GLOVERSVILLE-JOHNSTOWN JOINT SEWER BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
July 8, 2026

The Gloversville-Johnstown Joint Sewer Board held a meeting in the Boardroom of the Gloversville-Johnstown Joint Wastewater Treatment Facility on Wednesday, July 8, 2026. The meeting was called to order at 6:05 P.M.

ROLL CALL

Eric Parker	Vice Chair
Michael W. Stover	Secretary
Christopher Vose	Member
Deanna Hitchcock	Member
John Rizzo	Member
Harry Brand	Manager
Nicole Benton	Administrative Aide
Mark Levendusky	Laboratory Director
Ian Colvin Marincic	WWTP Engineering Technician
Adrienne Slade	Principal Account Clerk

ABSENT

Bobbi Trudel	Chair

July 8, 2026 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

The Board approved the June 10, 2026 regular meeting minutes on a motion made by Mr. Stover, seconded by Mr. Rizzo, carried five (4) in favor, one (2) absent, and none (0) opposed. Board Member Vose arrived at 6:06 P.M.

CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was discussed: No. 4.

PLANT OPERATIONS

CAST Settling Tank Blanket Removal

Manager Brand reported that Precision arrived at the facility on June 15, 2026, to remove the blanket from the CAST settling tank. Prior to the work beginning, we had communicated our expectations regarding the scope and method of the removal. At approximately 11:00 a.m., staff inspected the progress and observed that the work was not being completed in the manner that had been anticipated. By the end of the day, only an estimated 20–40% of the blanket had been removed, leaving much of the blanket still in place. Based on these observations, we believed there was a breakdown in communication between the facility's expectations and the work that was ultimately performed. As a result, the decision was made not to continue the work overtime that evening or the following day. Manager Brand reported that the staff is currently evaluating alternative methods for removing the blanket and minimizing the blanket developing. Previous attempts using Grease Wizard created openings in the blanket approximately eight feet in diameter; however, the product has not been effective in breaking down the blanket sufficiently to allow for complete removal.

Cogen #2 Failure

Manager Brand reported that Cogen #2 experienced a mechanical failure over the weekend, causing the unit to shut down, Cogen #1 was placed in service. Upon arriving at the facility the following Monday, maintenance staff inspected the engine and determined that cylinder #4 experienced an Exhaust Valve failure, impacting the piston and resulting in damage to the piston head, and cylinder. Manager Brand noted that a similar failure had occurred on Cogen #1 in previous years. Representatives from CAT are scheduled to be onsite on Thursday, July 9, 2026, with the necessary replacement parts and to further evaluate the extent of the damage. Manager Brand also noted that the engine's top-end overhaul had been completed May 2025. The extent of the damage is hoped to be contained to the piston, cylinder, and head. Additional inspection will be required to determine whether the failure also caused damage to the turbo blades, crankshaft, piston rods, or other internal engine components before the full scope of repairs can be determined.

RAZ Pump #4
Manager Brand reported that RAZ Pump #4 has been repaired and returned to service by Emerick Associates, providing greater operational flexibility within the RAZ pump system. The total cost to complete the repairs and restore the pump to service was approximately $20,000.

Odor Complaint
Manager Brand reported two (2) odor complaints during June from residents located in different areas of Johnstown. One complaint was received by email on June 25, 2026. The other complaint came by way of a voicemail on June 27, 2026. Manager brand reported that the source of the odor was not identifiable. Manager Brand reported that we reached out to both residents and the complaints were reported to NYSDEC. The complaints were posted to the Odor Complaint Log on the GJJWTF website.

INDUSTRIAL COMPLIANCE

Sewer Bill Protest: 110 Division Street, Gloversville
Engineer Technician Marincic reviewed a request for sewer bill adjustment for excess water usage for property located at 110 Division Street in Gloversville. The request was not evaluated and denied due to the protest not being received within the required timeframe.

BUDGET/PURCHASE/AUDIT

FY2025 Financial Audit by BST & Co. CPAs
Manager Brand reported that a tremendous amount of documentation has been submitted for the audit, however, there have been no requests since the last Board meeting. Results will not be available until BST submits an update. Currently there is no known deadline for the audit results.

