GLOVERSVILLE-JOHNSTOWN JOINT SEWER BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
October 14, 2026

The Gloversville-Johnstown Joint Sewer Board held a meeting in the Boardroom of the Gloversville-Johnstown Joint Wastewater Treatment Facility (GJJWTF) on Wednesday, October 14, 2026. The meeting was called to order at 6:05 P.M.

ROLL CALL

Bobbi Trudel	Chair
Eric Parker	Vice Chair
Michael W. Stover	Secretary
Christopher Vose	Member
Harry Brand	Manager-Wastewater Programs
Mark Levendusky	Laboratory Director
Ian Colvin Marincic	WWTP Engineering Technician
Nicole Benton	Administrative Aide
Adrienne Slade	Principal Account Clerk

ABSENT

Deanna Hitchcock	Member
John Rizzo	Member

SEPTEMBER 09, 2026 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

The Board approved the September 09, 2026 regular meeting minutes on a motion made by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Stover, carried four (4) in favor, two (2) absent, and none (0) opposed.

CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was discussed: No. 9 & 11.

PLANT OPERATIONS

Odor Complaint

Manager Brand reported that an odor complaint was received by voicemail on September 18, 2026, from a resident in the Wells Street area of Johnstown. Manager Brand stated that the source of the odor could not be identified, as the odor was not detected outside the resident's home, but strong in the home, which indicates the source is very unlikely the facility. It was also noted that the City of Johnstown DPW had already addressed an issue regarding a blockage in the street a couple houses down, but the odor had returned, City of Johnstown DPW was notified of the ongoing odor issue. Manager Brand reported that he reached the resident and the complaint was reported to NYSDEC. The complaint was posted to the Odor Complaint Log on the GJJWTF website.

Electric Truck and Old Maintenance Van

Manager Brand reported that an electric truck, which does not function, and an old maintenance van are scheduled to be taken out of service and scrapped. He noted that the electric truck's battery can be disposed of through normal disposal procedures, and the rear portion of the truck has been repurposed and placed on the Ford Ranger. The maintenance van has significant rust along the frame that cannot be repaired. Upon a motion made by Mr. Vose and seconded by Mr. Stover, the Board voted to authorize the removal of both vehicles from service and disposed of as scrap. The motion carried with four (4) in favor, two (2) absent, and zero (0) opposed.

Hypochlorite Bid

Manager Brand reported that the current hypochlorite contract expires on December 31, 2026. He noted that the contract is for a one-year term and requested Board authorization to solicit public bids for the next

contract period. Upon a motion made by Mr. Parker and seconded by Mr. Stover, the Board voted to authorize soliciting public bids for hypochlorite. The motion carried with four (4) in favor, two (2) absent, and zero (0) opposed.

Polymer Bid
Manager Brand reported that the current Polymer contracts, Dry and Emulsion expires in April of 2027. He noted that the contract is for a two-year term, however, due to the past experience receiving NYSDEC authorization through the WTC process to pilot test the proposed polymers, Manager Brand requested Board authorization to solicit public bids earlier this year for the next contract period. Upon a motion made by Mr. Parker and seconded by Mr. Vose, the Board voted to authorize soliciting public bids for hypochlorite. The motion carried with four (4) in favor, two (2) absent, and zero (0) opposed.

SUNY Cobleskill Tour
Manager Brand reported that he hosted a college tour for 11 students and one professor as part of an Agricultural Environmental Studies class. The tour was highly interactive, with students asking numerous questions and demonstrating interest in the facility's operations. The group included students with diverse backgrounds and interests, particularly in equipment maintenance, facility operations, and environmental studies. The tour provided an opportunity for students to learn about the wastewater treatment process and the role of the facility.

Surplus Vehicle Bids
Manager Brand reported that he recently became aware of the New York State Office of General Services (OGS) Surplus Auctions, which offer used government vehicles for purchase, often at a lower cost than new vehicles. He expressed interest in utilizing this resource when vehicle replacements are needed, as an alternative to purchasing new vehicles and a way to manage facility expenses. Manager Brand would like to establish a procedure for participating in these auctions and submitting bids. It was confirmed during the discussion that purchases under $20,000 may be made using a purchase order without prior approval, in accordance with the applicable purchasing rules.

Digester Boiler #1
Manager Brand reported that Boiler No. 1 currently has a leak at the boiler head that requires evaluation by a third-party heating contractor. Staff has been monitoring the issue, and St. Andrew Heating & Cooling was contacted to assess the condition of the boiler. The contractor indicated that they will need to visit the facility to clean the affected area and allow for a more thorough evaluation before preparing a repair estimate. The contractor noted that the boilers are more than 30 years old and advised that replacement costs could reach approximately $125,000 if replacement becomes necessary. St. Andrew Heating & Cooling is scheduled to return before the end of October to address the leak. The condition of the boiler and the potential cost of future replacement remain important considerations for ongoing maintenance and capital planning.

