NEW Water
The brand of the Green Bay Metropolitan Sewerage District

GREEN BAY METROPOLITAN SEWERAGE DISTRICT
PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMISSION

The regular meeting of the Commission was held in person and via Zoom videoconference on September 23, 2026.

PRESENT: Commissioners Meinz, Antonneau, Danen, and Tumpach.

ALSO PRESENT: N. Qualls, J. Smudde, E. Tietyen, P. Wescott, B. Clausen, L. Sarau, J. Valenta, R. Bach, B. Brown, P. Smits, E. Houghton, G. Ashauer, J. Becken, C. Mueller, B. Oldenburg, S. Thieszen, M. McGuire, E. Brewer, M. Schefchik – Cottingham Butler, and J. Smies – Legal Counsel

EXCUSED: Commissioner Herrman

Commission President Meinz called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

1) **Safety Moment.**

N. Qualls gave a safety update on National Recovery Month.

2) **Approval of minutes of the Commission meeting held August 26, 2026.**

Motion #26-056

It was moved by Antonneau, seconded by Tumpach, and unanimously agreed to approve the August 26, 2026, minutes as distributed.

3) **Request Commission approval of the 2027 Salary Market Adjustment.**

E. Tietyen introduced Matt Schefchik from Cottingham & Butler, who conducted an abbreviated market survey in 2026 and recommended a 2.5% market adjustment to all pay grades. The review is part of NEW Water's established process of conducting annual market reviews and comprehensive compensation studies every three years to ensure competitive and equitable compensation. The next comprehensive study is scheduled for 2027.

Motion #26-057

It was moved by Antonneau, seconded by Tumpach, and unanimously agreed to accept the consultants' proposal to adjust all pay grades by 2.5% for the 2027 budget.

4) Request Commission approval of the 2027 Health Insurance.

E. Tietyen stated that NEW Water staff reviewed health insurance participation, market trends, and 2027 renewal options. Following a market analysis by M3 Insurance, staff recommend continuing with Prevea360 for 2027, with a 5.9% renewal increase resulting in an additional $71,924 over the 2026 budget. The recommendation maintains current Health Savings Account contributions of $1,000 for single coverage and $2,000 for family coverage.

Motion #26-058

It was moved by Antonneau, seconded by Tumpach, and unanimously agreed to approve the renewal of the existing Prevea360 plan design, which includes the $500/$1,000 and $2,000/$4,000 plan options; to maintain the current cost-sharing percentages of 85%/15% for the lowest-cost HMO plans and 83.5%/16.5% for PPO/POS plans; and to continue the employer HSA contribution of $1,000 for single plans and $2,000 for family plans for those who choose the high-deductible option.

5) Request Commission approval of Identity Theft Benefit.

E. Tietyen stated that NEW Water reviewed a proposed identity theft protection and financial wellness benefit in partnership with M3 Insurance. The proposed IdentityForce UltraSecure Premium platform would provide employees with credit and identity monitoring, identity theft recovery services, insurance protection, dependent monitoring, and financial coaching. The program would also include business identity monitoring and data breach support for NEW Water at no additional cost to the organization.

Motion #26-059

It was moved by Antonneau, seconded by Tumpach, and unanimously agreed to approve to offer the TransUnion Individual *IdentityForce UltraSecure Premium* platform as an employer paid benefit in the amount of $4,326. This rate is under a 3-year rate guarantee and will be included in the salaries and benefits budget until the renewal period.

6) Request Commission approval to abate the tax levy for 2027.

Motion #26-060

It was moved by Antonneau, seconded by Tumpach, and unanimously agreed to abate the tax levy for 2027.

7) **Request Commission approval of Resolution Declaring Official Intent to Reimburse Expenditures from Borrowing for the East River Lift Station Improvements and Force Main Projects in the amount of $14,500,000.**

M. McGuire requested the approval of a new reimbursement resolution for capital expenditures incurred prior to the issuance of Clean Water Fund Program tax-exempt bonds for the East River Lift Station Improvements and Force Main projects. The previous resolution, approved in October 2023 for $10 million, is insufficient to cover the total construction costs based on the bids received. A new resolution is required before the bonds can be issued.

Motion #26-061

It was moved by Antonneau, seconded by Tumpach, with the abstention of Commissioner Danen due to conflict of interest, and agreed to approve the Resolution Declaring Official Intent to Reimburse Expenditures from Proceeds of Borrowing for the East River Lift Station Improvements and Force Main Projects in the amount of $14,500,000.

8) **Request Commission approval to award the construction contract for the East River Lift Station Improvements Project #230014 to Miron Construction, Inc. in the total amount of $10,336,291.**

M. McGuire stated that NEW Water staff reviewed bids for the East River Lift Station Improvements project, which will address aging equipment, capacity limitations, and system resiliency. Three bids were received, with Miron Construction Co., Inc. submitting the lowest responsive and responsible bid of $9,396,591, exceeding the engineer's estimate of $8 million. Staff recommends awarding the contract to Miron Construction. The project is expected to be funded through the Clean Water Fund Loan Program, with additional capacity costs recovered from direct-use customers in accordance with NEW Water's sewer use ordinance.

