

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

**Thursday, December 11, 2025
450 Child Street (Boardroom), Warren, RI**

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
William F. Gosselin, Board Member
Stephen Gross, Board Member
David E. Fales, Board Member

Board Members Absent:

Richard E. Fournier, Board Member

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

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 5:02pm.

2. Public Input

There was no public input.

3. Minutes

a. Finance Committee Meeting – 10/22/25

Director Martin moved the following motion seconded by Director Jannitto

MOTION: To be approved.

Motion passed unanimously by aye vote.

Director Stanley was not present for vote

b. Board Meeting – 10/23/25

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

MOTION: To approve.

Motion passed unanimously by aye vote.

Director Stanley was not present for vote

Director Stanley arrived at 5:03pm

c. Finance Committee Meeting – 11/13/25

Director Martin moved the following motion seconded by Director Jannitto

MOTION: To be approved.

Motion passed unanimously by aye vote.

4. Executive Director's Report

- Pawtucket Pipeline – We received the 90% roadway plans on November 21st and they are currently under review by our staff and East Providence. We are still waiting on 90% plans for the I-195 crossing and the rail crossings.
 - Director Martin requested that Beta provided a more readable 11" x 17" schedule, provide a schedule of events, and advise as to when a total package will be ready to go out to bid.
 - Chairman Mariscal stated that it is the consensus of the board that they receive an update of the schedule in a readable, large-scale 11" x 17" form.
- Demo of Water Treatment Plant – Received the conceptual design with cost estimates on November 7th. The Board voted at the September meeting to wait on the predesign plans for the maintenance garage before making a decision on the buildings. The proposed plan shows the need to remove the treatment plant building along with the current operations garage. The smaller building could potentially remain.
- Dam Removal – Received the final invoice yesterday. Follow-up private well testing was offered to the 12 property owners that participated in having their wells tested prior to the removal of the dams.
- Shad Line – A meeting will be held next week to discuss on where they stand on that project.
- Lead Service Line Replacement – We sent out our annual mailer to those customers who have an unknown service line or galvanized iron service line. Approximately 1,200 notifications were mailed out. The next program will begin soon for 1,900 customers that we assumed have a non-lead service based on the age of installation or age of construction of house after 1949. By rule, we need to identify 20% of those services to validate that list. We will be working again with 120Water to send out notices and to verify that 20% of the 1,900 have non-lead. The DOH considers the list acceptable once 20% has been completed.
- Fountain Avenue Tank – The report was sent to the DOH yesterday and will be provided to the Board at our next meeting. The tank has been offline for over a year and the evaluation that was done confirms that the tank can remain offline.

- Zachary Carmello recently joined BCWA as a Water Utility Operator.

Operations Report:

- With the cooler weather, crews have been responding to leaks throughout the system.
- Components at our older facilities have begun to age-out so we have been making improvements at our older facilities to keep them operational.

Engineering Report:

- 2025 Capital Improvement Project – Boyle & Fogarty will return in the Spring of next year for permanent patch and mill and overlay work.
- Bristol Lofts – Instructed by BCWA to shut down for the winter on Nov. 12th due to impending cold weather having a negative effect on the temporary bypass system.
- Mt. Hope High School Renovation – Working on product submittals with JR Vinagro.
- Unity Part in Bristol – Installed the public side of the service on Nov. 21st.
- Lead Service Line Replacements – Working with JML Excavation for customers who are interested in replacing their private-side galvanized iron services.
- Renewed the public side fire protection and domestic services at 260 High Street on Nov. 26th.

5. Financial Report

(Appendix A)

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

6. Board Member Town Council Reports

Director William Gosselin announced his retirement from the BCWA Board of Directors effective December 31, 2025. Appointed in February 2007, he served six three-year terms, including roles as Committee Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board for nine years.

Chairman Mariscal thanked Director Gosselin for his contributions to the Board and wished him continued success.

7. Quarterly Write-offs: For Information Only

(Appendix B)

For Information Only.

8. High Service Area Expansion: For Information and Discussion

(Appendix C)

Executive Director Coutu provided an overview of the proposed high service expansion areas for Phase II (West, North, and South).

- Proposed High Service Area Phase II (West). This project would require 2,700 feet of 12-inch main going down Hope Street. Hope Street is a state roadway, so the

cost of installation, paving, and rehabilitation is \$5M, with 206 customers benefiting.