PERSONNEL

WWTP Operator Trainee Hiring
Manager Brand reported that an employment offer was extended to Mr. Williams for the WWTP Operator Trainee position. Mr. Williams accepted the offer and is scheduled to begin employment on July 27, 2026. Manager Brand noted that the position is currently being filled under the New York State HELP Program. Mr. Williams has also submitted his college transcripts for review. Based on his qualifying coursework, he may receive credit toward the education requirements, reducing the amount of required hands-on training before becoming eligible to sit for the New York State operator certification examinations.

Employee Medical Insurance Plan
Manager Brand reported that on June 26, 2026, management first became aware, through a mailing received, that the Teamsters employee medical insurance plan would be changing effective July 1, 2026. He noted that this change had not been communicated to management in advance. Manager Brand explained that employees were informed that the health insurance carrier would change from Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield to Meritain Health, administered by Aetna. It was also communicated that the new plan would utilize a Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) network. However, it was later discovered that the plan is a Point of Service (POS) network rather than a PPO network, resulting in confusion and numerous unanswered questions regarding employee coverage and provider access. Manager Brand further reported that the facility's employee benefits brokers, Brown & Brown, confirmed that the change in health insurance coverage constitutes a qualifying event. As a result, employees who determine that the new plan does not adequately meet their needs may have the opportunity to elect alternative offered coverage.

ATTACHMENTS

Wastewater Programs Report, Annual Trends/Comparison Report, and 2026 O&M Expenditure Reports were reviewed per Attachments No. 1, 2, & 3.

Approve Abstract #7

O&M purchase orders and disbursement sheets totaling $326,488.41 were approved for payment on a motion made by Mr. Vose, seconded by Mr. Stover, carried five (5) in favor, one (1) absent, and none (0) opposed.

<u>OLD BUSINESS</u>

Whey Capacity Upgrade Project Update
Manager Brand reported that the Committee members and FAGE were provided with a project report and supporting attachments totaling approximately 110 pages for review. Manager Brand stated that the recent meeting with Arcadis and FAGE was productive. The feasibility study concluded that the proposed whey capacity upgrade is technically feasible; however, it does not answer all the outstanding questions related to the project's design and long-term operation. Discussion included that the proposed process would rely on new technology that has not yet been proven for whey treatment. The success of the project is heavily dependent on the efficiency of the CowPrex process and its integration with the facility's anaerobic digesters for whey processing. As a result, the feasibility study has generated numerous questions regarding the overall system design. Manager Brand reported that the estimated operation and maintenance costs associated with the additional design and process requirements could be significant, with annual costs estimated at approximately one-third of the facility's current operating and maintenance budget. Potential benefits of the project include the development of a new dryer and eliminating the need to utilize sand as part of the treatment process. However, the project would also require the facility to assume a substantial operational and regulatory responsibility by processing significantly larger volumes of whey. Manager Brand further reported that FAGE has not indicated whether it is prepared to move forward with the project at this time. Since the proposed treatment technologies would be considered cutting-edge, there are currently no comparable facilities or reference projects available to evaluate long-term performance. Following the committee meeting, FAGE submitted numerous follow-up questions, with the majority focusing on the project's overall cost, anticipated energy consumption, and operational efficiency. It was noted that a substantial portion of the biogas produced through the process would be utilized to operate the dryer. Manager Brand also reiterated that if FAGE determines that they would like to proceed to design and build, the final decision rest with the facility and Sewer Board, and that decision must place a priority on the long-term benefit/risk which will be assumed by the facility and, thus, our communities.

NYSERDA Update
Manager Brand reported that efforts to recover NYSERDA Capacity Payments Nos. 2 through 6, which had previously been denied, are continuing. He noted that those outstanding payments date back to 2017 and prior. Manager Brand informed the Board that the facility recently received approximately $181,000 for Capacity Payment No. 6. The remaining outstanding capacity payments have the potential of yielding a total of approximately $550,000 and continue to be under review in an effort to secure reimbursement. Manager Brand further reported that the funds received will be deposited into the Capital Reserve to be used for future debt service payments. The debt payment schedule will be reviewed during next budget season to determine whether any adjustments are appropriate, based on the total recovery.

