

**GLOVERSVILLE-JOHNSTOWN JOINT SEWER BOARD**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**July 9, 2025**

Gloversville-Johnstown Joint Sewer Board held a meeting in the Boardroom of the Gloversville-Johnstown Joint Wastewater Treatment Facility (GJJWTF) on Wednesday, July 9, 2025. The meeting was called to order at 6:28 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
Hilary Ruzycky	Administrative Aide
Ian Colvin Marincic	WWTP Engineering Technician

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

On a motion made by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Stover, carried six (6) in favor, and none (0) opposed, all Board members and Manager Brand went into executive session at 6:29 P.M. to discuss NY Public Officers Law §105:1 – (f) the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation.

On a motion made by Ms. Trudel, seconded by Mr. Stover, carried six (6) in favor, and none (0) opposed, the Board came out of executive session at 6:33 P.M. No action was taken.

**JUNE 11, 2025 MEETING MINUTES**

The Board approved the June 11, 2025 regular meeting minutes on a motion made by Mr. Stover, seconded by Mr. Rizzo, carried six (6) in favor, and none (0) opposed.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

The following correspondence was discussed: No. 1 & 7

**PLANT OPERATIONS**

**Manhole #100 Overflow Update**

Manager Brand reviewed the overflow incident that occurred at Manhole #100 on 6/9/25, as discussed at the June Joint Sewer Board meeting.

NY-Alert Incident Report was issued on 6/9/25, to report heavy rainfall event that caused Trunkline Manhole #100 to overflow sanitary sewer onto the roadway and storm drain at Mason Street and North Market Street in Johnstown.

Report of Noncompliance Event (5-day Report) was submitted to the NYSDEC on 6/16/25, as required for discharge of untreated or partially treated sewage. It was discussed that while Kris LaPan was emailed on the day of the event, we failed to submit the Report of Noncompliance 5-day Report within the 5-day requirement. At this time there has not been any further actions required by the NYSDEC.

On 6/26/25, Precision Industrial Maintenance utilized their close circuit video camera to inspect the trunkline near Manhole #100 for potential blockage restricting flow during wet weather events. Investigation revealed significant root infiltration partially obstructing the 27” main at approximately 8 feet and 36 feet downstream of Manhole #100.

On 7/2/25, Precision Industrial attempted to remove the roots by utilizing a high pressure water jet. The pipe was scoped again revealing the jetting was unsuccessful. Precision's mechanical removal equipment would potentially cause damage to the clay pipe and would not be recommended. Additional solutions for the root infiltration will be investigated. Precision is looking to order additional equipment to better position the jet closer to the pipe wall to more effectively remove the roots.

Manager Brand noted he reviewed records from the 2012 Trunk Sewer Rehabilitation Project, investigation identified root infiltration as an area of concern and identified in this specific area. Phase I of the project included jet cleaning of the entire length of the Trunk Lines, but there were no follow up camera inspections to confirm the jetting success. This jet cleaning in 2013 was also performed by Precision, utilizing the same jetting equipment attempted most recently and which was unsuccessful.

#### **FAGE Whey Line Leak**

Manager Brand reported on the morning of 6/12/25 the volume of whey received overnight was significantly below the estimated volume reported by FAGE. Around 7:30 A.M. this large discrepancy was reported to FAGE. At approximately 8:00 A.M. Lab Director Levendusky was informed by FAGE's maintenance supervisor of a potential 4" whey force main leak and a sink hole in the industrial park at the corner of Enterprise Avenue and Venture Drive. GJJWTF personnel reported to the site and confirmed the liquid was whey and ordered FAGE whey discharges to be secured immediately.

Johnstown City DPW reported to the site to excavate the area and determine the source of the leak, which was coming from a failed seam in the HDPE pipe. FAGE delivered four (4) loads of whey to the facility by tanker during the shutdown. A temporary repair was made utilizing a full circle clamp allowing FAGE back online. On 6/13/25 the whey line was removed from service for Xylem Dewatering Solutions to complete a permanent repair by fusing in a new piece of HDPE pipe. The full repair took approximately nine (9) hours. The whey line is now fully operational. Manager Brand made a point to acknowledge the tremendous support provided by the members of the Johnstown DPW staff, without which this would not have been a success. The DPW staff demonstrated exceptional work ethic and the commitment to see the task through completion.

NY-Alert Incident Report was issued on 6/12/25 to report the 4" whey force main leak of 26,800 gallons estimated.

On 6/16/25 submitted the 5-day Notice of Non-Compliance Event to NYSDEC as required for discharge of untreated or partially treated sewage (whey).

#### **Odor Complaint: S. Melcher Street in Johnstown**

Manager Brand reported a resident from S. Melcher Street in Johnstown filed an odor complaint by phone around 9:20 P.M. on June 25, 2025. The following morning Manager Brand left the resident a voicemail and reported the complaint to NYSDEC. The complaint was posted to the Odor Complaint Log on the GJJWTF website. No specific odor source could be identified, but large amounts of leachate received from the landfill following heavy rain events may have caused odors to travel off site.

#### **Emergency Replacement of Sludge Building Lighting Transformer**

Manager Brand reported the lighting transformer that supports the Sludge Building failed. High Voltage Electrical Service was contracted to complete an emergency transformer replacement. The newly installed transformer meets the current electrical code, and all the low voltage supply is restored to the building.

#### **Award Bid: Hydrogen Sulfide Scrubber Media**

Manager Brand reported a bid opening was held on June 30, 2025, for the supply and delivery of media designed to remove Hydrogen Sulfide from biogas. Three (3) bids were received, with the lowest bid from Axens North America, Inc. On a motion made by Mr. Stover, seconded by Mr. Parker, carried six (6) in favor and none (0) opposed, the Board accepted the bid proposal from Axens North America, Inc. for a 2-year contract at \$38.00/cubic foot for the supply and delivery of Hydrogen Sulfide scrubber media.

