

DATE: Wednesday, January 28, 2026

The regular monthly meeting of the Womelsdorf-Robeson Joint Authority was held Wednesday, January 28, 2026 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 Rod Lebo Mark Spotts Dan Dierolf Barbara Orth

Matthew Miller 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. Steve Bright welcomed Dan Dierolf to the WRJA board.

Visitors: **Chris Harris** came to support the bikers. He has lived in Robeson for 20 years and misses riding. **Will Hawke** – observing visitor, **Logan Neihardt** attending to support biking, **Jason Gahres** also supporting biking, **Stephen Kincaid** from Berks Trail Works. They work with other entities and assist them with projects and maintenance. He came to talk about proposal that Kory and team put together. **Kory Koehler** talked about regaining access to WRJA property. Handed out a packet. He is proposing working with WRJA to maintain property and give access to bikers on a seasonal basis from February through August. Does not want to add more work for WRJA but rather assist and run the biking system on property. They would have a committee. Will Hawke suggested limiting to residents. Participants would sign a liability waiver. Chairman acknowledged the group has been attending meeting for many months but the WRJA board is not going to change our policy. We are a water supply company, not a recreation area and always worry about liability. Solicitor discussed issues and that we have an enormous number of projects. Kory asked that their group be considered fairly as other groups are. Rules do not seem to apply to hunters. Solicitor stated that reasonable people will disagree. More conversation ensued and Chairman noted that on March 21 board members will be meeting to take down significant number of tree stands. Kory and Will commented that everyone should be treated equally and then no one should be allowed. Stephen spoke and respects us and hopes that WRJA realize bikers can be helpful. Mark Spotts commented that he appreciates Berks Trail Works but that WRJA stands firm and united.

2026 Reorganization Meeting Held January 28, 2026

1. As the Solicitor, Jestyn Payne presided over the nomination and election of a new Chairman. Following his or her election, the new Chairman will preside over the nomination and election of all remaining officers. It was noted that because these are compensated positions, no one may nominate, second or vote for himself or herself with respect to any Office. In terms of voting, his or her abstention must be recorded in the minutes.
Pursuant to Section 4 of Article V of the Authority's Bylaws, a majority vote of Board members present is necessary to fill any Office. Solicitor Payne stated that we do have a Quorum.
2. **Chairman** – Motion is made by Mark Spotts, seconded by Ralph Honigmann, that Steve Bright be nominated for the office of Chairman of the Authority. There being no additional nominations for the office of Chairman Vice Chairman called for a vote. Motion to close the nominations made by Mark Spotts, seconded by Ralph Honigmann. Based upon the vote, Steve Bright is elected as Chairman. Steve Bright abstained. A vote on the motion was called. The motion was unanimously approved by all those voting. Based upon the vote, Steve Bright is elected as Chairman.

The Chairman then takes over the voting process and continues the reorganization meeting.

3. **Vice Chairman** – Motion is made by Steve Bright, seconded by Ralph Honigmann, that Mark Spotts be nominated for the office of Vice Chairman. No other nominations were made. Motion to close nominations made by Steve Bright, seconded by Ralph Honigmann. A vote on the motion was called. Mark Spotts abstained. The motion was unanimously approved by all those voting. Based upon the vote, Mark Spotts is elected as Vice Chairman.
4. **Secretary** – Motion is made by Ralph Honigmann, seconded by Rod Lebo, that Barbara Orth be nominated for the office of Secretary. No other nominations were made. A motion to close nominations made by Ralph Honigmann, seconded by Rod Lebo. A vote on the motion was called. Barbara Orth abstained. The motion was unanimously approved by all those voting. Based upon the vote, Barbara Orth is elected as Secretary.
5. **Treasurer** – Motion is made by Steve Bright, seconded by Rod Lebo, that Ralph Honigmann be nominated for the office of Treasurer. No other nominations were made. A motion to close nominations made by Steve Bright, seconded by Rod Lebo. A vote on the motion was called. Ralph Honigmann abstained. The motion was unanimously approved by all those voting. Based upon the vote, Ralph Honigmann is elected as Treasurer.
6. **Assistant Secretary** – Motion is made by Steve Bright, seconded by Ralph Honigmann, that Rod Lebo be nominated for office of Assistant Secretary. No other nominations were made. A motion to close nominations made by Steve Bright, seconded by Ralph Honigmann. A vote on the motion was called. Rod Lebo abstained. The motion was unanimously approved by all those voting. Based upon the vote, Rod Lebo is elected as Assistant Secretary.
7. **Assistant Treasurer** – Motion is made by Steve Bright, seconded by Rod Lebo, that Matthew Miller be nominated for the office of Assistant Treasurer. No other nominations were made. A motion to close nominations made by Steve Bright, seconded by Rod Lebo. A vote on the motion was called. Matthew Miller was absent. The motion was unanimously approved by all those voting. Based upon the vote, Matthew Miller is elected as Assistant Treasurer.
8. **Assistant Secretary/Treasurer** – Motion is made by Steve Bright, seconded by Ralph Honigmann that Dan Dierolf be nominated for the office of Assistant Secretary/Treasurer of the Authority. No other nominations were made. A motion to close nominations made by Steve Bright, seconded by Ralph Honigmann. A vote on the motion was called. Dan Dierolf abstained. The motion was unanimously approved by all those voting. Based upon the vote, Dan Dierolf is elected as Assistant Secretary/Treasurer.

