

**GLOVERSVILLE-JOHNSTOWN JOINT SEWER BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
February 12, 2025**

The Gloversville-Johnstown Joint Sewer Board held a meeting in the Boardroom of the Gloversville-Johnstown Joint Wastewater Treatment Facility on Wednesday, February 12, 2025. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL

Christopher Vose	Chairman
Bobbi Trudel	Vice Chair
Eric Parker	Secretary
Michael W. Stover	Member
John Rizzo	Member
Deanna Hitchcock	Member
Harry Brand	Manager-Wastewater Programs
Mark Levendusky	Laboratory Director
Ian Colvin Marincic	WWTP Engineering Technician
Hilary Ruzicky	Administrative Aide

JOINT SEWER BOARD APPOINTMENTS

1. Eric Parker reappointed by the City of Johnstown on 1/21/2025, with the term expiring 12/31/2027.
2. Deanna Hitchcock appointed by the City of Gloversville on 2/11/2025, to fill the remaining term vacated by Donald Schwartz, with the term expiring 12/31/2026.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS – 2025 JOINT SEWER BOARD

The following slate of officers was nominated for the 2025 Joint Sewer Board on a motion made by Mr. Stover, seconded by Mr. Rizzo, carried six (6) in favor, and none (0) opposed:

1. Chairman Christopher Vose
2. Vice Chair Bobbi Trudel
3. Secretary Eric Parker

APPOINTMENT OF 2025 COMMITTEES

On a motion made by Ms. Trudel, seconded by Mr. Stover, carried six (6) in favor, and none (0) opposed, the Board appointed the following committees:

Industrial Compliance/Operations/Preventative Maintenance

Christopher Vose (Chair)
Michael Stover
Deanna Hitchcock

Budget/Purchase/Audit/Personnel

John Rizzo (Chair)
Bobbi Trudel
Eric Parker

JANUARY 8, 2025 MEETING MINUTES

The Board approved the January 8, 2025, regular meeting minutes on a motion made by Ms. Trudel, seconded by Mr. Stover, carried six (6) in favor, and none (0) opposed.

CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was discussed: No. 7, 10, 11 & 19.

PLANT OPERATIONS

Report of Noncompliance Event:

Total Effluent Copper

Manager Brand reported the SPDES permit limit of 17 ug/L for Total Effluent Copper was exceeded on January 15, 2025, with a recorded value of 18 ug/L.

Total Effluent CBOD, TSS, Ultimate Oxygen Demand – Potential Noncompliance

On January 26, 2025, the effluent ISCO composite sampler was found in alarm mode reading “bottle full 347 samples taken” but the sample bottle contained insufficient sample volume to support required analysis. On January 31, 2025, Manager Brand filed a Report of Noncompliance Event to the NYS DEC Regional Water Engineer. Per DEC guidance, all effected analysis results shall be annotated as greater than (>) the actual results for CBOD (Monthly & Weekly Avg), TSS (Monthly & Weekly Avg), Ultimate Oxygen Demand (Monthly Avg), and TKN (Daily Max). This reporting may cause further exceedances when the monthly Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) is calculated. No further action is required by the DEC at this time.

Cogen Engine Maintenance

Manager Brand reported Cogens #2 requires major maintenance, with top end overhaul budgeted per the approved 2025 Capital Plan. The manager and maintenance supervisor are researching potential bidders and developing bid documents for OEM CAT parts and specifications. Manager Brand requested Board approval to seek bids for a top end overhaul of Cogen #2. On a motion made by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Stover, carried six (6) in favor, and none (0) opposed, the Board authorized to seek bids for a top end overhaul of Cogen #2, as part of the 2025 Capital Plan.

Cross Auger Conveyor

Manager Brand reported the facility blends sand with dewatered sludge to achieve a minimum 20% total solids requirement for disposing sludge at the Fulton County landfill. The addition of this sand has caused excessive wear to the cross auger of the sludge conveyor in the Solids Handling Building. Reduced performance of the cross auger conveyor is causing an emergency solids handling issue. Quotes were requested for a new cross auger, including an incline auger at the cost of approximately \$70K. Manager Brand requested Board approval for emergency procurement of a new cross auger. On a motion made by Ms. Trudel, seconded by Mr. Stover, carried six (6) in favor, and none (0) opposed, the Board authorized emergency procurement of a cross auger for blending sand with dewatered sludge to meet the requirements for sludge disposal at the Fulton County landfill.

Authorize Bidding: Dump Truck

Manager Brand requested Board approval to seek bids through Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing for the purchase of a new dump truck. On a motion made by Mr. Stover, seconded by Ms. Trudel, carried six (6) in favor, and none (0) opposed, the Board authorized to seek bids through Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing for the purchase of a dump truck, as part of the 2025 Capital Plan.

2024 Annual Report

Manager Brand provided the Board with the 2024 Annual Report highlighting the year’s significant events and projects. The two largest projects were the High Yard Recovery Project and the Slope Stabilization Project.

1. High Yard Recovery Project: An insurable vehicle accident occurred on February 29, 2024, damaging the High Yard Control Building and rendering Cogen Units from service. Loss of the High Yard Control Building and Cogens caused poor electrical production and an 80% annual power purchase from National Grid. An insurance settlement of \$100,000 was issued for an Additional Expense Claim to cover electric supply service purchased from National Grid while the Cogen units were unavailable to generate power. A Property Damage insurance settlement was reached in the amount of \$1,488,621.39. A Business Interruption insurance claim is pending, with the total insurable amount still under review. NYSERDA Performance Incentive Payment Request Forms were submitted for M&V Year 7 & Year 8, with payments pending.

