

DATE: Wednesday, June 25, 2025

The regular monthly meeting of the Womelsdorf-Robeson Joint Authority was held Wednesday, June 25, 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 Mark Spotts Jack Morris Barbara Orth

Rod Lebo was absent.

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: Jason Gehres and Kory Koehler

Jason Gehres commented on biking. Lived on Texter Mountain as a kid. Raced mountain bikes as a kid. Started riding again and realized not allowed on WRJA property. Why aren't they allowed? Wants to get back in shape and feels riding his bike, specifically on WRJA property would be helpful. Had some suggestions to open up the trails again.

Kory Koehler: Kory sent an email to Solicitor Payne who shared with the board. He handed out a packet which included the email and also a copy of correspondence between Berks Nature and Berks Trail Works. He again pointed out he would like to revise land use rules. Kory talked about the interaction between Brooke Leister (BN) and Chris Herbine (BTW) regarding potential between the two groups if the conservation easement goes through.

Looking to be part of the land use and making two suggestions:

1. Bike access restored to at least a portion of the property
2. Hunters access during specific period within the year.

Secretary's Report:

The minutes of the meeting held Wednesday, May 28, 2025 were reviewed and approved on a motion by Jack Morris, seconded by Ralph Honigmann. Motion carried.

Correspondence: PPL regarding Berks-South Akron 2 Transmission Lines, Conference Brochure (everyone should have received), The Authorities regarding notification of voter delegates, email from Kory Koehler regarding bikers.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer's Report showing a balance of \$2,008,631.47 was approved on a motion by Mark Spotts, seconded by Jack Morris. Unanimously approved.

Bills in the amount of \$76,430.25 were presented for payment, including big payment to Kappe. Bills were ratified or approved on motion by Mark Spotts, seconded by Jack Morris. Motion was unanimous.

Edward Jones statements are available upon request.

Engineer's Report:

Fred noted in the future he will get agenda items out the Friday before each meeting. Invoices will be sent the 15th of each month.

1. Gold Spring Tank:

The contractor has completed the painting of the tank with the exception of the access hatch that they cut into the tank. The contractor is currently welding the access hatch back into the tank. Once the welding is completed the painting around the access door hatch will be completed. This will then allow the tank to be disinfected and then tested prior to being placed back into operation.

EE, Inc. and the Superintendent met with the painting contractor on the site to review the testing that was performed by the contractor. The contractor performed both wet and dry mill thickness testing to verify that the paint was applied in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendation for the dry film thickness of each coat that is part of the overall paint system. The contractor voluntarily added an additional coat of paint to the final coat on the interior of the tank to ensure that the required total mill thickness was provided to meet the manufacturer's requirements.

EE, Inc. also spoke with the contractor and manufacturer's representative concerning the repair to a portion of the roof where the final coat of the paint did not adhere to scrape coat. This was caused by excessive moisture. The manufacturer's representative did adherence tests to the entire tank and everything passed. The contractor and the manufacturer will be preparing a final report summarizing the testing that was completed and providing a letter certifying the repair was correctly performed and that the painting system was installed in accordance with the paint manufacturer's requirements.

The contractor also agreed to x-ray the entire weld rather than just performing spot checks of the weld. This will allow them to correct any issues with the weld prior to applying the painting system to that area and placing the tank back into service.

2. Commercial Water Meter Replacement Policy

The board would like to review this information first. Engineer noted the following information:

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.

3. SSM File Transition

EE, Inc. is working on the transfer of files from SSM back to the Authority. This will be scheduled for mid July due to the number of conflicts with upcoming vacations. This will also allow SSM the time to pull out all of the files and current project status. Chairman noted that Newmanstown requested a copy of the letter we sent to SSM. It was sent with numbers and confidential info redacted.

Mark Spotts questioned GIS passwords, logins and codes and Engineer stated should not be a problem. To the best of our knowledge, other than the upcoming transfers, all SSM invoices are paid.

4. Bethany Road Project (CMJM, LLC)

This project will be updated after the file transfer.

5. Maple Avenue Apartments

This project will be updated after the file transfer.

6. East High Street

This project will be updated after the file transfer. Ralph needs contact information.

7. Alden on Sixth

EE, Inc. is reviewing the plans with the Authority staff. There are a number of interconnections with the adjoining development that should be included to provide for additional looping of the overall water system. EE, Inc. will be preparing a review of the land development plans that will be coordinated with the Authority staff in the coming weeks.

8. Furnace Hill Subdivision

Treasurer needs information.

Solicitor's Report:

1. Berks Nature Potential Conservation Easements

The committee met last Friday and if board is agreeable, Solicitor is ready to meet with Larry Lloyd of Berks Nature to review. When complete, will be sent to Bureau of Forestry for review. The contracts include language which is valuable to us. Solicitor wants clarity regarding holder. One grant must be received in order to move forward. Second grant will mitigate some of our costs on top of our 50% match. This will be important to WRJA. Chairman did not think there is much to report to Heidelberg Township. They are considering amending their zoning.

2. New Timber Project

Kozloff Stoudt/Marcie Kunkelman is working with Forester, Joe Brackman. Should have contract for board to review by next meeting.

Operator's Report:

1. Fixed problem meters.
2. Flow test for C&S Wholesale. Considering possibly putting in city water and take their tank down. Will update meter pit.
3. Fixed curb boxes throughout our system.
4. Two-year lead and copper samples from 20 various houses. Got lab results. All good.

Other Board Member Comments:

Mark Spotts: Berk One (to compare with Diversified): Will report next month.

Chairman's Report:

1. Water rate increase - Phase II: Wait until after next billing and then committee to get together.
2. Well sites - tabled.
3. Tank 2 - Waiting until first tank is done.
4. Chairman corrected a statement: Horse riding is allowed on WRJA property.
5. Tree stand removal program to begin in July.
6. Blake Keener/logging over WRJA property. Board agreed, we will not allow them to go over our property. It will cause damage to our property/forest. Chairman will be contacting Mr. Keener.

Motion to Adjourn at 7:49 PM. by Steve Bright, seconded by Barbara Orth. Motion carried.

Next meeting: Wednesday, July 23, 2025 at 7PM at the Womelsdorf Borough Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Orth

Barbara Orth, Secretary

Womelsdorf Robesonia Joint Authority

A WATER AUTHORITY — SUPPLYING WOMELSDORF, ROBESONIA AND SHERIDAN, PA.

P.O. Box 94 Womelsdorf, PA 19567 • Phone: 610-589-2740 • Fax: 610-589-1340

Treasurer's Report MAY 2025

Balance APRIL 31 \$68,728.68

Customer Collections	\$ 88,098.62
Cert. Fees	\$ 360.00
Interest Income	\$ 1,132.00
Meter Recovery Fee	\$ 1132.00

Total Income	<u>+\$ 90,819.94</u>
	\$159,548.62

Disburements for May \$52,863.80

Total Disburements	<u>-\$52,863.80</u>
	\$106,864.82

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%	<u>\$105,000.00</u>	
		\$345,000.00	<u>+\$345,000.00</u>
			\$451,864.82

PLGIT		<u>\$ 759,671.12</u>	
Interest	4.38%	+\$2,824.22	

<u>+\$762,495.34</u>
\$1,214,360.16

Edward Jones account value of APRIL 26-May 30, 2025

+794,271.31

\$2,008,631.47