

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

**Thursday, August 28, 2025
450 Child Street (Boardroom), Warren, RI**

Board Members Present:

Juan Mariscal, Chairman
Thomas Kraig, Vice-Chairman
Christopher Stanley, Secretary/Treasurer
John M. Jannitto, Board Member
Robert J. Martin, Board Member
William F. Gosselin, Board Member
Stephen Gross, Board Member (*arrived 5:16pm*)
Richard E. Fournier, Board Member
David E. Fales, Board Member

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

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND
2025 OCT - 7 PM 12:19

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 5:01pm.

2. Public Input

There was no public input.

3. Distribution of Annual Report

Distribution of FY2025 Annual Report to the Board. The report was previously created by an outside firm but is now being created in-house at a significant cost savings.

4. Minutes

a. Board Meeting – 7/24/25

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

MOTION: To approve.

Motion passed with (7) aye votes, and (1) abstention by Director Stanley
(*Director Gross absent for vote*)

b. Special Board Meeting – 8/6/25

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

MOTION: To be approved.

Motion passed with (7) aye votes, and (1) abstention by Director Stanley

(Director Gross absent for vote)

5. Executive Director's Report

- Pawtucket Pipeline Project – Earlier this month the project manager presented a status update as well as a discussion on the amendment which will be discussed as an agenda item.
- Demo of the Water Treatment Plant – We have not received any responses after two months of advertising the RFP. We began predesign work with Pare Corporation on the proposed new operations garage.
- Dam Removal – We are looking to get a final schedule from our contractor with respect to plantings and final clean up.
- Shad Factory – Pare Corporation continues to work on the Shad Factory design plans.
- BCWA Properties Committee – Directors Martin and Fales are creating a property portfolio for the Properties Committee's review to prioritize the properties we want to focus on and develop a long-term plan for.
- Lead Service Line Replacements – Technicians from the RI Rural Water Association are continuing to make appointments and conduct inspections for those properties that we have no information on the private service lines. After three letter notices were sent out, they have started cold calling, which has resulted in a 40% response rate.
- Fountain Avenue Tank – We have received the results and are just waiting for the final technical memo, which will be shared with the Board and then sent to the Department of Health.

Operations Report:

- Water quality monitoring is ongoing. We are awaiting results from our August sampling.
- Lead and copper monitoring have been completed with no exceedances of any regulatory limits.

Director Gross arrived at 5:16pm.

Engineering Report:

- Boyle & Fogarty began work in mid-July on Child Street and have installed 176 feet of ductile iron water main. The pipes coming from the water treatment plant have been cut and capped. The newly installed water main is undergoing pressure/chlorination testing.
- A new fire hydrant is being installed on Gooding Avenue.

6. Financial Report

(Appendix A)

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

7. Board Member Town Council Reports

There were no reports.

8. Quarterly Write-Offs: For Information Only

(Appendix B)

9. 2025 Service Line Report: For Information Only

(Appendix C)

This is our first annual report in accordance with the RI Lead Poisoning Prevention Act, which involves water suppliers and replacing lead service lines. Per state law, this report goes to the Governor, President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, the Director of RIDOH, and the Executive Director of the Infrastructure Bank. Reporting includes the number of public side services lines that are lead or galvanized, number replaced, average cost, and number of projected replacements.

10. Former Water Treatment Plant Buildings – For Discussion

The RFP was advertised and no responses were received. The utilities to the buildings are in the process of being terminated.

Director Martin suggested that the Properties Committee meet this month to propose a recommendation.

11. Board Vote on Purchase of Ford Explorer

(Appendix D)

Executive Director Coutu stated that we are looking to purchase a Ford Explorer to replace an older Ford Escape. We received proposals from three vendors on the master price agreement, with the low bidder coming from Tasca Ford at \$31,750, which also includes the trade in.

Director Stanley made the following motion seconded by Director Gross

MOTION: To approve \$31,750 to Tasca Ford.

Motion passed unanimously by aye vote.

12. Board Vote on Boardroom Improvements

(Appendix E)

Discussion regarding improving the technology within the Boardroom for audio/visual needs as well as improving the furniture to provide technological capabilities to potentially stream meetings. There is an approved capital budget of \$75K for boardroom improvements. A conceptual budget and layout were provided to the Board. Investment in technology over furniture is preferred by the board members. No action will be taken at this time.

13. Board Vote on Amendment No. 3 to Beta Group for Engineering Services

Associated with the Design of Pawtucket Pipeline Project – Phase II

(Appendix F)

An amendment request was received on June 13th along with a breakdown of the added costs associated with the design work. This is mainly for Ten Mile River Crossing. The biggest

cost is the blending and control station as this project was going to have BCWA design and operate its own station and East Providence would design and operate their own station but logistically it made more sense to build one station and have that located within a secured water facility at Kent Heights.

Director Jannitto expressed his disappointment with Beta's performance with the design of the pipeline and stated that he will be voting no on this issue.

Discussion regarding schedule timeline and repercussions for not meeting deadlines.

Chairman Mariscal stated that both he and Executive Director Coutu will send out a joint letter that is strongly worded that expresses the Board's concern about their commitment to the project and getting the project done in a timely fashion.

Chairman Mariscal made the following motion seconded by Director Gross

MOTION: To approve Amendment No. 3 to Beta Group for \$446,723 and new contract total of \$2,418,054.50 with the condition that the plans associated with all aspects of the project with the exception of the blending and control station be completed to the 90% stage and submitted for permitting to the various regulatory agencies before December 31, 2025 in accordance with the schedule as presented by Beta Group at August 6, 2025 presentation to the BCWA Board of Directors. In addition, the joint letter is to be reviewed by the Board of Directors prior to being distributed.

Motion passed with (6) aye hand votes and (3) nay hand votes (voting nay – Directors Stanley, Gosselin, and Jannitto).

Chairman Mariscal stated that as all three Board members voting nay are from the same town, Legal Counsel will be consulted to ensure that the vote is a legal and proper vote. A special meeting may be required should it be determined that vote is not legal.

14. Board Vote on Project Budget Increase for 2024 Water Main Rehabilitation Project (Appendix G)

Dewcon is the contractor for this project. The utility work has been completed with final pavement restoration remaining. We have an approved project budget of \$2.7 million for this contract and the contract itself was just under \$2.5 million. Contingency costs were at 8.8% and generally we are around 26-30%. We incurred significant costs on traffic control and inspections. To complete the project, we are looking for an additional \$350,000 to bring the total project budget to \$3,050,000.

Discussion.

Director Gross made the following motion seconded by Director Martin

MOTION: To approve the increase of the total project budget for the 2024 Water Main Rehabilitation Project from \$2,700,000 to \$3,050,000.

Motion passed unanimously by aye vote.

15. Next Scheduled Meeting – September 25, 2025

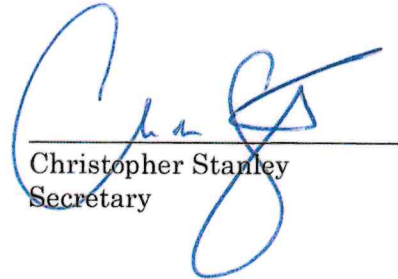
16. Adjournment

Director Gross made the following motion seconded by Director Stanley

MOTION: To adjourn.

Motion passed unanimously by aye vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:31pm.



Christopher Stanley
Secretary