

DATE: Wednesday, September 24, 2025

The regular monthly meeting of the Womelsdorf-Robeson Joint Authority was held Wednesday, September 24, 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:

Ralph Honigmann Rod Lebo Mark Spotts Jack Morris Barbara Orth

Steve Bright and Matthew Miller were absent.

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

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

Visitors:

Kory Koehler: Representing bikers. Open to group discussion.

Joe Brackman: Timber Project

Bids were opened and reviewed. There were 9 bidders and Wagner Companies from Owego, NY made the highest bid at \$171,123. Motion to accept high bid from Wagner upon Solicitor review and approval by Barbara Orth, seconded by Rod Lebo.

Motion includes Execution of Forestry Agreement with Joe Brackman. It was signed by Joe Brackman, and Vice Chairman, Jack Morris.

Secretary's Report:

The minutes of the meeting held Wednesday, August 27, 2025 were reviewed and approved on a motion by Ralph Honigmann, seconded by Mark Spotts. Motion carried.

Correspondence: The Authorities Region 2/3 Meeting, PA Rural Water Courses, Authorities Symposium – October 31, Certificate of Insurance – Diversified Technology, Little Mountain Printers catalog.

Treasurer's Report:

1. The Treasurer's Report showing a balance of \$2,080,368.09 was approved on a motion by Rod Lebo, seconded by Mark Spotts. Unanimously approved.
2. Bills in the amount of \$288,249.11 were presented for payment, which were ratified or approved on motion by Mark Spotts, seconded by Rod Lebo. Motion was unanimous.
3. Treasurer commented that the big-ticket item in this report was the payment of \$250,000 to Kappe Associates. Waiting for final report before paying balance.
4. Possible auditor is Koch Associates. Still waiting to hear from them. Solicitor will contact them.
5. Edward Jones statements are available upon request.

Engineer's Report:

1. Summary of Penn VEST meeting and Discussion on Option and Next Steps

EE, Inc. and the Authority representatives met with Penn VEST on September 16, 2025 to discuss the Penn VEST loan program and requirements. It was an informative meeting. Penn VEST confirmed that the loan rate

is 1% for the first five years and then 1.743% for years 6 through 20. There is also an interest only period during the construction period of up to three years.

The Penn VEST loan must be approved at their quarterly meeting. The application period is in October for a January award, February for an April award, May for a July award and August for an October award. In order to make an application the PA DEP needs to review and approve the plans and specifications, all PA DEP permits must be approved and all requirements of the application submitted and reviewed by Penn VEST. The requirements include a Uniform Environmental Review (UER) or a categorical exclusion, consistency letter from the local and county planning commissions and county farmland preservation board, valid charter that exceeds the life of the loan and fund Authority financial records included the latest audit.

Penn VEST confirmed that they can fund Co-Stars contracts but the Co-Stars contract must be preapproved by the PA DEP (Julian Miller) and must use prevailing rates. Penn VEST also confirmed that the Authority can apply for multiple loans so the Authority could apply for one for the tank painting and a second loan for the High Street Water Main replacement.

The Authority will need to review the current status of their charter with their incorporating municipalities. The charter for an Authority is 50 years. The charter may need to be renewed for another 50 years if the remaining life of the charter is less than the loan period of 20 years. The Authority should be able to guarantee the loan based upon a pledge of its revenues.

EE, Inc. updated the construction cost estimate to replace the water Main in High Street in Womelsdorf Borough from Route 422 to Third Street. The cost for this is a total project cost of \$2,700,406.07. There was much discussion on the various projects, and it is narrowed down to two. It is recommended the board review and think about all the information presented. Looking to move forward with Penn Vest and make decisions at the next meeting. If the board wants to have another work session prior to the next meeting, please reach out to EE, Inc. When projects are defined, should set up a formal meeting with Penn Vest and DEP simultaneously. Submit to COSTARS. Solicitor will review and check with associate, Brian Boland.

2. Updated Construction Cost Estimate on High Street Water Main Replacement

Distributed a construction cost estimate sheet to board. Looking at an 8" line from 422 to Water Street and then a 12" line from Water Street to 3rd Street. Negative risks – what will PennDOT require for paving restoration? How can we work on the temporary water main connections? Board should discuss. Will get quotes on third party inspections.

3. Gold Springs Water Tank Painting Update

EE, Inc. has received a summary of the daily reports but not the final report and certifications. EE, Inc. will reach out to the contractor to get an update so that we can close out the project as well as provide the certification of completion to the PA DEP. The contractor will also be performing a spot repair on one small area of the tank. They are bringing in a drone to assist with inspection.

4. Update on SSM File Transition

EE, Inc. will reach out to SSM to schedule the transitional meeting.

5. Local Shares Grant Opportunity

This is open until November. It is geared toward community betterment. Engineer suggests applying for portion geared towards High Street or tank painting. But, if you use this loan, you cannot use COSTARS. We could come up with another project. There are many. Will work with Dennis.