- Proposed High Service Area Phase II (North), Metacom Avenue, and would require 2,025 feet of 12-inch pipe. Metacom is a state roadway, with a cost of \$4M and 167 total customers benefiting.
- Proposed High Service Area Phase II (South), BayView Avenue, would benefit 157 customers and was not included as an infrastructure project as there may be an opportunity to extend this high-service area, however more hydraulic modeling is needed.

Review of modifications of project funds as determined by the Finance Committee at the November 13th meeting.

Director Gross stated that funding was diverted as the cost of the project divided by the number of customers was significantly higher than the cost of a \$200 booster pump per customer.

Chairman Mariscal proposed revisiting the policy regarding paying customers for booster pumps.

9. Water System Rehabilitation Planning: For Information and Discussion (Appendix D)

Discussion regarding water main rehabilitation planning and the use of the GIS system to identify areas for water main replacement. The data compiled, such as pipe age and composition, is used to develop annual projects based on available funding. These rehab projects are designed in-house and we work in conjunction with any paving programs that the towns may have.

10. Properties Committee: Recommendation on Proposed Operations Building (Appendix E)

A Properties Committee meeting was held on December 3rd. The committee concurred with the 30% concept design to go forward. The committee's recommendation to the Board is to go forward to 50% with Pare Corporation.

The buildings to be taken down include the maintenance garage and the larger water treatment building. The smaller building would remain; however, the Properties Committee may reevaluate at a later time if there is no interest in the property from the public.

Discussion.

Director Gross moved the following motion seconded by Director Stanley

**MOTION: To accept the recommendation of the Properties Committee.
Motion passed unanimously by aye vote.**

Executive Director Coutu clarified that the concept design would go to 30%, not 50% as stated previously by Director Martin.

11. Finance Committee:
(Appendix F)

i. FY 2027 Draft Operations and Maintenance Budget – Board Vote on Finance Committee Recommendation

Director Gross stated that the Finance Committee met with Executive Director Coutu and Finance Manager Dan Hughes on November 13th to review the Operations and Maintenance budget. The proposal is for \$9,630,648. The Finance Committee voted to approve that budget and is recommending approval here tonight.

Director Martin made the following motion seconded by Director Jannitto

**MOTION: To accept the Finance Committee’s recommendation.
Motion passed unanimously by aye vote.**

ii. FY 2027 Draft Capital Budget – Board Vote on Finance Committee Recommendation

Director Gross stated that the Finance Committee discussed the Capital budget on the same night. Aside from one change mentioned in item 8, the Finance Committee recommended approving \$20,950,000 for the Capital budget for FY2027.

Director Martin made the following motion seconded by Director Jannitto

**MOTION: To accept the Finance Committee’s recommendation.
Motion passed unanimously by aye vote.**

iii. Draft 10 Year Financial Plan for Information Only

Executive Director Coutu stated that the biggest item is the Pawtucket Pipeline Project. We continue to carry the higher end of that cost estimate, which is \$70M.

12. Executive Session

Director Gross made the following motion seconded by Director Stanley

**MOTION: To go into Executive Session Pursuant to RIGL s. 42-46-5 (a)(2).
(i. Litigation – North Farm v. BCWA – 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); Executive Session Minutes: Board Meeting – 10/23/25)
Motion passed unanimously by aye vote.**

The Board entered Executive Session at 6:20pm.

The Board returned to open session at 6:24pm.

Director Gross made the following motion seconded by Director Jannitto

**MOTION: To seal the minutes (Executive Session).
Motion passed unanimously by aye vote.**

13. Next Scheduled Meeting(s):

- i. January 22, 2026 – Public Hearing
- ii. January 22, 2026 – Board Meeting

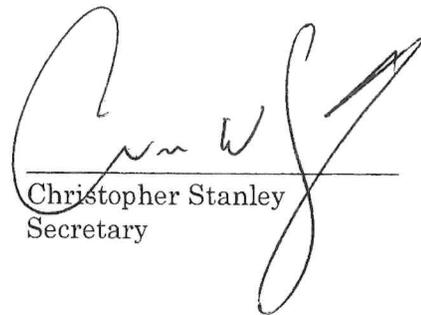
14. Adjournment

Director Gross moved the following motion seconded by Director Stanley

MOTION: To adjourn.

Motion passed unanimously by aye vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:24pm.



Christopher Stanley
Secretary