New Dump Truck Update
Manager Brand reported that the new dump truck is on site with the new box. Once the insurance has been processed, the dump truck will be added onto the Waste hauler Permit and be available for use. The current MAC truck will then be taken out of use for service for badly required box repair.

Fulton County Sewer District #5 (Mayfield) Update
Manager Brand reported that the first meter read for Sewer District #5 will take place on July 28, 2026. This billing will be included with all other industrial invoicing on August 15, 2026. This will take place on a six (6) month cycle and will only be billed to Fulton County District.

<u>NEW BUSINESS</u>

Revisit of FAGE Method of Billing
Manager Brand reported that management is reviewing the current industrial billing methodology for all industries with the goal of implementing a more detailed and accurate billing process. Manager Brand explained that FAGE's wastewater discharge has been historically billed based on the City Water Meter, while the FAGE facility has a discharge flume as part of their monitoring station that is calibrated annually

by a 3rd party company (CPE), but is not being utilized for billing purposes. Based on the ongoing review, it is believed that approximately $100,000 in billable wastewater may not currently be accounted for on an annual basis, because billing has been based on the city water meter readings rather than the effluent flume measurements. Transitioning to flume-based billing would require modifications to FAGE's existing discharge permit. It was further reported that backwash from FAGE's filtration system is believed not to flow through the monitoring station and discharge directly to the treatment plant. Manager Brand noted that other industries which have discharge metering as part of their discharge monitoring station are billed based on those meters. Any Permit revision would closely mirror those industries that possess discharge metering stations. Manager Brand requested authorization to notify FAGE that the facility intends to revise the industrial billing methodology. He also reported that FAGE is currently operating under a multi-year permit, which allows for modifications. A proposed permit amendment reflecting the revised billing method will be presented to the Joint Sewer Board for consideration at a future meeting. The Board agreed and authorized Manager Brand to proceed.

June 2026 Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) Testing
Manager Brand reported that the June 2026 Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) test indicated a toxicity result of 2.3, exceeding the action level established under the facility's SPDES permit. NYSDEC has been notified of the exceedance in accordance with permit requirements. Manager Brand reported that three in process stream samples were collected prior to commencing this most recent required testing, after the 2025 failed WET test in an attempt to identify the source of the toxicity. Those Microtox screening results were either negative or resulted in a result that could not be correlated to the WET test toxicity. It was further reported that the testing, during which the facility is experiencing unacceptable toxicity, occurred during lowest 7Q10 low-flow conditions in the receiving stream, representing one of the lowest anticipated stream flow conditions used to establish the limit of toxicity. The facility is evaluating the potential of having the stream flow model and a revised 7Q10 be developed and petition the NYSDEC to utilize the resultant 7Q10 when establishing the facility permit limits.

Mini Bid Monitoring Van
Manager Brand reported that bids had been received for the purchase of a monitoring van. He stated that the three lowest bids were all within approximately $1,300 of one another, making them competitively priced. After reviewing the proposals, Manager Brand recommended awarding the bid to Mangino Chevrolet for a 2025 Chevrolet 2500 three-quarter-ton, two-wheel-drive rear-wheel-drive van at a purchase price of $40,998.55, with the two lower bids being of the half-ton smaller class of vehicle. He explained that the recommended vehicle represented the best overall value for the facility. In addition to being equipped with a towing package and offering a larger cargo capacity, the Chevrolet platform is consistent with the facility's existing fleet. This standardization will allow the facility to utilize compatible parts and tires from existing Chevrolet vehicles as they are retired from service, resulting in improved maintenance efficiency and potential long-term cost savings. On a motion made by Mr. Vose, seconded by Mr. Stover, the Board voted to award the mini-bid to Mangino Chevrolet for the purchase of the 2025 Chevrolet monitoring van in the amount of $40,998.55. The motion carried five (5) in favor, one (1) absent, and none (0) opposed.

<u>MEETING ADJOURNED</u>
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:04 P.M. until August 12, 2026 at 6:00 P.M. on a motion made by Mr. Stover, seconded by Mr. Vose, carried five (5) in favor, one (1) absent, and none (0) opposed.

The next regular meeting will be held on **<u>Wednesday, August 12, 2026 at 6:00 P.M.</u>**

Respectfully submitted,

Michael W. Stover, Secretary
Gloversville-Johnstown Joint Sewer Board