Motion is made by Steve Bright, seconded by Ralph Honigmann, that Fred Ebert, P. E./President and Ebert Engineering, Inc. is appointed to serve as engineer of the Authority, that Jestyn G. Payne, Esq., and Kozloff Stoudt Professional Corporation are appointed to serve as solicitor to the Authority. The motion was unanimously approved by all those voting. Based upon the vote, Fred Ebert/Ebert Engineering, Inc is appointed to serve as engineer of the Authority and Jestyn G. Payne, Esq., and Kozloff Stoudt Professional Corporation are appointed to serve as solicitor to the Authority.

At this time, we are still searching for an auditor.

Secretary's Report:

In board packets were Financial Ethics Report and WRJA contact list. The minutes of the meeting held Wednesday, December 17, 2025 were reviewed and approved on a motion by Mark Spotts, seconded by Ralph Honigmann. Motion carried.

Received 2 checks from Wagner Hardwoods – 1 in the amount of \$128,342.25 and the other in the amount of \$8,556.15 for performance bond. Chairman Bright received a text from Forester Joe Brackman stating that we would receive payment from Wagner as the final payment for the County Line Timber Sale. They will be working on land in the area.

Correspondence: PA Rural Water – February & March Courses, Ebling's Commercial Day events.

Treasurer's Report:

1. The Treasurer's Report showing a balance of \$1,881,056.80 was approved on a motion by Barbara Orth, seconded by Mark Spotts. Unanimously approved.
2. Bills in the amount of \$26,635.61 were presented for payment, which were ratified or approved on motion by Barbara Orth, seconded by Mark Spotts. Motion was unanimous.
3. Edward Jones statements are available upon request.
4. Paid Worker Compensation preemptively so it would be received on time.
5. As a recommendation from Engineer Ebert, Treasurer contacted Jones & Company, Eli Hostetter in Pottsville as possible auditor. Will not make April deadline for Penn VEST. Eli will send a proposal before next month but no commitment on when we will receive audit. Solicitor suggested if we get a proposal, we may have to have a special meeting to approve auditor. Engineer agrees. Mark wondered could we offer an incentive bonus?

Engineer's Report:

1. **SSM File Transfer:** Met with Jamie Lorah and she responded that SSM only keeps 5 to 7 years of files. She is setting up a drop box link to transfer the files. She asked what files we wanted and Engineer said all of them. EE, Inc. will continue to follow up with SSM.
2. **Womelsdorf – High Street Paving:** Nothing to report at this time.
3. **2026 Penn VEST Loan One – Furnace Tank Painting:** The preapplication meeting with Penn VEST was held on January 23, 2026. In order to apply we need to have all of the permits in place, the Charter of the Authority extended and our last three years of audited financial statements at the time of the application. We will not have this ready for the upcoming February 4, 2026 application deadline so we are targeting the April 29, 2026 application deadline. This will allow for an award in Mid-July and closing on the loan approximately 45 to 90 days later. EE, Inc. already notified Kappe Associates that the Authority was applying for the loan. We should discuss following up with them and letting them know that the timing of the work will be delayed until the loan settlement.

EE, Inc. needs to apply for two PA DEP permits. The first one is for the painting of the tank. The second permit is for the 4 Log removal for the chlorine disinfection while the tank is out of service. These two permits were discussed on the call and will be submitted during the week of January 26, 2026.

EE, Inc submitted the application to the Berks County Farmland Preservation and we are on their agenda for January 28, 2026. The planning consistency letters were sent to Heidelberg Township and the Berks County Planning Commission. Heidelberg Township has already returned the Township planning consistency. The Berks County Planning Commission has it on their agenda of the next meeting.

EE, Inc. is also preparing the Categorical Exclusion request for the Uniform Environmental Review. The categorical exclusion applies as there is no earth disturbance. The categorical exclusion will require a public notice and a thirty public comment period. The public notice will be advertised in February so that it will end in March prior to the April 29, 2026 loan submission deadline.

There are **two action items** for the board as part of the loan application. The first action item is a Resolution to Apply. The authority will need to adopt this resolution to include in the loan application. The second action item is Letter of Responsibility. This letter states that the Authority will own and maintain the tank after the project for the life of the loan.

The Co-Stars contract will also need to be reviewed by other members of the PA DEP to verify it meets both the State and Federal requirements as Penn VEST does not know what source of funds could be awarded. This will include the Buy American Build American (BABA) and DBE requirements.

Chairman asked if WRJA could pay anything needed before we receive the loan? And then pay ourselves back with loan money? Could be used for metals work. Engineer will work with Penn VEST. Mark Spotts commented that Penn VEST seems very supportive. Chairman suggested a checklist would be helpful.

The longest lead item may be getting a new auditor to complete the audit for last year as the last audit was completed in June of 2024. We need to include the last three years audited financial statements.

