



OFFICIAL MINUTES REGULAR MEETING

MEETING: Wausau Water Works Commission
DATE/TIME: Tuesday, December 2, 2025 at 11:00 AM
LOCATION: Wausau City Hall – Council Chambers
407 Grant Street, Wausau WI, 54403

MEMBERS:
Mayor Doug Diny (P) Sarah Watson
Jim Force Deb Hadley
Peter Gelhar

Members Present: Doug Diny, Jim Force, Deb Hadley, Peter Gelhar
Members Not Present:
Members Excused:
Present 4, Not Present 0, Excused 0

Noting the presence of a quorum, the Chairperson called the meeting to order at 11:01 AM.

1 Consideration of the minutes of the preceding meeting(s).

October 7, 2025 Regular Wausau Water Works Commission Minutes

- Motion to Approve the minutes of October 7, 2025 with edits as discussed by Gelhar, Seconded by Hadley. Motion Passed 4-0.

2 Director's Report on Utility Operations.

Report placed on file.

a. Update on LSL 2025 Construction & 2026 Funding

Lindman summarized the memo from the packet with an update on the Lead Service Line Replacements and 2026 Funding.

Force commented his lead line was replaced and the contractor was professional; work was done well with minimal disturbance.

b. Update on the Solar Array Project and Next Steps

Lindman stated the project is estimated at \$2.8 million, with City Council approving borrowing up to that amount, reduced by any grants or tax credits. A Sole Source request will go to the Finance Committee on 12/9/2025 to hire for engineering services due to tight tax credit deadlines. The proposed solar site is east of the Treatment Plant, with final design details pending. Hadley opposed the sole source approach and questioned the project's ROI citing she is not in favor of the Solar Array Project. Lindman emphasized the need for sole source due to timeliness of the project to begin the construction process before July 2026 to qualify for the tax credit. Force reviewed the project's background, noting prior research, community input, and support for alternative energy despite some neighborhood opposition. The Solar Array Task Force was agreed upon by this Commission. We've done the homework, the payback is not fast, but I have no doubt it'll be successful. I'm happy we are moving ahead with an alternative energy project and will continue to support it.

c. Wastewater- Update on PFAS Test Results for Effluent and Biosolids

Brooks summarized occasional testing was requested by Commissioner Robinson to try and see where the PFAS results would be for the Effluent and Biosolids. Each test result gets submitted to the DNR, they could potentially use those numbers so we'd want to keep these testing more on a reserved side- results in the packet. Moving forward with the new issuance of the WPDES Permit,

we'll be testing the Effluent monthly and Biosolids every 2 months.

d. Wastewater- Headworks Screening Project Update

Brooks summarized a completion date set for October 2026, waiting for more equipment to be delivered, then work would continue to progress.

e. Wastewater- Cherry Street Lift Station Project Update

Brooks summarized the project was at a standstill. There's a bit of underground force main left to construct, the rest of the work would be above ground, then demo of the old lift station and site restoration to follow.

3 Discussion and Possible Action.

a. Approving the Lead Service Line Replacement (LSLR) Reimbursement Resolution for the 2026 Safe Drinking Water Loan and Principal Forgiveness.

Lindman summarized the draft resolution included a total of \$18,979,908. DNR's estimated grant of \$11,332,910 and \$7,646,998 in estimated loan. The resolution ensures the city/utility would be reimbursed for expenses prior to formal loan documents being prepared by the DNR, there'll be a revenue bond like 2025 and principal forgiveness. It's brought here, goes to Finance, then to Council as a joint resolution. Diny clarified DNR's loan interest of 0.25%.

- Motion to Approve the LSLR Reimbursement Resolution for the 2026 Safe Drinking Water Loan and Principal Forgiveness by Hadley, Seconded by Gelhar. Motion Passed 4-0.

4 Discussion and/or Updates.

a. On Construction Updates and Safe Drinking Water Loan Status Update for the Granular Activated Carbon and PFAS Treatment Project.

Wojtkiewicz reported the GAC has been operational for a little over a year. Changes were made to the chemical feed system. Polymer was added as pre-treatment to improve performance. There were 24 leaking air release valves replaced by the contractor at no cost to the city; a few remain. Overall, the project remains under budget. A change order is pending for coating the concrete floor in structure 120 to support long-term maintenance. With GAC, if you don't get a safe bacteriological (Bac-T) testing result, you can't use chlorine to disinfect because it damages the carbon. You'll need to utilize a caustic rinse. We did that with one of the vessels and it damaged the floor. DNR is allowing the floor coating with the loan. The variable frequency drives (VFD) networking are being adjusted to better integrate with the backup generators. Carbon replacement is approaching due to the PFAS breakthrough we're seeing. DNR has approved the use of reactivated carbon through a certified facility that regenerates the used carbon. That will be about 20% cost savings plus transportation costs. We don't have any regeneration facilities nearby; they're in Oklahoma and Pennsylvania. The vendor would replace 1 or 2 vessels with virgin carbon, then we'll replace the remaining vessels with regenerated carbon over time. There are 12 vessels total in a lead/lag configuration, 6 systems of 2 vessels each. The process would be to remove the lead system vessels, then the lag system vessels become the lead. Hadley questioned the cost and amount of changeout required. Wojtkiewicz estimated the cost of carbon changeout is about \$800k to \$1 million. Going into this, we weren't sure DNR would allow reactivated carbon, but now they've said it's allowed. Lindman replied every year, but if we're doing 1 or 2 vessels at a time, it'll be several months to replace all of them. Diny stated we can plan the timing and budget, but it depends on the water flow and usage too.

b. On the Proposed WPDES Draft Permit for the Wastewater Treatment Facility.

Brooks summarized the draft WPDES permit was received November 3rd, DNR allows us 1 week to respond and provide comment with factual inaccuracies. We have Municipal Environmental Group (MEG) review it along with Lindman, Fable and myself, there are some preliminary comments. The reasoning for factual review is to find any discrepancies, errors or contested items before the next process, which is public notice and comment that ends December 22nd. DNR reviews and makes final adjustments by January 2026. The WPDES will require us to collect 2 years of biosolids to form their calculations and limits. Force questioned if there would be any significant changes between the new/old permit. Brooks replied the PFAS testing on the Effluent and Biosolids. They went from the fecal coliform testing on the effluent for the bacteria counts to e-coli, which is a better indicator of the pathogens in the wastewater for recreational users in the Wisconsin river. We did preliminary testing that showed we're below the limits they want to impose. No change in phosphorus. Lindman summarized the permit and requirements are good as can be but there's still some unknowns with PFAS which can be concerning. We'll see how that evolves overtime.

5 Adjournment.

Next meeting scheduled January 6, 2026 at 11:00 AM.

- Motion to adjourn by Hadley, Seconded by Gelhar. Motion carried 4-0

The recording of this meeting may be viewed on
YouTube [@CityofWausauMeetings](https://www.youtube.com/@CityofWausauMeetings)



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