2. Slope Stabilization Project: A significant slope failure on the facility's northside along the Cayadutta Creek on April 9, 2024, caused an emergency repair project involving engineering services from Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. (GPI) and construction services from Carver Companies. A BAN was issued to the City of Gloversville in the amount of \$1,256,945 to cover the cost associated with stabilizing the slope. The project was largely completed in late December 2024. When weather permits, Carver will finish final clean up and road repair. The project was awarded the APWA Capital Branch project of the year, in the emergency construction category, less than \$5 million division.

In 2024, the Total Industrial Flows decreased 7.26%, Total Suspended Solids (TSS) increased 32.58%, Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) increased by 23.6%, and Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen (TKN) increased 15.38%.

Copies of the 2024 Annual Report will be sent to Gloversville and Johnstown officials, NYS DEC, and GJJSB legal counsel. The report will be posted on the facility's website.

INDUSTRIAL COMPLIANCE

Dairy Industries: Whey Line and Washwater Line Issues

Manager Brand reported investigation continued into whey line and washwater line issues due to staff observation of large solid chunks of cheese and plastic debris. Settleable solids tests were run on whey samples collected from both FAGE and Euphrates. FAGE's sample result was negative and Euphrates sample result was high for settleable solids. Both industries were asked to inspect their daily process for plastics. Lab Director Levendusky conducted on site inspections at both industries. At Euphrates it was verified the plastic material is from broken pallets stacked near floor drains. Euphrates is amenable to resolving all issues. Euphrates has installed a screen to prevent large cheese solids from entering the whey line. They will fasten non removable screens over floor drains and manually clean them regularly, with all debris discarded into dumpsters, to address the plastic debris in the washwater.

BUDGET

2024 Financial Year-End

Manager Brand reported the 2024 revenues initially trended lower than budgeted. Due to spending constraints imposed in the second half of the fiscal year the revenues were greater than expenses at year's end, with a \$472,000 fund balance. \$300,000 of the fund balance will be utilized for the 2025 Budget. Manager Brand revealed a new budget format developed to list all monthly expenditures by line item.

Infrastructure Funding

Manager Brand inquired whether discussions were ever held between the Board and the Cities regarding city awarded grant proceeds to be applied to infrastructure improvements for the Gloversville-Johnstown Joint Wastewater Treatment Facility. Given that historically both federal and state infrastructure funding has only been distributed to the local municipalities, City or Johnstown and Gloversville. Manager Brand requested future conversations on city grant funding to include the GJJWTF infrastructure. Manager Brand will contact Arcadis Engineering to learn about possible funding through the Environmental Facility Corporation (EFC), specifically regarding the potential Sludge Dryer Project remaining of the EFC project list.

ATTACHMENTS

Wastewater Programs Report, Annual Trends/Comparison Report, and 2025 O&M Expenditure Reports were reviewed per Attachments No. 1, 2, & 3.

Approve Abstract #2

O&M purchase orders and disbursement sheets totaling \$318,524.95 were approved for payment on a motion made by Mr. Stover, seconded by Mr. Parker, carried six (6) in favor, and none (0) opposed.

Capital disbursement sheet totaling \$47,276.00 was approved for payment on a motion made by Mr. Stover, seconded by Mr. Parker, carried six (6) in favor, and none (0) opposed.

PERSONNEL

Employee Assistance Program (EAP)

On a motion made by Mr. Stover, seconded by Mr. Rizzo, the Board authorized annual renewal of the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) Agreement by and between St. Mary’s Healthcare and the Gloversville-Johnstown Joint Wastewater Treatment Facility, at the cost of \$850.00, through December 31, 2025.

OLD BUSINESS

Chemical Bidding

Manager Brand reported chemical bidding for Dry Polymer and Emulsion Polymer is postponed until April 7, 2025, due to pending NYS DEC approval of Water Treatment Chemical (WTC) Notification Forms. Polydyne Inc. continues to honor 2024 polymer pricing.

NEW BUSINESS

HSI Online Computer Based Training

Manager Brand reported the purchase of an online training program from HSI Workplace Compliance for employees to accomplish required safety and compliance training. The e-learning package offers 30 courses per year, for up to 35 employees, with a 3-year pricing commitment of \$4,203.60 per year. Employees may individually complete courses as their schedules permit, such as Bloodborne Pathogens, Hazard Communications, Lockout Tagout, Confined Spaces, Respiratory Protection, and more.

Manager Brand reported he contacted Johnstown Fire Chief O’Regan to inquire if the fire department could provide AED & CPR training for GJJWTF employees. O’Regan confirmed the training would be arranged. The Johnstown Fire Department plans to tour the facility, specifically the confined spaces.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion made by Ms. Trudel, seconded by Mr. Rizzo, carried six (6) in favor, and none (0) opposed, the Board members and Manager Brand went into executive session at 7:30 P.M. to discuss NY Public Officers Law §105:1 – (e) collective negotiations pursuant to Article 14 of Civil Service Law.

On a motion made by Ms. Trudel, seconded by Mr. Stover, carried (6) in favor, and none (0) opposed, the Board came out of executive session at 7:41 P.M. No action was taken.

2025-2027 Collective Bargaining Agreement

On a motion made by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Stover, carried (6) in favor, and none (0) opposed, the Board ratified the January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2027 Collective Bargaining Agreement by and between the Gloversville-Johnstown Joint Sewer Board and Teamsters Local 294.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:43 P.M. on a motion made by Ms. Trudel, seconded by Mr. Stover, carried (6) in favor, and none (0) opposed.

The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 12, 2025, at 6:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Parker, Secretary
Gloversville-Johnstown Joint Sewer Board