Motion #26-062

It was moved by Antonneau, seconded by Tumpach, with the abstention of Commissioner Danen due to conflict of interest, and agreed to award the construction contract to Miron Construction Co., Inc. in the amount of $9,396,591.00 and a contingency of $939,700.00 to be administered under the authority of the Executive Director for a total amount of $10,336,291.00.

9) **Request Commission approval to enter into an agreement with Donohue & Associates to provide construction-related services for the East River Lift Station Rehabilitation Project in the total amount of $1,259,102**

M. McGuire stated that NEW Water staff reviewed a proposed agreement with Donohue and Associates to provide construction-related services for the East River Lift Station Improvements project, including contract administration, submittal review, and construction observation. Construction is anticipated to begin in November 2026 and continue through May 2029, with record drawings expected by August 2029. Staff reviewed the agreement, scope, and costs and found them appropriate for the work required.

Motion #26-063

It was moved by Antonneau, seconded by Tumpach, with the abstention of Commissioner Danen due to conflict of interest, and agreed to enter into an agreement with Donohue and Associates to provide engineering services during construction for the East River Lift Station Improvements Project in the amount of $1,144,602.00 and a contingency of $114,500.00 to be administered under the authority of the Executive Director for a total amount of $1,259,102.00.

10) **Request Commission approval to award the construction contract for the East River Lift Station Force Main Project #230014 to Advance Construction, Inc. in the total amount of $2,479,568.**

M. McGuire stated that NEW Water staff reviewed bids for the East River Lift Station Force Main project, which will increase capacity to support lift station upgrades and future growth. NEW Water received four b, with Advance Construction Inc. submitting the lowest responsive and responsible bid of $2,254,167.60, approximately 33.5% below the engineer's estimate. The project is expected to be funded through the Clean Water Fund Loan Program, with additional capacity costs recovered from direct-use customers in accordance with NEW Water's sewer use ordinance.

Motion #26-064

It was moved by Antonneau, seconded by Tumpach, with the abstention of Commissioner Danen due to conflict of interest, and agreed to award the construction contract to Advance Construction, Inc. in the amount of $2,254,168 and a contingency of $225,400 to be administered under the authority of the Executive Director for a total amount of $2,479,568.

11) **Request Commission approval to enter into an agreement with Donohue & Associates to provide construction-related services for the East River Lift Station Force Main Project in the total amount of $548,977.**

M. McGuire stated that NEW Water staff reviewed a proposed agreement with Donohue and Associates to provide construction-related services for the East River Lift Station Force Main project, including contract administration, submittal review,

and construction observation. Construction is anticipated to begin in April 2027 and conclude in September 2027, with record drawings expected by December 2027. Staff reviewed the agreement, scope, and costs and found them appropriate for the work required.

Motion #26-065

It was moved by Antonneau, seconded by Tumpach, with the abstention of Commissioner Danen due to conflict of interest, and agreed to enter into an agreement with Donohue and Associates to provide engineering services during construction for the East River Lift Station Force Main Project in the amount of $499,077.00 and a contingency of $49,900 to be administered under the authority of the Executive Director for a total amount of $548,977.

12) **Request Commission approval to enter into an agreement with Strand Associates to provide design services for the East Bayshore and Old Plank Lift Station Rehabilitation Project in the total amount of $605,000.**

E. Brewer stated that NEW Water staff reviewed proposals for design services for the East Bayshore and Old Plank Lift Station Rehabilitation Project, which will address aging equipment, insufficient pumping capacity, and operational and safety concerns. Staff received four proposals, with Strand Associates earning the highest overall score. Staff recommend awarding the contract to Strand Associates for $549,950, citing its strong project team, comprehensive approach, and familiarity with the facilities from prior planning efforts.

Motion #26-066

It was moved by Antonneau, seconded by Tumpach, and unanimously agreed to enter into an agreement with Strand Associates, Inc. to provide design services for the East Bayshore and Old Plank Lift Station Rehabilitation Project in the amount of $549,950, and a 10% contingency of $55,050 to be administered under the authority of the Executive Director, for a total authorized amount of $605,000.

13) **Request Commission approval of Change Order No. 11 for the Green Bay Facility North Plant Clarifier Rehabilitation Project #18-020-CO in the amount of $813,227.**

B. Brown stated that work associated with the North Plant Clarifier construction contract, approved by the Commission in July 2023, is nearing completion. As the project has progressed, additional needs and system improvements closely related to the existing work have been further evaluated. With construction nearing completion and efficiencies realized throughout the project, staff is requesting approval of Change Order No. 11 to address two additional items that will improve

system reliability, extend equipment service life, and support treatment process optimization.

Motion #26-067

It was moved by Antonneau, seconded by Tumpach, and unanimously agreed to the approval of North Plant Clarifier Rehabilitation Project Change Order No. 11 for a total cost not to exceed $813,227.17.