September WET Test
Manager Brand reported that the September WET test failed, with a reported result of less than 8. The results were submitted to the DEC as required. The October sample has already been collected and will serve as the final WET sample for the year. WET testing is expected to resume next year. To date, the underlying cause of the repeated WET test failures over the past several months has not been identified, and a definitive solution has not yet been determined. Manager Brand further reported that the toxicity observed in the testing has been inhibiting reproduction in the test organisms rather than causing mortality. Continued investigation continues to identify the source of the toxicity and determine appropriate corrective measures are ongoing. It is anticipated that the NYSDEC will require additional actions including but not limited to a Toxicity Identification/Reduction Evaluation (TI/RE), which we have proactively commenced an internal process.

AI Webinar

Manager Brand reported that a few staff members participated in an AI webinar hosted by StoredTech. The webinar provided an introduction to the proper evaluation and use of AI agents and tools in the workplace, including a discussion of the benefits and risks associated with "shadow AI," which refers to the use of AI applications without formal organizational approval or oversight. Manager Brand reported that StoredTech also provided an assessment of the organization's current AI usage. The assessment identified two AI tools within the organization's environment: Microsoft Copilot and Read AI, a third-party application that has since been disabled. No concerns were identified regarding AI software associated with Microsoft at this time. However, security settings have been updated to require administrator approval before any additional AI applications can be installed. Following the webinar and review, it was determined that the facility is not yet ready to invest in additional AI tools but will commence evaluating facility processes which could be improved through the utilization of AI tools.

EPG Grant Biosolid's Handling
Manager Brand reported that the first payment request for the Engineering Planning Grant (EPG) for the biosolids handling study has been completed, with payment scheduled to arrive on October 15, 2026. The grant totals $50,000, with the first payment representing 25% ($12,500) of the total grant. Once the required report has been completed and submitted to the EFC, an additional 25% ($12,500) payment will be issued. The remaining 50% ($25,000) will be released once the report is deemed complete and approved. The study is anticipated to be completed by the end of November 2026.

Belt Press Mixing Valve Relocation
Manager Brand reported that the mixing valve on Belt Press No. 1 has been relocated to the sludge pump discharge per BDP recommendations. Since the relocation, staff have observed a reduction in polymer usage, along with immediate improvements in belt press performance, particularly in belt cleanliness and reduction in polymer usage to achieve historical dewatered sludge cake quality. These improvements are part of an ongoing study associated with the EPG study. Parts have been ordered to complete the same modification on Belt Press No. 2.

Landfill Agreement Renewal
Manager Brand reported that the current landfill agreement is set to expire later this year. He has had conversations with the landfill and they are acceptable to holding tipping fees constant, provided that we are willing to maintain leachate fees constant and renew the agreement under the current fee structure. The Board was agreeable to this plan, and this will be communicated to the landfill and they will work with the County to draft a contract renewal.

INDUSTRIAL COMPLIANCE

Annual ELAP Proficiency Testing
Laboratory Director Levendusky reported that all proficiency testing has been completed and all proficiency testing was passed.

Colonial Leather
Laboratory Director Levendusky reported that Colonial Leather continues to experience chromium violations under facility's pretreatment program, and NOVs have been issued in accordance with applicable pretreatment regulations. As the next step in the progressive action, a Consent Order will be issued to address the ongoing violations and establish the necessary requirements for compliance, including financial penalties. The consent order will require prior review and approval by the City of Gloversville's City Attorney, given Colonial Leather resides in the City of Gloversville. Upon a motion made by Mr. Parker and seconded by Mr. Stover, the Board voted to authorize the issuance of a Consent Order to Colonial Leather. The morion carried with four (4) members in favor, two (2) absent, and zero (0) opposed.

West Meadow Diary
Laboratory Director Levendusky reported that West Meadow Diary continues to experience pH violation and has failed to provide a schedule for pretreatment upgrade, which includes the installation of a DAFT,

to address oil and grease exceedances. An NOV has been issued for the pH violation and the deficiency in providing a installation schedule was also communicated, along with the notice that any future violation will result in a consent order and applicable financial penalties. Manager Brand requested authorization to prepare a draft Consent Order that includes penalties for any ongoing violations. The proposed Consent Order will require review and approval by the City of Johnstown City Attorney before it may be formally issued to West Meadow Diary. Upon a motion made by Mr. Parker and seconded by Mr. Stover, the Board voted to authorize the issuance of a Consent Order. The morion carried with four (4) members in favor, two (2) absent, and zero (0) opposed.

