

KENT COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

May 15, 2025

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Kent County Water Authority was held on the 15th day of May, 2025, at 3:30 p.m. at the offices of the Authority, 35 Technology Way, West Greenwich, RI, in the Robert B. Boyer Board Room.

Treasurer Scott Duckworth opened the meeting at 3:30 p.m. Vice Chairman Jeff Giusti, Geoff Rousselle, Brian Kortz, Charles Donovan and Ken Mason, were all in attendance along with Executive Director/Chief Engineer David L. Simmons, Legal Counsel Patrick J. Sullivan, Esq., Sr. Director of Finance and Human Resources Michael Lanfredi, Chief of Operations Richard Burns and Sr. Director of Technical Services Nicole Campagnone.

Mr. Lanfredi led the room in the pledge of allegiance.

Approval Of The Minutes

The minutes of the board meeting and the executive session minutes held on April 17, 2025, were presented for approval. Mr. Rousselle moved the approval, seconded by Mr. Mason. Both sets of minutes were approved unanimously.

Legal Counsel:

CONE Receivership

Mr. Sullivan said there was nothing additional to report in the CONE receivership and that it was winding down.

PFAS Litigation

Mr. Sullivan outlined the four claims that the authority had under four different settlements. He also described the timeline for the funding of each settlement.

1. The first settlement would be with 3M Corporation. The first payment under this settlement is expected any day now.

2. The Dupont Corporation settlement should fund at the end of the third-quarter, 2025.
3. The Tyco Corporation settlement should make the first payments in connection with that settlement fund by the end of the year with the balance to be paid early 2026.
4. The BASF settlement should follow the same schedule as Tyco.

Guest: Pare Corporation -- Environmental Assessment –New Treatment Plant Submittal to RIDOH for FONSI - Public Hearing. 216-RICR-50-05-6 (Section 6.11.B.3)

Shane Driscoll, P.E. and Andrew Hook, P.E., appeared on behalf of Pare Corp. They advised that they were there to conduct a public hearing and connection with the financing of the new East Greenwich well treatment facility. They said that the Rhode Island drinking water state revolving fund would assist in financing this drinking water infrastructure project. He added that the eligible products include treatment and distribution upgrades, as well as emerging contaminant mitigation.

They went on to discuss the environmental assessment in connection with the financing and the Rhode Island Department of Health drinking water state revolving fund regulations. They indicated that a public hearing was a component of the project once all regulatory and public comments have been incorporated into the environmental assessment.

They went on to discuss the background of the project, currently operating at 1.72 MGD. The new facility is set to increase its output to 5.5 MGD free of PFAS.

They went over the agencies that were consulted and informed the board that the only responses received were from the Rhode Island Division of Statewide Planning and the RI Department of Environmental Management. There was some discussion among the board members regarding some details in the responses.

Mr. Kortz moved to open a public hearing for public input. Mr. Rousselle seconded and the vote was unanimous to open the public hearing. There was additional discussion by the board during the public hearing, however, no member of the public approached the podium. Mr. Rousselle moved to close the public hearing, seconded by Mr. Kortz, and the board unanimously voted to close the public hearing.

Director of Finance Report:

Closing Report/ Cash Report April 2025

Mr. Lanfredi, Finance Director, explained and submitted the financial report. He reported on the Cash Receipts and Disbursements and Statement of Cash Location FY 2024-2025 as of April 2025 and Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance

as of March 2025, attached as exhibit “A”, and a thorough discussion ensued with regard to the sales and revenue.

Mr. Lanfredi discussed the delinquencies, payment plans and shutoffs.

Mr. Mason inquired about circumstances surrounding the percentage of delinquencies.

Mr. Rousselle moved, seconded by Mr. Mason, to accept the reports and attach the same as an exhibit and that the same be incorporated by reference and be made a part of these minutes.

Upon Motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously,

VOTED: That the Cash Receipts and Disbursements and Statement of Cash Location FY 2024-2025 as of March 2025 and Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance as of March 2025, attached as exhibit “A”, be approved as presented and be incorporated herein and are made a part hereof.

Closing Report April 2025, Cash Report Action Item - Approval of Health Care and Dental Benefits FY26 Action Item - Approval of Insurance Coverages; Workers Compensation, General Liability/Property/Auto, and Life/LTD/AD&D FY26

There was a discussion of the insurance products that Mr. Lanfredi presented to the board. He suggested that the board authorize him to renew the insurance products that were recommended by the insurance broker. He indicated that they have a zero deductible policy with Blue Cross and Blue Shield Coast to Coast that would incur a 4.2% increase. He also indicated that Delta Dental would be included in the authorization to renew at an increase of 9.7%. Finally, Plan 65 with Blue Cross would have a 21.4% increase.

There was a discussion amongst the board members on the increases and the fact that there was a 0% deductible. Mr. Lanfredi indicated that the loss ratio for last year was high and that affects the cost of the product and the following year. Mr. Duckworth asked Mr. Lanfredi if he could produce a spreadsheet comparing the plans and the cost like he had done in prior years. Mr. Kortz asked at what point do we look at other options?

Mr. Lanfredi went over the other options, including the liability insurance provided by the Rhode Island Interlocal Trust and the Mutual of Omaha long-term disability policy and life insurance policy.