### **Authorize Bidding: Ferrous Chloride**

Manager Brand requested Board approval to seek bids for the supply and delivery of Ferrous Chloride. On a motion made by Ms. Trudel, seconded by Mr. Stover, carried six (6) in favor, and none (0) opposed, the Board authorized to advertise bids for a two (2) year contract for the supply and delivery of Ferrous Chloride.

### **FAGE Acid Whey Anaerobic Digestion & Biogas Project**

Manager Brand reported the Industrial Compliance Committee met at 6:00 P.M. before the regular meeting to discuss a commercial proposal submitted by FAGE for their wastewater discharging. No action was taken.

Prior to the June Board meeting, FAGE proposed to construct an Acid Whey Anaerobic Digestion & Biogas facility adjacent to their existing plant to be owned and operated by FAGE. They agreed to continue to satisfy the terms of the Whey Delivery and Treatment Agreement with the Joint Sewer Board. FAGE requested a Sewer Will Service/Capacity Letter to support the discharge of the proposed Acid Whey Digestion & Biogas Project volumes once operational. Manager Brand submitted a draft Sewer Will Service/Capacity Letter to each Board member for review.

Following the June Board meeting, FAGE inquired whether there is any interest in upgrading the existing whey process at the GJJWTF to support all of FAGE's current and future whey discharge processing. FAGE would commit to provide the capital investment to support the upgrade cost.

On a recommendation by the Industrial Compliance Committee, the Board unanimously agreed to table both requests from FAGE to facilitate consulting with the two City Attorneys regarding the legal feasibility of accepting capital investment from a private entity.

## **INDUSTRIAL COMPLIANCE**

### **Sewer Bill Protest: 70 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Gloversville**

Manager Brand reviewed a request for sewer bill adjustment for excess water usage for property located at 70 3<sup>rd</sup> Street in Gloversville. On a motion made by Ms. Trudel, seconded by Mr. Stover, carried six (6) in favor, and none (0) opposed, the Board denied a credit since the water entered the sewer system and had to be treated.

## **PERSONNEL**

### **Accept Retirement: Lab Technician Barbara Allen**

Manager Brand reported Lab Technician Barbara Allen submitted a letter of intention to retire. On a motion made by Ms. Trudel, seconded by Mr. Parker, carried six (6) in favor, and none (0) opposed, the Board accepted the retirement of WWTP Laboratory Technician Barbara Allen, effective August 23, 2025, after thirty-seven (37) years of service.

### **Employee Released from Employment: Maintenance Mechanic Andrew Walrath**

Manager Brand reported Maintenance Mechanic Andrew Walrath was released from employment on June 24, 2025, following the minimum probationary term in accordance with Civil Service rules.

### **Job Postings**

Manager Brand reported the following employment positions were posted internally: (2) Operator/Operator Trainee, (1) Maintenance Mechanic, and (1) Laboratory Technician.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

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

### **Approve Abstract #7**

O&M purchase orders and disbursement sheets totaling \$221,773.01 were approved for payment on a motion made by Mr. Stover, seconded by Mr. Parker, carried six (6) in favor, and none (0) opposed.

## OLD BUSINESS

### **Androme Leather Company Transfer of Ownership**

Manager Brand reported Androme Leather Company transacted the Transfer of Ownership for their business located at 21 Foster Street in Gloversville. The new Ownership will take over the responsibility of the existing Androme Leather Company, Inc. - Permit No. 110. Updated contact information has been provided by the new financially responsible party. The current business name, manufacturing processes, and products will remain unchanged.

### **2024 International Dump Truck**

Manager Brand reported H.L. Gage completed work to reconfigure and shorten the chassis of the 2024 International Dump Truck ordered through Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing, as part of the 2025 Capital Plan. A 16-foot stainless steel dump box will be installed by Henderson Truck Equipment. The truck will then return to H.L. Gage for final inspection. Title and registration paperwork will be transacted by H.L. Gage after the final inspection.

Henderson Truck Equipment cannot schedule the installation of the stainless steel dump box until January of 2026. Due to the delay of installation, H.L. Gage offered the following options for consideration:

1. H.L. Gage agrees to store the chassis in their yard and claim all responsibility if any damage occurs, contingent upon payment of a submitted invoice of \$157,815.00 for the chassis, or
2. H.L. Gage will apply a carrying cost of \$981.25 per month if the invoice is paid at a later date.

On July 8<sup>th</sup>, the reconfigured truck was brought to the facility by H.L. Gage to be inspected by GJJWTF maintenance and management staff. The only issue identified was the need to relocate an air release mechanism from underneath the truck to a higher location where the unit will not be damaged during sludge discharging at the landfill.

On a motion made by Mr. Stover, seconded by Mr. Parker, carried six (6) in favor and none (0) opposed, the Board authorized to amend Abstract #7 to include full payment of Purchase Order #14488 for \$157,815.00 to H.L. Gage to cover the cost of the chassis for the 2024 International Dump Truck. The new total for Abstract #7 O&M purchase orders and disbursement sheets is \$379,588.01.

### MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:42 P.M. on a motion made by Ms. Trudel, seconded by Mr. Stover, carried six (6) in favor, and none (0) opposed.

The next regular meeting will be held on **Wednesday, August 13, 2025 at 6:00 P.M.**

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Parker, Secretary  
Gloversville-Johnstown Joint Sewer Board