

DATE: Wednesday, July 23, 2025

The regular monthly meeting of the Womelsdorf-Robeson Joint Authority was held Wednesday, July 23, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in the Womelsdorf Borough Hall.

It was noted that in order to assist in the preparation of the meeting minutes, the Secretary records the meeting. The recording is deleted following the approval by the Board of the minutes and no permanent recording is kept by the Secretary.

The following members were present:

Steve Bright	Ralph Honigmann	Matthew Miller	Rod Lebo	Mark Spotts
Jack Morris	Barbara Orth			

Engineer, Fred Ebert, Solicitor Jestyn Payne, Dennis Miller and Jacob Sonnen (Authority Operators) were also in attendance.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge to the Flag of the USA.

Visitors: Kory Koehler, Will Hawke

Kory Koehler from Berks Trail Works stated that he feels hunting is important to WRJA. His feeling is that the bikers interfere with the hunters. He didn't think the bikers were breaking any rules but just that they were getting in the way of hunters. He suggested during hunting season – October through January would be for hunters only and then consider revision of the rules to allow access for bikers during the rest of the year.

Will Hawke felt some of the WRJA fears that the property would become a destination place for bikers is unwarranted. Reiterated they would like access to WRJA land to ride.

Secretary's Report:

The minutes of the meeting held Wednesday, June 25, 2025 were reviewed and approved on a motion by Rod Lebo, seconded by Jack Morris. Motion carried.

Correspondence: None

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer's Report showing a balance of \$1,967,127.07 was approved on a motion by Jack Morris, seconded by Barbara Orth. Unanimously approved.

Bills in the amount of \$12,495.18 were presented for payment, which were ratified or approved on motion by Jack Morris, seconded by Barbara Orth. Motion was unanimous.

Edward Jones statements are available upon request.

No updates on auditor... William Koch Associates. Waiting for their blessing.

Engineer's Report:

1. GOLD SPRING TANK

The tank was successfully welded and the complete x-ray did find one small area that needed additional work prior to being painted.

The tank has been disinfected and is filled. The bacteriological and VOC testing can be completed. EE, Inc. can then complete the PA DEP Construction certification and have it submitted to the PA DEP so that the tank can be placed back into operation.

The contractor needs to complete their report and certification of the construction. This will include the letters on the paint warranty and certification that the painting system was applied per the manufacturer's requirements. The paint manufacturer's representative will also be supplying a letter certifying the application of the paint system.

Dennis reported they did an excellent job. They addressed every issue that came up. Fred said he would give them a grade of B+/A-. They took care of any problems without complaint. Fred said we can use the same group/paperwork (clone it) for Tank 2. They may be CoSTARS approved now so you could go right through Stoltzfus. Recommends adding a third-party spot inspection. Better contracting with them as a third-party service. We have developed a great relationship with CoSTARS.

2. SSM FILE TRANSFER

EE, Inc. is coordinating the file transfer now that everyone is back from vacation. EE, Inc. will update the board when a date has been agreed to.

3. WOMELSDORF – HIGH STREET PAVING

EE, Inc. met with the operations staff on July 18, 2025 to discuss the condition and size of the existing water main in High Street in Womelsdorf. EE, Inc. will have a plan for the Authority to review that shows the existing water mains in High Street as well as the size of the water mains connecting into the existing water mains in High Street. This will provide the Authority with a visual representation of the proposed paving project and length of the existing water mains in the project area. Should connect 12" down Water Street across High Street and down to Jefferson/2nd Street. Approximately 1 mile of pipe. Approximately 162 service connections. Have some decisions to make before they repave. Regarding financing, Penn Vest has good loan offers. Penn Vest only meets quarterly. Must have all permits in place. Fred gave a guesstimate figure of \$2.2 million. Ideally, would want to be starting next summer. Will gather a plan for further discussion.

Dennis mentioned another project is in Robesonia. UGI is coming and will be digging up some streets. If we can replace – some pipes are 100 years old. May be some grants available to do some of these small streets.

4. AIDEN ON SIXTH

EE, Inc. contacted the developer/engineer/Pioneer to determine if they are making any changes to the type of development being proposed due to the geologic conditions that have been found. Project may be back on track since Marion Township is considering approving waivers from planning commission and will go to board of supervisors. Then will know if any plan changes and if not, then will move forward. EE, Inc. will provide the developer with comments concerning the requirements to interconnect the proposed water distribution system with the existing water system to eliminate the majority of the dead ends within the existing distribution system. Will meet after receive review letter.

Dennis commented that much of the acreage in the back can't be used because of sink holes. The Rock Doctor said could be a good place for a well. Would be good to put in the review letter first right to do that.

5. COMMERCIAL METER POLICY

The current policy of the Authority is that the commercial customers own their metering facility but the Authority owns the actual water meter. As the water meters need to be replaced the Authority should have a policy in place that allows for their service or meter fee to pay for the replacement of the water meter.

