



OFFICIAL MINUTES REGULAR MEETING

MEETING: Wausau Water Works Commission
DATE/TIME: Wednesday, April 8, 2026 at 11:00 AM
LOCATION: Wausau City Hall — Council Chambers
407 Grant Street, Wausau WI, 54403

MEMBERS:
Mayor Doug Diny (P) Aaron Griner
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 11:00 AM.

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

March 3, 2026 Regular Wausau Water Works Commission Minutes.

- Motion to approve the minutes of March 3, 2026 by Gelhar. Seconded by Force. Motion carried 5-0.

2 Director's Reports.

Report Placed on File.

a. Capital Projects Planning and Initial Discussion

Lindman provided an overview of the five-year capital planning process. He noted that the enclosed spreadsheet was approved last year and will be updated annually by adding one additional year. While adjustments to specific projects are expected, the document reflects the initial framework previously approved. A revised list of proposed capital projects, including any updates, will be presented in May. Additional project details can be provided. This is through the Gravity software. In response to Hadley's inquiry, Lindman clarified that the \$300,000 figure includes not only software but also implementation and related components.

b. Wastewater — Update on Headworks Screening Project, Cherry Street Lift Station Project, and Status of Class A Biosolids from WDNR.

Brooks reported the Headworks Screening Project remains on schedule, while the Cherry Street Lift Station has experienced delays that resulted in additional costs to be addressed. The WDNR has issued an approval letter for Class A Biosolids dated April 5, 2026, superseding the memo included in the packet. Copies were provided electronically and placed in members' binders. The only item not included in the approval was the Sludge Management Plan (SMP) drier process information and Class A sludge distribution plan; an update is forthcoming. Brooks clarified that distribution of Class A sludge may proceed in the interim, subject to required tracking/documentation, and the draft SMP will remain in use until formal approval is issued. He noted receiving this approval is a significant accomplishment and indicates the discharge permit is forthcoming. Diny added the approval will substantially reduce the need for internal hauling.

3 Discussion.

a. Discussion and Update on LSL Replacement Project for 2026 and related news on the nationwide cost of new regulations.

Lindman outlined changes between the original budget request and the final funding. He noted that Water Utility borrowing is projected to decrease from nearly \$6 million to approximately \$3.4 million, while City-side borrowing will increase, with updates to be provided to Finance.

He emphasized challenges with lead service line replacements due to the absence of a mandatory ordinance, which limits access to full DNR principal-forgiveness funding. Funding levels will decline over the next several years, increasing private-side costs, and full lead removal is mandated by 2037. Staff will bring forward a proposed lead service line ordinance for Commission support before advancing to Council again. Hydroexcavation and pre-construction work have begun, with an estimated 1,200–1,300 replacements planned for the year. Lindman also noted rising regulatory requirements nationwide, many of which lack associated funding, contributing to increased rates. Upcoming EPA actions may introduce new mandates related to PFAS, microplastics, viruses, and additional wastewater and stormwater requirements. Capital planning efforts will incorporate anticipated regulatory impacts. Diny stated that the City has a 10-year timeline to meet the 2037 deadline, and that decisions regarding borrowing and future contracts, including the Five-Star contract, will affect the pace of work. Lindman added that construction costs are increasing significantly statewide, though current prices remain favorable. In response to questions about future household rates, Lindman noted that Wausau's proactive planning and the substantial 2023 rate increase should prevent rates from doubling, though moderate increases are expected. Staff continue to seek funding opportunities, including EPA programs and the recently released \$125 million in state PFAS funding, which may assist with GAC replacement costs. Boers noted that representatives from the City of La Crosse toured the facility to inform their own planning efforts.

b. Report for the Corrosion Control Treatment Optimization Study submitted to the WDNR.

Lindman reported on the Corrosion Control Treatment Optimization Study, noting that testing recommends continuing the use of sodium silicate and adding 1 mg/L of polyphosphate to reduce lead and copper leaching. The draft report has been submitted to the DNR, with a meeting scheduled for June 9 and a formal response expected in September or October. If approved, the City will have two years to implement the recommendation. CDM Smith will provide a detailed presentation at a future meeting. In response to questions, Brooks noted that the added phosphate will increase phosphorus loads at the wastewater plant, but existing equipment can remove it, though additional chemical treatment may increase costs. Diny added that the treatment changes are still required even after lead service lines are removed, due to various in-home plumbing fixtures.

c. Discussion and Update on Influent, Effluent and Biosolids PFAS Testing.

Brooks reported that PFAS measurements for effluent are taken in parts per trillion and biosolids in parts per billion, as shown in the spreadsheet. He confirmed that the facility remains compliant with current Wisconsin guidance. Effluent is tested bimonthly/biosolids annually, and there is currently no approved method for influent testing. Biosolids PFOA/PFOS levels remain below the 20 ng/g (ppb) threshold requiring no further action. Brooks noted this should dispel rumors that Wausau's sludge contains high PFAS levels. Force requested future discussion on rates, and Lindman stated a draft capital budget will be prepared and forwarded to Ehlers for recommendations to the Commission.