Chairman will meet at Kozloff Stoudt with Marcie to get paperwork signed and notarized.

4. Report Status:

Source Protection Annual Update was submitted to DEP on January 21, 2026.

DRBC water audit submitted on January 21, 2026.

Chapter 1 Tank reports to Dennis for review.

Consumer Confidence Report – Draft prepared and to Dennis for review.

Developments:

Bethany Road, Maple Avenue Apartments, East High Street: Nothing to report at this time.

Aiden on Sixth: Their engineer has been emailing back and forth – something happening. Will report more later.

Army Corp of Engineer Grant:

Mark and Dennis received email from Womelsdorf Borough which originally came from Chrissy Houlahan. There is a grant from Army Corp of Engineers. Has to do with water main replacement project in Womelsdorf. Dennis commented that per Womelsdorf Borough Manager, Mike, who attended a county meeting and said there is money available. Mike put a couple sentences together to let them know of interest. Dennis will let us know if he hears anything else. Engineer Ebert will look at this.

Solicitor's Report:

- 1. 2026 Meeting Notices:** Were placed in Reading Eagle publication on January 2, 2026. Notice of publication was forwarded to secretary and posted on Womelsdorf Borough Hall bulletin board on December 30, 2025.
- 2. 2026 Insurance Renewal:** Marcie and Ralph have been working with Courtney of The Parmer Group/Zigmund Company. Board members received email for review. 2026 renewal is \$19,944. Renewed on a motion by Ralph Honigmann, seconded by Mark Spotts. Motion carried. Chairman and secretary signed.
- 3. Extension of Term of the Authority:** Extension terms are for 50 years. Resolution approved on a motion by Ralph Honigmann, seconded by Mark Spotts. Unanimously carried. Marcie will share executed resolutions with the borough managers of each borough and ask them to present to council for adoption. Will also advertise.
- 4. Robesonia Fish & Game:** Engineer, Steve and Dennis all gave input to Solicitor. Motion to accept draft contingent upon approval by Attorney Fiorini made by Mark Spotts. Seconded by Ralph Honigmann. Motion carried.
- 7. John Sagner – Shared Driveway:** Mr. Sagner owns property on Lizzie Lane. He is going to be constructing a residence on his property. The township has made a condition that he formalize the informal easement on the gravel road. Mark Spotts took Solicitor out to see property in person. Got to see area and trees that will be cut for safety purposes. Solicitor finalized the easement document. Sent the preliminary draft to Technicon/Jennifer McConnel. Mark noted there has never been an easement for head of driveway. Solicitor said that point is correct. Where does that leave Martin and Burkholder? Per Solicitor, they may or may not have an agreement. Motion to proceed and accept right of way easement by Mark Spott and seconded by Ralph Honigmann. Motion unanimously carried.

8. Berks Nature Potential Conservation Easement: Received message from Andrew Fetterman of Berks Nature that grant has been funded. Have not heard about revised agreement. Will follow up.

9. Execution of Resolution memorializing compensation related motion adopted at the December meeting of the board. Chairman and Secretary signed.

Thank you for the appointment! 50 years!

Operator's Report:

1. Meters are read and bills are out. Fixing meters when weather is agreeable.
2. Land use Alex Burkholder, Lizzie Lane: Started logging.
3. Blatt & Myers came in to scan electric in pump houses. He said Well #9 is starting to fail and heat up. Will have to look at recommendations. We pump 120,000 gallons per day from this well. 450,000 gallons per day for all wells.
4. Ran generator at Well 1, Tractor maxed out. Backup generator runs off tractor. Questioned if we should get a permanent emergency generator? Glenn says it is highly unlikely electric will go out in Robesonia and Newmanstown for a long period of time.
5. Freeman Street (Grande Project) New hydrant. Installed one hydrant and have one to go.
6. Meters: LB Water has new program. Will be working on updating and looking at other meters. Some work via satellites. Looking at grants with Engineer. Glenn will look at upcoming conference.

Other Board Member Comments:

Rod Lebo: Scheduling March 21, 2026 for tree stand removal. Dennis and others will do earlier if possible.

Chairman's Report:

Reminded Authority Operators to turn in receipts for clothing purchases to Treasurer or Secretary.

Motion to Adjourn at 8:53 PM. by Steve Bright, seconded by Barbara Orth. Motion carried.

Next meeting: *Wednesday, February 25, 2026 at 7 PM 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 DECEMBER 2025

Balance November 30: \$290,311.12

Water revenue	\$43,171.66
Certs	\$170.00
29 E High St Review Fee	\$4,000.00
Sewer Shutoffs	\$400.00
Other Income	<u>+\$1,226.27</u>
	\$48,967.93

Total Income

+\$48,967.93

\$339,279.05

December Disbursements

\$51,264.81

-\$51,264.81

\$288,014.24

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

+\$345,000.00

\$633,014.24

PLGIT

\$424,501.11

Interest 3.91%

+\$1,411.19

\$425,912.30

+\$425,912.30

\$1,058,926.54

Edward Jones account value as of Nov. 29- Dec31

+\$822,130.26

\$1,881,056.80