

MINUTES

BETHPAGE WATER DISTRICT

DATE: May 14, 2026 – 3:00pm

Location: Bethpage Water District, 25 Adams Ave

Commissioners and others present:

John Coumatos Theresa Black Scott Greco Joseph Daub Diana Long Richard Walker Richard Humann Michael Weber Gary Cucchi Sal Greco

Call to Order: 3:01 pm

Minutes of previous meeting:

Minutes from March 5, March 12, March 19, March 26, April 2, April 9 and April 16, April 23, April 30, May 7, 2026, for review and approval.

Minutes from March 12, March 19, March 26, April 2 and April 9 are on resolution paper and have signatures of Commissioner Coumatos and Commissioner Black. Once signed by Commissioner Greco, they will be ready to post to the BWD website. The others are still in review.

Minutes Discussion:

Commissioner Coumatos pushed for timely approval of minutes, stating commissioners should review them within the allotted time before meetings. He stated that approvals should happen during meetings without repeated delays. He noted problems with edits, additions, and omissions to minutes have existed for a long time, including before recent disputes. He emphasized that any corrections or amendments to minutes must be discussed publicly in open meetings. He supported creating a routine where commissioners come prepared to approve or dispute minutes during the meeting itself. He also suggested additional work sessions could occur if needed, provided they remain open to the public.

Commissioner Black approved the May 7 minutes as written with no changes. She agreed commissioners should treat reviewing minutes as part of their responsibilities before meetings. She supports discussing all proposed changes openly at the table to maintain transparency. She stated that emailed edits and offline revisions create confusion because commissioners may not know what was changed or by whom.

Commissioner Black recalled that earlier procedures involved reviewing and correcting minutes together during meetings, which she preferred.

She encouraged resolving the backlog while also preventing future delays. She proposed that commissioners verbally request amendments during meetings so they can be openly discussed and approved.

Commissioner Greco Stated he had not yet reviewed the May 7 minutes. He believes that delays were partly caused by email and communication issues. He claimed the backlog and disputes over minutes began when selective edits and omissions started occurring in prior administrations. He disagreed that similar problems existed to the same degree a year earlier. He distinguished between grammatical corrections and omissions of statements made during meetings. Commissioner Greco questioned why auditors reviewing 2025 records needed access to current minutes.

Assistant Superintendent Daub suggested commissioners could meet before meetings to work through disputes about minutes. He stressed the importance of catching up on outstanding minutes. He also warned that waiting too long to approve minutes causes confusion because details from meetings become harder to remember over time.

Diana Long explained that auditors routinely request the most current minutes during audits. She stated auditors compare current procedures to prior-year practices to ensure consistency. She also clarified that some current minutes reference actions connected to 2025 audit matters, which is why auditors requested them.

Superintendent's Report: Asst. Supt. Daub

1. Asst. Supt. Daub presented the Board with the April 2026 month-end investment statement from RBC Advisor for First American Asset Advisory.
2. Asst. Supt. Daub presented the Board with Change Order #17 from Philip Ross Industries for project BPWD2107 Phase 3 Ion Exchange & AOP Treatment Plant 1 in the amount of \$ 10,290.00. This change order is to add double gates on fence around the tank. Change Order #19 in the amount of \$19,205.74 is to furnish and install AOP basement lighting.

Asst. Supt. Daub stated that the health department requested expanded gated access around the peroxide and brine tank area so operators could maintain visual access to spill alarms and improve future maintenance access. He explained that the basement lighting request came after inspectors reviewed the area housing I-set equipment beneath the AOP system & emphasized the need to approve the work promptly to avoid delays.

Engineer Weber explained that the health department sometimes raises safety concerns even when they are not tied directly to a regulation. He agreed the basement area was dark and recommended installing additional lighting.

Commissioner Teresa Black made the motion to approve Change Orders 17 and 19 in order to keep the plant operational and compliant. Commissioner Greco seconded the motion. Commissioner Coumatos abstained from making a motion until meeting minute issues were resolved.

3. Asst. Supt. Daub presented the Board with trophy renderings for the upcoming poster contest for the Bethpage Elementary schools.
4. Asst. Supt. Daub presented the Board with BWD Employee Accrual Balance report as of 5/17/2026. **Reserved for executive session.**

Town of Oyster Bay Bond Claim Forms

None

Correspondance :

1. Tri-party collateral agreement. Capital One and Bank of NY Mellon at 105%. dated 05/1/2026.
2. Tri-party collateral agreement. Webster Bank and Bank of NY Mellon at 102%. dated 05/1/2026.
3. M&T Bank month end collateral statement dated 05/1/2026.
4. First American Advisors firm brochure which provides information about their business practices.

Attorney's Report: Gregory Carman

None

Engineer's Report: Michael Weber

1. **BPWD2107** - Ion Exchange & AOP Treatment at Plant No. 1 – Start-up schedule for remaining systems:
 - PRI has completed most of the work associated with the DOH comments. H2M to send a comment response letter to the DOH by the end of the week.
2. **BPWD2601** – Wellhouse & Treatment for Well BGD-2 – Progress continues on design report. Aiming to submit to NCDH the third week of May. Pre-design work complete, with full design kicked off. Engineer Humann updated the board with permitting issues involving Well BGD-2. Confirmed that the district can continue operating the well while matter remains under review. He noted that the district's response deadline to the DEC is at the end of June.