14) **Sewer Plan Approvals.**
   a) Village of Bellevue, Project #240757, GBMSD Request #2026-26.
   b) Town of Ledgeview, Contract #A-2026, GBMSD Request #2026-27.

Motion #26-068

It was moved by Antonneau, seconded by Tumpach, with the abstention of Commissioner Danen due to conflict of interest, and agreed to the approval of the Village of Bellevue and Town of Ledgeview plans for the proposed sewers to serve land located within the NEW Water service area. These approvals are subject to favorable recommendations from Brown County Planning and final approval by the WDNR.

15) **Convene in closed session under State Statute 19.85 (1) (g) for the purpose of conferring with legal counsel for the Commission who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the Commission with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved:**

   a) Potential litigation resulting from environmental testing by a significant industrial user.
   b) Potential litigation resulting from notice of claim for damages to residential property.

Motion #26-069

It was moved by Antonneau, seconded by Tumpach, and unanimously agreed to convene in closed session under State Statute 19.85(1)(g) for the purpose of conferring with legal counsel for the Commission who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the Commission with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved.

16) **Reconvene in open session.**

Motion #26-070

It was moved by Antonneau, seconded by Tumpach, and unanimously agreed to reconvene in open session.

17) **Update of projects:**

a) Miscellaneous Pumping and High Strength Waste Improvements Project.

E. Brewer stated that the contractor completed the installation of the high-strength waste piping associated with #1 digester during the digester outage in August. The piping and isolation valve were successfully pressure tested. The contractor poured a concrete pad around the injection pipe inside the digester. The contractor applied an epoxy coating to the new concrete inside the digester.

b) Green Bay Facility Thickening Improvements Project.

T. Biese stated that the contractor continued work on Gravity Thickeners 3 and 4, including demolishing existing components and installing new mechanisms, pumps, piping, electrical conduit, and controls. Upcoming work includes continued equipment installation and planning for HVAC replacement. Mechanical failures involving the Gravity Belt Thickener No. 4 sludge and polymer feed pumps remain under review, with staff, the engineer, contractor, and supplier working to identify the cause and determine corrective actions.

18) **2027 Budget Workshop.**

N. Qualls reviewed the 2027 Draft Budget as follows:

- Changes to 2027 Budget from August 26, 2026 Presentation
- 2027 Revenues
- 2027 Municipal Rate Comparison
- 2027 Draft Budget Summary
- Strategic Financial Planning
- Cost Effectiveness
- Next Steps

19) **August 2026 Financials.**

C. Mueller reported that August's operating revenues were favorable to budget. Year-to-date, total operating revenues were favorable to budget.

August's operating expenses were favorable to budget because expenditures were lower than budgeted in plant maintenance, administrative and information technology, and solid waste disposal. Year to date, operating expenses were

favorable to budget due to fewer expenditures than budgeted in plant maintenance, contracted services, and salaries and benefits.

20) August 2026 Operations Report.

Both Facilities were in full compliance with all effluent limits for the month of August. The Green Bay Facility was in compliance with air quality limits for the month of August.

For the month, the solids processing facility generated 1,457 MWH of electricity. A total of 164,031 CCF of biogas was recovered, representing nearly all the biogas produced. A small remaining volume was sent through the waste gas flare. NEW Water received 637,104 gallons of high-strength waste.

21) Executive Director's Report:

a) October Commission Meeting.

The October Commission Meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 28, 2026.

b) Municipal & Industrial Partner Meeting: 2027 Budget Focus.

N. Qualls stated on September 17th, NEW Water hosted municipal and industrial partners on-site for a meeting on the 2027 budget.

c) NEW Water to Host Wisconsin Wastewater Operators Association (WWOA).

N. Qualls stated that NEW Water will host members of WWOA for a tour of its Green Bay Facility. The conference is scheduled to take place in Green Bay from October 13-16 at the KI Convention Center.

d) NEW Water to Host Group from Northeast Wisconsin Building & Construction Trades Council (NEWBT).

N. Qualls stated that NEW Water partnered with Lunda Construction to host area high school students as part of NEWBT's Annual Career Day. Students toured the Clarifier Project and learned about hands-on career opportunities at NEW Water, including wastewater operations and skilled trades.

e) NEW Water Partners on National Communications Initiative.

N. Qualls stated that NEW Water hosted a film crew at its Green Bay facility on September 10 as part of a national communications initiative with NACWA and the Northeast Ohio Sewerage District to highlight the importance of the wastewater sector. The segment will air on All Access with Andy Garcia, a public

education television program expected to reach 60 million households nationwide over the course of a year, beginning in spring 2027.

f) Fluid Bed Incinerator Dome Replacement.

N. Qualls stated that the Commission was informed that the emergency replacement of the deteriorated fluid bed incinerator dome, authorized in August, could not be completed during the September 2026 outage due to contractor staffing constraints. The outage proceeded as scheduled to complete other critical maintenance work. Staff is developing an alternative approach to complete the dome replacement as soon as possible.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 10:11 a.m.

GREEN BAY METROPOLITAN SEWERAGE DISTRICT



Secretary