

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING  
OF THE BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY**

**Thursday, January 22, 2026  
450 Child Street (Boardroom), Warren, RI**

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**Board Members Present:**

Juan Mariscal, Chairman  
Thomas Kraig, Vice-Chairman  
Christopher Stanley, Secretary/Treasurer (arrived 5:03pm)  
John M. Jannitto, Board Member  
Robert J. Martin, Board Member  
Stephen Gross, Board Member  
Richard E. Fournier, Board Member  
David E. Fales, Board Member  
(1 Open Position)

**Board Members Absent:**

None

**BCWA Staff Attending:**

Stephen H. Coutu, Executive Director  
Michael Crawford, Deputy Executive Director  
Daniel Hughes, Finance Manager  
Colin O'Hara, Engineering Project Manager  
Lauren DeRuisseau, HR/Executive Assistant

**Others Attending:**

Legal Counsel Joseph Keough

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**1. Call to Order**

Pursuant to proper notice, the Board Meeting of the Bristol County Water Authority was called to order by Chairman Mariscal at 5:43pm.

**2. Public Input**

There was no public input.

**3. Board Vote on Recommended Rate Increase for FY 2027**

Director Martin made the following motion seconded by Vice-Chairman Kraig

**MOTION: We approve the increase as presented in the Public Hearing.**

Chairman Mariscal stated that the proposed rate increase is for 3%.

**Motion passed unanimously by aye vote.**

#### 4. Minutes

##### a. Properties Committee Meeting – 12/3/2025

Chairman Mariscal presented the Properties Committee meeting minutes for approval.

Director Stanley moved the following motion seconded by Director Martin

**MOTION: So moved.**

**Motion passed unanimously by aye vote.**

##### b. Board Meeting – 12/11/2025

Vice-Chairman Kraig moved the following motion seconded by Director Stanley

**MOTION: To approve.**

**Motion passed with (7) ayes and (1) abstention by Director Fournier.**

#### 5. Executive Director's Report

- Pawtucket Pipeline Project – Beta has provided their monthly progress report. We have 90% roadway plans and have received comments from East Providence. We are having a design workshop with the Beta engineers and East Providence in a couple of weeks to discuss the comments.
  - Chairman Mariscal proposed that Beta attend the Board meeting next month and then determine a schedule going forward.
- Dam Removal/Shad Pipeline:
  - The project is considered complete. We had outstanding grant funds from National Fish and Wildlife which were scheduled to expire on 12/31/25. A request was made for an extension, which was granted. We will get cost reimbursements for any work associated with dam removal monitoring activities, which are part of our permitting requirements.
  - We completed the private well testing that we were required to do. Notices were sent to the (12) property owners who participated in the pre-dam removal program. Half participated in getting their wells tested.
    - Chairman Mariscal requested that BCWA follow up with the (6) property owners of the original (12) who did not have their wells tested.
  - A meeting was held with representatives from Save the Bay and Mass DEP at the Shad Dam to discuss the steps and potential grant funding associated with the dam removal project at that location.
- Lead Service Line Replacement Program – we are starting a new initiative on this program. Per regulations, we are required to inspect and validate 20% of private side services that we presume are non-lead, of which we have 1,902. We recently sent out notifications to 400 of those customers asking for inspections or, if they prefer, they can do their own inspections.
- Fountain Avenue Tank – evaluation was completed and submitted to RIDOH.
- The Executive Director's performance review will take place in the coming weeks.
- A Finance Committee will be scheduled within the coming month to follow-up on items that were discussed in October.

Operations Report:

- Crews have been managing water main breaks and equipment. There have been ten events over the last week due to the cold weather. Staff have been preparing facilities so that we can respond to these events.

Engineering Report:

- 2026 Capital Improvement Project – cleaning and lining water mains in the Child Street, Metacom Ave, and Kickemuit Road, along with renewal of water services and installation of water appurtenances.
- Boyle & Fogarty will return in spring for permanent patch and mill and overlay.
- Ongoing miscellaneous projects include Mt Hope HS renovation and lead service line replacement program as well as working with JML and customers who are interested in their private side service renewals.