6. East High Street Subdivision: No follow up yet.

7. Alden on Sixth: Waiting to hear from them.

Solicitor's Report:

1. **Maple Avenue Apartments:** Working with Bachman's attorney, Brett Fegley. It is ready for signature. Motion by Jack Morris to proceed with the Execution of Improvements Agreement with 353 Penn Ave LLC, seconded by Rod Lebo. Unanimously approved. Developer has 1 year to complete the improvements. We finalized letter of credit with Truist. They used the full \$95,000.
2. **Berks Nature Potential Conservation Easement:** Received a call from Andy Fetterman of Berks Nature. The Commonwealth called him. There is funding for our project. When he receives letter, he will forward to us. Then, we can decide if we want to move forward.
3. **Robesonia Fish and Game:** Received a draft plan which was forwarded to the board. Did not receive draft lease. Dennis wants to check their plot measurements. If we don't like the plot they did, we can change it. Need to see the lease agreement and language. It's also an insurance issue.
4. **John Sagner - Shared Driveway:** Received paper from Engineer. If we're going to proceed, Solicitor will need to change agreement. Will ask Sagner to pay cost. It would benefit him and WRJA. It's actually a 5-party agreement including Bashore and Wolford's properties. We should reserve right to put logging trucks over the road and we are not responsible for any improvements or damages. Solicitor will move forward with changes.
5. **Zoning hearing decision:** Martin lost. Everything was rejected. Now going to Court of Common Pleas of Berks County. WRJA has no reason to intervene.
6. **Bethany Road:** We have everything except title report. Then can proceed. Do we want title insurance? Will get cost.
7. **Pig Roast** - October 16, 2025. Please RSVP to Marcie!

Operator's Report:

1. **Furnace Hill/Freeman Street (Grande Project) Update:** Received first check for \$19,500 but that is an incorrect amount that Technicon/Robesonia Borough gave them. They did not include the customer facility fee. Dennis recommends returning check and have them reissue the correct amount of \$22,500. Why is Technicon involved? It should come through Secretary or Operators. Secretary will be in contact with Grande and get straightened out. Will notify all involved as to status.
2. **Maple Avenue Apartments:** No progress
3. **Well #2 flooding:** Allgyer has been in. Still in progress.
4. **East High Street Project:** No info
5. **Grosfillex Fire line meter pit:** Ordered. Will be here in about 8 weeks.
6. **Meter reading** coming up next week.
7. Saw **construction** digging on 300 block of West Ruth Street. We have an easement going through where they are digging. Glenn and operators checked out. Homeowner is putting up pavers, a wall, a hot tub, etc. Dennis contacted Technicon who issued the permit. They will come out this week. Mark Spotts found on Berks County maps the actual easement agreement. Dennis will report next month the outcome. Easement was executed in 1973 and is 20 feet for Authority to maintain, etc for water main. The owner should not construct structure on right of way. The owners, Marvin and Shirley Speicher did not note on the building permit application that there is an easement with WRJA.

Other Board Member Comments:

Board Member Comments

Mark Spotts:

PPL Powerline Easement - South Mountain Rd: Concerned with road put in - stone road. Will they leave? If so, there should be some provisions. Will wait until project is completed to see how it plays out.

Chairman's Report:

Rate increases Phase II: Reviewed the rates with the board. Motion made by Mark Spotts that Page 1 of the Phase II rate would go into effect on January 1, 2026 and page 2 would go into effect immediately. Ralph Honigmann seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Who will notify the boroughs and others about these changes? Steve? The first read for the 1st Quarter of 2026 is when the rates of page 1 will go into effect. Dennis and Barb will work with Diversified to get updated rates into the system.

Talked about hydrants. Can we impose fee on every household within a municipality that is serviced by that fire hydrant whether they are a customer or not? Will investigate this. Then would look at removing that hydrant fee from our bills.

Motion to Adjourn at 8:56 PM by Jack Morris, seconded by Barbara Orth. Motion carried.

Next meeting: *Wednesday, October 22, 2025 at 7PM at the Womelsdorf Borough Hall.*

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Orth

Barbara Orth
Secretary

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

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Treasurer's Report AUGUST 2025

Balance July 31 \$86,929.01

Customer Collections

\$ 118,809.50

Cert. Fees

\$ 240.00

Interest Income

\$ 3,327.15

Other income Gross Fillex

\$ 24,150.00

Transfer from PLGIT

\$ 350,000.00

Total Receipts

+\$ 496,526.65

\$583,455.66

Disburements for August

\$76,951.73

Total Disburements

-\$76,951.73

\$506,503.93

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

\$851,503.93

PLGIT

\$ 768,076.70

Interest 4.36%

+\$2,008.54

Transfer to Checking

- \$350,000.00

+\$420,084.70

\$1,271,588.63

Edward Jones account value of July 26-August 29, 2025

+808,779.46

\$2,080,368.09