One of the most common means to do this is to assume that the life of the water meter is ten years and that it should be replaced when it is at ninety (90%) percent of its design life. The service or meter fee in the Authority's billing schedule should be based upon replacing the meter every nine years. The meter fee is based upon the cost of the meter projected out nine years using a cost index divided by nine. The meter fee can then be periodically adjusted based upon the actual cost of the water meter using this formula. This will ensure a fair method of collecting the money for the replacement of water meters over time.

Would be good to talk about this when doing the rate increase.

II. DEVELOPMENTS

6. BETHANY ROAD

This project will be updated after the file transfer. Did reach out to C2C and they have the annexation. Waiting for escrow.

7. MAPLE AVENUE APARTMENTS

This project will be updated after the file transfer. Dennis reported this is on the back burner.

8. EAST HIGH STREET

This project will be updated after the file transfer. Jestyn questioned the easement with Scott Doughmann. Tabled for now. Can go around Doughmann if needed.

Solicitor's Report:

Very please with the job Ebert Engineering is doing!

1. BERKS NATURE

Larry Lloyd is no longer employed by Berks Nature. Disappointed to hear. We will now be working with Andrew Fetterman. Solicitor will contact Mr. Fetterman. We are pleased with the language in the contract so hopefully can move forward. Mark commented he is anxious to hear how this plays out.

2. THE ZIGMUND CO. INSURANCE CONSULTING AGREEMENT

Motion to approve Chairman to execute the agreement and continue the arrangement with Zigmund. Ralph Honigmann motioned to approve as long as he can continue to deal with Courtney. Matthew Miller seconded. Motion carried.

3. TIMBER PROJECT

Joe is marking trees. Marcie does not have paperwork yet.

Operator's Report:

1. Meters read, bills are out.

2. Well #2 flooding: Water from rain made a mess on our property. Backed up all the way from the pool, blocked the railroad tracks. WRJA property had trees down, branches and debris. Cleaned up some. Would like to go after Norfolk Southern and send them a bill. Got road to fix, pump house needs to be cleaned out. More pipes that divert water will need to be cleaned out.

Other Board Member Comments:

Mark Spotts:

1. **Berk One:** No pricing yet. They have water customers, and they developed software for them. What would be available to us? Diversified has all our records. We should have more open access to our information with availability to run ad hoc reports. Will continue to pursue.
2. **Bethany Road Project:** 50 feet conveyance as deed of property. They are clear cutting and timbering. The equipment is there. They are putting trench. Do we want to ask contractor? Dennis thinks now is good. Clear cut and stone approximately 500 feet. Dennis will stop and ask contractor. Will have Joe Brackman check timber.

Chairman's Report:

1. Water rate increase - Phase II: Can look back on 2 quarters now. Will set a date with committee to review.
2. Well sites: Tabled
3. Tank 2: Will wait.
4. Robeson Fish & Game: Talked to contact. They have a survey scheduled. Solicitor spoke to Attorney, Liz Fiorini. They looked at lease and subdivision. Liz shared with RFG all the challenges with subdivision. They got a second opinion from C2C. The Trust has taken a position and will be in favor of lease. Should have something by next meeting. Mark reported he is frustrated. Wants to see them continue but if it doesn't end soon and come to a conclusion, WRJA should take a vote. Solicitor feels we will have a conclusion soon.

Motion to go into Executive Session made by Steve Bright at 8:08 PM, seconded by Barbara Orth. Motion carried. Need to talk about a personnel issue.

Came out of Executive Session at 8:16 PM and a motion to adjourn by Steve Bright, seconded by Barbara Orth. Motion carried.

Next meeting: Wednesday, August 27, 2025 at 7PM at the Womelsdorf Borough Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Orth

Barbara Orth
Secretary

Womelsdorf Robesonia Sheridan Authority
A WATER AUTHORITY — SUPPLYING WOMELSDORF, ROBESONIA AND SHERIDAN, PA.

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Treasurer's Report JUNE 2025

Balance MAY 31 \$106,864.82

Customer Collections

\$ 40,043.93

Cert. Fees

\$ 330.00

Interest Income

\$ 59.62

Meter Recovery Fee

\$ 1,132.00

Total Income

+\$ 41,565.55

\$148,430.37

Disburements for JUNE

\$91,135.34

Total Disburements

-\$91,135.34

\$57,295.03

Treasury Notes

Expires 02.15.27 2.250%

\$100,000.00

Expires 08.15.28 2.875%

\$140,000.00

Expires 05.15.29 2.375%

\$105,000.00

\$345,000.00

+\$345,000.00

\$402,295.03

PLGIT

Interest 4.37%

\$ 762,495.34

+\$2,736.96

+\$765,232.30

\$1,167,527.33

Edward Jones account value of MAY 31-JUNE 27, 2025

+799,599.74

\$1,967,127.07