IT Report:

- Director Fales requested a status on the workstation updates.

**6. Financial Report**

(Appendix A)

Finance Manager Dan Hughes provided a financial summary for December 2025.

**7. Board Member Town Council Reports**

Director Jannitto stated that he has not heard from the Warren Town Council regarding a replacement for Bill Gosselin.

Director Martin noted that the Town Administrator from Bristol sends his thanks to the Executive Director and BCWA for their efforts tying in Walley School over the past few months.

**8. Board Vote on Task Order to Pare Corp. for Engineering Services Related to the Design of New Operations Building**

(Appendix B)

Executive Director Coutu presented a task order from Pare Corporation to advance the plans for the new Operations garage to the 30% design phase. Architectural engineering services associated with that work include industrial equipment survey and design services, additional land surveying services, Geotech engineering services, and code consultation services for a fee of not to exceed \$300,000.00.

Director Martin made the following motion seconded by Director Stanley

**MOTION: This be accepted and approved as long as they meet their schedule of 1 May.**

Executive Director Coutu stated that at the conclusion we will have a presentation to the Board and then we will make a decision as to next steps.

**Motion passed unanimously by aye vote.**

## **9. Board Vote on Proceeding with Plans for the Demolition of the Former Water Treatment Plant Building**

(Appendix C)

Executive Director Coutu stated that BCWA and the Board have done their due diligence with respect to potentially preserving the former treatment plant. We received no responses from our RFP. It has been determined that the land area is needed for the new building. The Board approved a task order to Pare Corporation in February 2024 for this effort, which was suspended for a period of time while we went through the motions to see if there was a potential in preserving the buildings. There are sufficient funds with the exception of Pare seeking an additional \$6,000.00 to complete the work given that the project budget and the tasks associated with that were put together two years ago and their costs have gone up over that period of time.

Vice-Chairman Kraig made the following motion seconded by Director Gross

**MOTION: To proceed with the plans for the demolition of the former water treatment facility.**

The building on the street is not needed for the redevelopment of the new building.

Pare Corporation is looking for an additional \$6,000.00 to wrap up the plans and specs for the demolition of the two older buildings.

Director Fournier amended the motion seconded by Director Fales

**AMENDED MOTION: To proceed with finalizing plans for the demolition of the former water treatment facility.**

Executive Director Coutu stated that we are going to take those plans and go out to bid and then present back to the Board to award a demolition contractor.

**Motion passed unanimously by aye vote.**

## **10. Executive Session**

Director Gross made the following motion seconded by Director Stanley

**MOTION: To go into Executive Session as listed on the agenda.**

**(i. Litigation – RIWRB Funds – Potential Litigation Pursuant to RIGL s. 42-46-5 (a)(2); ii. Litigation – Providence Water Supply Board Docket 24-51-WW Supreme Court Appeal – Pursuant to RIGL s. 42-46-5 (a)(2); Property – Warren Reservoir, Swansea – Pursuant to RIGL s. 42-46-5 (a)(5); Executive Session Minutes: Properties Committee Meeting – 12/3/2025, Board Meeting – 12/11/2025)**  
**Motion passed unanimously by aye vote.**

The Board entered Executive Session at 6:47pm.

*Director Gross left the meeting at 6:50pm*

The Board returned to open session at 7:16pm.

Director Stanley moved the following motion seconded by Director Martin

**MOTION: To seal the minutes of the Executive Session.**

**Motion passed unanimously by aye vote.**

**11. Next Scheduled Meeting(s):**

- i. Board Meeting – Feb. 26, 2026

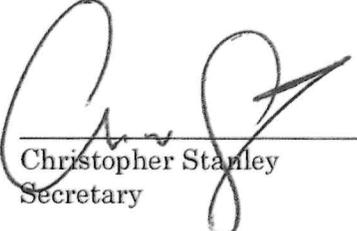
**12. Adjournment**

Director Stanley moved the following motion seconded by Vice-Chairman Kraig

**MOTION: To adjourn.**

**Motion passed unanimously by aye vote.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:17pm.



Christopher Stanley  
Secretary