4 Adjournment.

Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, May 5, 2026 at 11:00 A.M.

- Motion to adjourn by Griner. Seconded by Gelhar. Motion carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 11:30 A.M.

**The recording of this meeting may be viewed on
YouTube [@CityofWausauMeetings](#)**



City of Wausau
(715) 261-6500 | clerk@wausauwi.gov
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MEMBERS:
Mayor Doug Diny (P) Aaron Griner
Jim Force Deb Hadley
Peter Gelhar

Members Present: Doug Diny, Jim Force, Peter Gelhar, Aaron Griner
Members Not Present:
Members Excused: Deb Hadley
Present 4, Not Present 0, Excused 1

Noting the presence of a quorum, the Chairperson called the meeting to order at 11:03 AM.

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

February 3, 2026 Regular Wausau Water Works Commission Minutes

- Motion to approve the minutes of February 3, 2026 by Griner. Seconded by Gelhar. Motion carried 4-0.

2 Director's Reports.

Report placed on file.

a. Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI) Compliance Date November 1, 2027.

Lindman reported that all lead service lines must be replaced by 2037 and noted Wausau Water Works Commission approved a mandatory LSL replacement ordinance and was sent but not approved by city council. Therefore, the city lacks an ordinance to require private-side replacements. EPA funding will likely end within one to two years, shifting costs to homeowners or the city. Diny added that 2026 may be the last year with full funding. Boers estimated about 3,000 city-side and 6,000–7,000 private-side lines. DNR inventory work continues, but principal forgiveness will drop to 50 percent after this year. New federal rules in 2027–2028 will require treating all unknowns as lead and increasing sampling. Lindman explained that meeting future replacement needs far exceeds current capacity. Force expressed disappointment with the program's limitations; Lindman agreed, citing statewide administrative challenges.

b. Corrosion Control Treatment Optimization Study Update and Timeline

Boers reported that the EPA-mandated study, started in 2022, is due to DNR by March 31, 2026. The likely recommendation is adding about 1 mg/L of polyphosphate, with final results pending additional lead samples and lead-loop testing. In response to Griner, Boers noted anticipated equipment needs may include a pump skid, day tank, and a dual pump skid system (estimated around \$50,000), along with spill containment and piping, pending final results and available space.

c. Water Rate Increase History

Griner asked about remaining debt from the old facility. Lindman noted uncertainty regarding debt from the 1999–2001 for plant addition but confirmed state revolving loans utilized from 2015 to 2018 for capital projects. Groat added that only the 2017 and 2019 revenue bonds remain, with the 2017 bond nearing payoff. Force asked what a 3 percent rate increase would generate in revenue. Lindman said Ehlers would need to calculate that, and Diny noted fixed and meter charges would not increase at the same rate.

d. Updates on the Headworks Screening Project, Cherry St Lift Station Project and Status of

Approval for Class A Biosolids

Lindman summarized updates are in packet. We brought back the WPDES permit status for Class A Biosolids. Staff got in touch with Angela from WDNR updating Fred should be responding soon.

3 Discussion and Possible Action.

- a. Approving Amendment #2 to the contract with Clark Dietz for the Cherry St and Crocker St Lift Stations.

Lindman reported that the amendment is needed due to added engineering time caused by contractor IGE's delays and submission of pumps that did not meet specifications. A compliant pump has since been selected. He noted the city will seek to have IGE cover most or all of the added costs and may pursue liquidated damages if necessary. In response to questions, Lindman stated the pumps were from Flygt and estimated the city's exposure could be up to half of the \$25,000, though liquidated damages of up to \$1,000 per day (and \$500 after substantial completion) over 2-3 months would likely exceed that amount. An update will be provided once calculations are finalized if we have to follow through with litigation.

- Motion to approve amendment#2 to the contract with Clark Dietz for the Cherry Street and Crocker Street Lift Stations by Gelhar. Seconded by Griner. Motion carried 4-0.

- b. Approving the Sole Source Purchase of a Backhoe for the Water Department.

Boers summarized the backhoe quotes are included and noted that the Fabick Cat model is preferable because existing attachments are compatible, avoiding the need for adapter plates or hydraulic retrofits. When Force asked about retrofit costs, Boers estimated roughly \$5,000 for the hammer and \$5,000 for the front-end attachment.

- Motion to approve the sole source purchase of a backhoe through FabickCat for Water Department by Force. Seconded by Gelhar. Motion carried 4-0.

4 Adjournment.

Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, April 8th at 11:00 AM.

- Motion to adjourn by Griner. Seconded by Gelhar. Motion carried 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 11:33 AM.

The recording of this meeting may be viewed on
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