Richard Walker reported that previously overlooked claims tied to the Well 7 and 8 project were discovered and submitted to the Town after realizing they had been signed in May 2025 but never forwarded. He reported that the Town quickly processed payment once the claims were received. He explained that most contractor claims and final payments related to the project have now been

resolved. He noted that Stalco final payment issue was significantly reduced from the original amount requested.

Mr. Walker stated that Sage has been paid in full and that a credit balance was identified. He reported that PGA remains the primary unresolved issue because communication with the contractor has stalled.

He communicated that there is also a remaining issue involving Palace Electrical tied to a union-related matter, with funds still being withheld pending outside review. He suggested coordinating future water main replacement work with upcoming Town paving projects, particularly in areas with repeated water main breaks. He explained that several Town projects have experienced scheduling changes and delays, including issues involving National Grid coordination. He suggested the district focuses on replacing mains in the worst-performing areas before roads are resurfaced.

PMG: Gary Cucci

- Discussed logistics for upcoming student tours, including pre-splitting large groups into smaller classes for easier movement through the facility.
- Coordinated plans for visiting Ms. Marcis's classroom following the tours, depending on scheduling.
- Updated the board on communication initiatives, including a planned summer newsletter, email communications, and media outreach.
- Reported that the district's email communication platform was fully set up with over 3,000 customer email addresses available.
- Explained that a draft public communication regarding summer water conservation was prepared and awaiting board review.
- Asked the board to clarify future communication workflows and identify primary district contacts moving forward.
- Confirmed that communications would move forward under a "Message from the Board of Commissioners" format rather than a chairman-specific message.
- Discussed ongoing photography, videography, drone footage, and promotional content tied to tours, classroom visits, and the student poster contest.
- Confirmed media outreach would continue with local outlets and News 12 to promote the district's educational programming and expanded participation with Island Trees schools.

Commissioner Black discussed organizing student tours and educational presentations for large student groups. She raised concerns about ensuring there was a backup presenter available if Michael Boufis was unavailable for the tours. She suggested involving a female engineer in the presentations as a positive role model for students.

Commissioner Black discussed presentation logistics and emphasized that students tend to respond best to speakers directly involved with water operations.

Assistant Superintendent Daub confirmed scheduling details and logistics for the student tours. He explained that backup plans were in place if Michael Boufis was unavailable to assist with presentations. He noted that experienced operators had successfully handled educational tours in the past.

Engineer Humann offered engineering staff support for the student tours, including the possibility of sending a younger female engineer to participate in presentations. He agreed that having a female engineer involved could provide a positive example for students.

Old Business: Asst. Supt Daub

1. Assistant Superintendent Daub reported speaking with a company called "Minute Taking Service."
 - Proposed arrangement:
 - Company joins meetings virtually via Zoom.
 - Same minute-taker assigned consistently for continuity.
 - Provides:
 - Full verbatim transcript
 - Condensed summary version
 - Virtual rate: \$175/hour
 - In-person rate: \$250/hour
 - Estimated turnaround usually by next day, possibly up to two days depending on meeting length.
 - Commissioners noted current transcripts are difficult to decipher and hoped this service would improve clarity.

2. Agenda's posted prior to board meetings

Commissioner Coumatos strongly supported posting agendas/resolutions online for transparency and taxpayer accountability. He believes that residents should know what is being voted on before meetings. He suggested posting agenda items involving resolutions every Tuesday.

Commissioner Greco felt weekly posting requirements were "overkill" and raised concern about whether transparency requirements would stop: i.e. agendas, resolutions, vouchers SAP expenditures.

Richard Walker explained distinctions between public resolutions, change orders and routine voucher approvals. He noted many expenses are already approved through contracts or bids.

Emerging Consensus is to post agendas that contain resolutions requiring board votes. Aim for Tuesday submission / Wednesday posting workflow. Emergency matters could still be handled separately.

3. Summer Help
 - Staff proposed hiring two summer workers.

- Duties would include:
 - hydrant inspections
 - flushing program support
 - assisting senior staff
 - cap checks and field work
- Civil service process required

Commissioner Black made a motion to pursue hiring two summer workers. Commissioner Greco seconded the motion.

4. Street Fair

- Preparations discussed for upcoming street fair on the 17th
- The educational trailer is ready
- Staff assignments have been made
- Questions about set-up location and traffic safety
- Concern raised that road barriers should be handled by the town using proper equipment rather than personal vehicles.

5. Business Manager Position

Assistant Supt. Daub gathered salary range information for potential Business Manager position which will be discussed in executive session.

6. Letters for Minutes

The board acknowledged receipt of congratulatory letters regarding Michael Boufis' retirement. Letters included will be from Joseph Saladino, Rose Walker and Gary Bretton. Commissioners requested copies for review.

Executive Session: 4:08 pm – 5:13pm

Chairman Coumatos requested the Board of Commissioners and Assistant Superintendent Daub to enter session to discuss personnel issues.

Regular Meeting back to order: 5:15pm

Commissioner Greco on behalf of the board stated that all administrative duties be turned over to Assistant Superintendent Daub temporarily while determining long-term operational structure.

It was stated that, effective May 14, the Bethpage Water District would operate under Mr. Daub's 1B water operator license.

Daub would serve as the designated "Water Operator in Responsible Charge."

Meeting Adjourned: 5:30pm

Respectfully submitted by Secretary Scott A. Greco



John F. Coumatos, Chairman



Theresa M. Black, Treasurer



Scott A. Greco, Secretary