A meeting was conducted for the Beech Avenue water storage tank rehabilitation involving engineers CPL and contractor Atlas Painting. Substantial completion of the painting work should be by the end of October.

Board Member Dean asked about the closure of SIU Niagara Custom Plating which is noted in the Operations and Maintenance report and asked if they are looking for a new location in the City. Mr. Costello has had a conversation with the owner, and the long-term plan is not decided.

6. Outside Infrastructure Updates – Michael Eagler, Sr.

Mr. Eagler noted that the CDT department has started its annual push to concrete over the street repairs made over the past winter, so that they can be paved by City DPW over the summer. To date, 27 cuts have been concreted, with many remaining. Priority is given to cuts near schools, the hospital, and on main roads.

As of this time last year there had been 58 water main breaks, the present count for 2026 is 39.

The migration to a new SCADA system for lift stations is complete, and the new system has worked very well in the past couple of rain events. There has been an unusual amount of by-pass pumping this year because it has been very wet. Mr. Costello noted that even with the significant rain event last week, there were no complaints of water in basements, which reflects a high level of maintenance including sewer flushing and catch basin cleaning. He feels the CDT should be complimented on their work.

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

Mr. Mensah-Selby noted that deployment of new network switches continues, performed mostly off-hours to avoid interrupting operations. Multi-factor authentication is being enabled wherever possible to enhance cybersecurity. IT is obtaining quotes to replace the WWTP SCADA hypervisor, to improve reliability, performance, and long-term functionality.

BSI Backflow software now is live, as of today. Board Member Dean questioned sources of funds for these upgrades; Mr. Costello noted that some elements will be from the annual IT budget and others will be capital expenditures.

8. May 2026 Operations and Maintenance Report

a. 2026-06-10 - E3communications Government Affairs Activity Report

Mr. Costello noted that on June 5, Matt Wrobel and Emma DeForest from Senator Schumer's WNY Office toured the WWTP and participated in a discussion of the WWTP biological upgrade project and the need for financial support for that project. We also confirmed that like Senator Gillibrand, Senator Schumer included our Congressionally Directed Spending request for the Beech Avenue tank rehabilitation project in his submission to the appropriate Senate committee for consideration. The next significant outreach will be a visit by Congressman Kennedy to the WWTP.

9. Resolutions

2026-06-001 - WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE THROUGH NYS MUNICIPAL WORKERS' COMPENSATION ALLIANCE

a. 2026-2028 Comp Alliance Policy Declarations and Membership Agreement

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

Cole Y Dean Y Kimble Y Sirianni Y Weiss Y

Motion carried, 5-0.

2026-06-002 - PROCUREMENT OF WTP LEAD HIGH LIFT PUMP

a. 2026-05-27 - Fluid Kinetics Quote for Floway WTP Main Pump Replacement

Mr. Costello explained that the Board recently received a replacement low-lift lead pump, this will be a spare for the high-lift. The pumps are original to the plant.

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

Cole Y Dean Y Kimble Y Sirianni Y Weiss Y

Motion carried, 5-0.

10. Unfinished/Old Business

11. New Business & Additional Items for Discussion

12. Executive Session (if needed)

13. Adjournment of Meeting

Motion by Board Member Kimble and seconded by Board Member Dean to adjourn the meeting at 5:48 p.m..

Cole Y Dean Y Kimble Y Sirianni Y Weiss Y

Motion carried, 5-0.

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Update on John Avenue Sewer Collapse (on Goodyear Property)

- 44" Sewer is Flowing, Minimal Pumping Now Required
- Repair complicated by depth, requirement for two sets of engineered shoring (OSHA compliance)
- Total length of collapse: 42'
 - Large pieces of old foundation found almost directly on break
- Area beyond collapse appears reasonably sound



Repair Plan:

- Slip line with 42" HDPE Pipe
- Although internal diameter will be reduced to approx. 38", no loss in hydraulic capacity (Manning's Equation – smoother pipe has a lower resistance to flow)
- Pipe availability confirmed
 - Will bend pipe to install as single long section if possible, otherwise will insert two sections and clamp
- Grout annulus between pipes to seal

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West Rivershore Water Main Replacement

- Engineer's test borings indicated potential soil contamination in final 500-foot section (west end of the island)
- To limit disturbance and required removal of potential contaminated materials, plans and specifications called for that section of water main to be installed using horizontal directional drilling (HDD)
- Test pit for HDD unearthed large pieces of rubble, making HDD infeasible
- NFWB and CPL, its engineers, worked with NYSDOH and NYSDEC to revise plan, water main now will be installed in a trench (like the rest of the project)

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West Rivershore Work Change Directive No. 01

- Plan developed with NYSDOH and NYSDEC
- Bid unit prices all will be the same as the bid unit prices for the rest of the project (cost certainty)
 - Throughout project, material excavated from roadway is being replaced with new clean fill
- Only new item is cost of Community Air Monitoring Plan – approx. \$1,400 per day
 - 1 – 2 weeks estimated duration for work
- Overall cost of work remains within approved contract cost

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Protective Measures Approved by NYSDOH and NYSDEC

- Pavement layer removed, recycled by contractor
- All excavated soil/fill to be treated as contaminated, directly loaded into trucks for offsite disposal (Republic Landfill)
- Dust controlled using water mist
- Community Air Monitoring Plan (CAMP) around work area
 - Contractor's on-site testing subconsultant to sample using Photoionization Detector (PID) to measure VOCs and other toxic gasses.
 - DEC & DOH to be notified of CAMP exceedences

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WIIA Grant Announcement

- Application Deadline: 4:00 p.m. on Monday, July 27
 - Will need to request special meeting for resolutions authorizing applications and conducting environmental review (SEQR)

WIIA Clean Water Project Application (Sewer)

- Awards up to 25% of project costs, capped at \$25 million
- Will pursue for WWTP Biological Conversion Project (\$348 million)

WIIA Drinking Water Project Application

- Awards lesser of \$5 million or 70% of net project costs
- Projects to improve WTP corrosion control and to recoat 56th Street water tank to maintain water quality

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Project Component	Cost Estimate
Update CCT Chemical System to Phosphoric Acid	\$650,000
Renew Caustic Chemical System	\$485,000
Renew Acid Feed Chemical System	\$850,000
Filter Media Replacement and Underdrain Improvements	\$3,080,000
56 th Street Tank Interior and Exterior Improvements	\$3,000,000
Administration, Engineering, and Construction Phase Services	\$1,717,000
Total Project Cost	\$9,782,000

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Lead Service Line Replacement Grant Award: DWSRF 19899

PROJECT SUMMARY:

- Replacement of 314 Lead and Galvanized Requiring Replacement Service Lines
- Project includes full scope of work – engineering, replacement, street and lawn restoration
- Estimated total cost of \$12,500 per service line replaced, or \$3,925,000
- Plus engineering/admin. costs of 15%, \$588,750
- Total estimated cost: \$4,513,750

FINANCIAL AWARD:

- 2025 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) Lead Service Line Replacement (LSLR) **Grant of \$3,417,136**
- IIJA-LSLR Interest Free Financing of **\$1,464,487**
- **Total: \$4,881,623**

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Figure ES -1. Project Area



Next step: RFP for Engineering Services