Mr. Donovan moved to table the agenda item until the following month, requesting a spreadsheet of information with choices. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rousselle. The vote was unanimous.

East Greenwich Well Treatment Plant

Pilot study – waiting on final RIDOH approval. Design update

Mr. Simmons indicated that they were waiting for the Department of Health final Certificate of Approval or COA. The current COA application currently in review by RIDOH includes a checklist that is required for approval. This checklist includes a detailed project description, cost summary, capacity development worksheet, environmental review/assessment (EA), Certificate of Consistency with State Guide Plan, Certificate of Intent to Comply, Resolution to Borrow, and Architectural and Engineering Plans and Reports. He said he was going back-and-forth on the design updates with Pare. He did indicate that the infrastructure bank advised they may want to do a bridge loan. They said our project was the closest to shovel ready. Mr. Mason asked what was needed to close. Mr. Simmons replied that it is his understanding that potentially full design and specifications would be needed for RIDOH for final COA to get to close. The current application includes everything on the checklist but only conceptual design plans. He said that we are going to be working with RIDOH and Pare to get the plans we have in place moved along as quickly as possible to get the COA so we can close on the loan from RIIB.

Personal Privilege and Communication

There was nothing to report under this setting.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/CHIEF ENGINEER'S REPORT

ONGOING PROJECTS

Update - IFR 22 - Cowesett Ave project final paving and closeout. Action Item: Task Order No. 1- Project Oversight Management Services (Reservoir Rd. Water Main Improvement Project and the RI National Guard' Project on Read School House Road)

Mr. Simmons introduced the agenda item to the board. He indicated that the project was almost complete, and that it was prepared for final paving. He said Sunday night would be the final night to complete the paving. He said they would activate the water mains with elevated pressure on Carlson Circle on Wednesday. He also indicated that the Balise dealership did cut two checks to contribute to the paving in that area in front of their dealership.

Coventry Projects

Coventry High School Sewer Extension Project / KCWA Coordination of water line replacement on Reservoir Road. RI National Guard project update to provide water service inclusive of a new pressure gradient on Read Schoolhouse Road.

Next, Mr. Simmons discussed the high school sewer job in Coventry. He described the project and advised the board that they would save considerable expense on paving as the Town will be installing a sewer line to the high school and paying for the paving. He said there is a task order for Geremia and Associates to assist the authority in performing oversight and engineering management services. This would also include the National Guard project on Read Schoolhouse Road. Geremia and Associates would assist our inspection crews in performing engineering management services on that project as well. He indicated the contract will not exceed \$114,000.

Mr. Rouselle moved to approve task order number one. Mr. Mason seconded it. Motion made and duly seconded it was unanimously

VOTED: that the board approves task order number one to Geremia and associates in the amount not to exceed \$114,000.

Mr. Simmons went on to summarize the National Guard project, indicating that he had met with them to try to get the project onto the next level. He said they are going full steam ahead and although we are working with them, the National Guard will fund the entire project.

EPA Revised Lead and Copper Rule

Lead service line inventory update. GLO initiative. 16 person GLO team door knocking scheduled for the first week of June. Scanning team. RFP development for LSL and Galvanized line replacement

Ms. Campagnone update the board. She said the numbers haven't changed. She said the EPA is sending a team of 16 people to knock on doors for the homes that have been described as the unknown services. She said there were about 1700 of the 28000 services that still need to be verified, mostly on the private side of the curbside which may require home entry or customer assistance to get the information. She said they would be going out in four teams of four and try to get into the basements to identify the pipe material entering the homes. She said these data were necessary to get final locations of all galvanized and lead services that are present in the system so we can get the lines replaced under an RFP that will be forthcoming. Mr. Simmons said they would be adding one of their employees to each of the teams. He said that the board members may get telephone calls, but everybody will have their proper identification and the local police and town halls would be notified in each city or town as well.

Office and Maintenance Facility: Punchlist and project closeout items.

Mr. Simmons discuss this topic. He said there are a few punch list items, including some of the paving, the tile, and a vapor barrier that was not installed.

1072 Main St. – Update on sale

Mr. Sullivan updated the board on the sale of the former headquarters. He advised the board that the pending transaction had fallen apart. Mr. Sullivan said he did not know why, but he thought financing might not have come through. He added that he thought the contract price seemed to be high for that facility. He said in exchange of returning the deposit, he was able to get the Phase I environmental assessment report. That should make marketing the property even easier as the results of the assessment were good. Mr. Sullivan added that unless the contract is on identical terms, it would have to be returned to the Town of West Warwick for a waiver of the right of first refusal.

Mr. Sullivan read the topic heading. Mr. Giusti moved that the body go into executive session for the reasons set forth in Mr. Sullivan's remarks. Mr. Kortz seconded. It was voted unanimously to go into executive session.

The board enters executive session at approximately 4:30 pm.

The board enters open session at approximately 5:10 pm.

Mr. Giusti moved, seconded by Mr. Mason, to seal the minutes of the executive session. The vote was unanimous.

There being no further business before this board, on motion duly made by Mr. Giusti, seconded by Mr. Mason, and carried, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Dated: June _____, 2025

Patrick J. Sullivan
Legal Counsel