BUDGET/PURCHASE/AUDIT

2027 Budget Process
Manager Brand reported that the facility's draft budget should be finalized by 10/30/2026, which will include capital plans, in hopes to have the budget ready for approval at the November board meeting. The budget committee plans to meet early November.

Health Insurance Renewal
Manager Brand reported that the process for Open Enrollments has begun and Brown & Brown has provided the renewal of premium amounts for 2027. Following a review with the committee, Manager Brand recommended continuing to offer the current health insurance plans. NYS has approved a premium increase of 14 percent, while Teamster's insurance rates will remain unchanged through the end of December 2027. After reviewing the available information, the committee supported maintaining the current plan offerings. Upon a motion made by Mr. Vose and seconded by Mr. Stover, the Board voted to approve the continuation of the current insurance plans. The morion carried with four (4) members in favor, two (2) absent, and zero (0) opposed.

City of Gloversville Landfill Closure Charges
Manager Brand reported that a consent decree was issued in 2002 following the closure of the Gloversville Landfill, which resulted in the Gloversville-Johnstown Wastewater Treatment Facility assuming the financial responsibility for all future groundwater sampling and reported as required by NYSDEC. It was reported that groundwater sampling in 2025 was not performed and was conducted in Spring of 2026. The landfill is now classified as a hazardous waste site, requiring additional environmental monitoring and reporting. Unrelated NYSDECD is also requiring PFOA, PFOS, and Dioxanes sampling and reporting for all landfill closures. The estimated cost to prepare the required report is approximately $38,000 for all of the additional sampling and reporting. Additionally, a five-year reporting requirement will be due in 2028 at a cost of an additional $8,000. The NYSDEC is requiring the 2026 testing and reporting to be completed prior to years end and include the additional sampling. These anticipated expenses will need to be considered for future budgeting, and funds will need to be reallocated prior to years end to cover the $38,000 for the 2026 sampling, which was not budgeted.

ATTACHMENTS

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

Approve Abstract #10
O&M purchase orders and disbursement sheets totaling $402,828.77 were approved for payment on a motion made by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Stover, carried four (4) in favor, two (2) absent, and none (0) opposed.

OLD BUSINESS

Asset Management Project

Manager Brand reported that work continues to finalize the asset and equipment preventive maintenance schedules and associated task instructions in Maximo. Once finalized and approved, the next step will be to transition the facility to Maximo Live for active use. Implementing the system will improve the tracking and management of equipment maintenance, parts, and inventory, helping staff better monitor maintenance activities, maintain accurate inventory records, and support more efficient facility operations.

Alternative to Ferrous Chloride
Manager Brand reported that the facility continues to work with Green Steel Environmental to investigate an alternative to the use of ferrous chloride. The alternative has the potential to reduce phosphorous concentrations while also providing cost savings. Manager Brand reported that testing began and concentration levels show a considerable amount more of GSE's product needs to be used to achieve desired results. GSE has requested a pilot program but at this time, moving forward with the Pilot program is not being considered. This is due to unknown downsides to the product, such as possible build up in the digester. GSE is currently undergoing Pilots at different locations, and this may be revisited in the future, when some of those results become available.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion made by Mr. Vose, seconded by Mr. Parker, carried four (4) in favor, two (2) absent, and none (0) opposed, all Board members in attendance, and Manager Brand went into executive session at 7:47 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 Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Stover, four (4) in favor, two (2) absent, and none (0) opposed, the Board came out of executive session at 8:18 P.M.

PERSONNEL

Staffing
Manager Brand reported that the position for the 5th WWTP laboratory Technician will be externally posted. The position was reclassified to Industrial Monitoring Technician which was recently vacated and there will be a new position schedule. The Union raised a concern and potential grievance for the staffing change, a meeting was held with the Union to discuss this topic, and an email was received from the Union on 10/7/26 indicating the Union will not grieve this action but does request to receive the new staffing schedule policy for their review and comment.

The Personnel Committee held a hearing with the Union on 10/6/26 regarding the grievance filed related to Leave Benefits being accrued while an employee is not on payroll. Following eth Boards review of the facts surrounding the grievance and the recommendation of the Personnel Committee, the Board decision is to deny the grievance. Upon a motion made by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Vose, carried four (4) in favor, two (2) absent, and none (0) opposed, the Board approved to issue the written denial.

MEETING ADJOURNED
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:41 P.M. on a motion made by Mr. Vose, seconded by Mr. Parker, carried four (4) in favor, two (2) absent, and none (0) opposed.

The next regular meeting will be held on **Thursday, November 12, 2026 at 6:00 P.M.**

Respectfully submitted,

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