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READING AREA WATER AUTHORITY
BOARD MEETING
4:00 PM
September 16, 2025

In attendance were Chairman Rev. Steven McCracken, Vice Chairman Mr. Richard L. Carpenter, Mr. Daniel Luckey, Mrs. Tressa Jefferson, RAWA Solicitor Attorney Edwin Stock, Executive Director Mr. Bill Murray, Director of Operations and Maintenance Gary Phillips, Distribution Manager Anthony Reynolds, Administrator Suzanne Ruotolo, Director of Asset Management Yuri Evans, Plant Superintendent Patrick Bauer, Lake Ontelaunee Manager Michael Reider, Customer Service Manager Tracey Karish, Human Resources Manager Wendalin Marrero, Meter Reader Manager Amy Styer, Dan Standish from SSM Engineering. Absent was Mrs. Cecile Grimshaw.

The meeting was brought to order at 4:01 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence was observed.

No Public Comment

Chairman McCracken asked for a motion to approve the minutes from August 19, 2025. Mr. Luckey made a motion to approve the minutes, and Mrs. Jefferson seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion approved.

Chairman McCracken asked for a motion to approve the September Invoices for Payment as follows, General Fund in the amount of \$734,954.80, the Capital Fund in the amount of \$103,979.53 and the Escrow Fund in the amount of \$4,226.50. Mrs. Jefferson made a motion to approve payment of the invoices and Mr. Luckey seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion approved.

Mr. Luckey stated while he was in England there was an article on the cost of water being very high and a discussion on offering rebates. Both Mr. Murray and Rev. McCracken found this to be interesting.

Mr. Murray advised the internal audit was conducted by Sue, Tracey and Sharon.

Mr. Murray told the Board Members the monthly department reports were provided in the board packet. Mr. Luckey had a question on one item in the packet. In Tony's report he mentioned a lead pipe that was abandoned. Mr. Luckey feels we should not abandon something that is potentially hazardous unless it is the owner that is responsible for it. Mr. Luckey asked the question should we have abandoned this or should we have facilitated removing it from the ground. Mr. Reynolds advised RAWA found a leak on the street, this was a lead line, and the line was abandoned. Mr. Murray advised the process due to DEP and EPA regulations, if we come across a lead line, we must address it and it must come out. He stated the concern is legitimate, but the handling of the lead pipes is not the problem the problem is when you cut or saw the pipe and the dust gets in the air, if you keep it in tack, you should not have any issues at all. Mr. Luckey stated whenever you come across hazardous

materials like lead, he prefers to have them removed rather than leaving it in, because it could cause a problem later. Chairman McCracken stated he understood this was a leak, Mr. Reynolds advised it was a leak that started to come up in the road, they excavated down and found it to be an old lead line. Mr. Murray advised if we want, in a couple down we will go into the GLO update and can discuss it further.

Mr. Murray advised an email was sent out for the Administration Office Roof. Mr. Murray advised we knew the roof needed repair and this was in next year's Capital Plan. Mr. Murray advised trying to fix what needed to be done was beyond our scope of work. He stated we received several quotes, he spoke with Solicitor and did this as an emergency, stating this is not good when water is coming in. Based on the information he received he gave the authorization to get on the schedule with the roofer, stating nothing was signed but he wanted to at least get on the schedule. Mr. Murray would like to move forward with the Ratification of the Executive Directors to award this under emergency conditions. Mr. Luckey wanted to say he told Mr. Murray what he felt we should do, Mr. Murray advised Mr. Luckey we did what he suggested and called the company, and we were reassured it would be taken care of. Mr. Murray asked for a motion to ratify the order of the Executive Director, a motion was made by Mr. Luckey and seconded by Mr. Carpenter. All in favor, motion carried.

Mr. Murray gave an update of the Union Contract, stating Mr. Carpenter has been attending the negotiations meetings. He advised we received notification that health care is going to go up by 25%. This is the second largest cost driver of the contract; you have wages then health care. It has created a very difficult methodology of trying to get to where we want to be and to be far to everybody, but the union and the company are working very closely together to come up with solutions. Mr. Murray said at the end of the three-year contract there will be a new health care plan, there is no way we can continue at this rate.

Mr. Murray provided an update on the Drought, stating the state has not declared a drought yet. However, the salt line is creeping up and is creating problems. The water RAWA releases help push the salt line down. Mr. Murray advised the lake is dropping and the water is below the Dam Breast; in good conscience he cannot ask DEP and DRBC to cut back on the release knowing how this is helping downstream from us. Mr. Murray advised from all the problems we had over the summer, RAWA scheduled a meeting with DEP and Fish and Boat. RAWA laid out all the predicaments, Lead line replacements, PFOS and PFOA, the Dam, an alternative source. The response was very well received; in our permit we must keep working on an alternative source. RAWA went into the meeting with the goal for them to see the big picture, our goal is to have this removed from the permit. It does not make sense to keep spending money on alternative sources. Mr. Murray advised everything DEP demands of RAWA is based on the maximum you could produce. Mr. Murray stated all these other things DEP asks RAWA to complete are regulations, he asked DEP to provide the regulation where we must be an alternative source. Mr. Murray advised it has been weeks and still has not received anything. Mr. Murray discussed more about the drought stating RAWA is seeing things on the lake that we have never seen before as far as the conditions. Mr. Luckey stated it seems to him maybe in the long term he should start looking for a second or alternative water supply, stating if this is causing a problem now it is not going to get better. Mr. Murray stated he is not disagreeing however the Schuylkill River is not the answer, and this is where DEP wants us to focus on. Mr. Murray stated another source is what we should be looking for and next month we may be presenting buying a source, a half a million gallon per day Well from a competitor. Also, we are going to be drilling a potential well in North Heidelberg. Mr. Luckey asked about the engineers' report on the Timberline development project, and there is no action. Mr. Standish advised this is a separate project moving from the Ski Slope to the Golf Course.

Mr. Murray advised the potholing to start on Thursday. This is part of the EPA project; they identified 200 properties to verify. They will cut a 3 X 3 foot square at the curb stop and physically verify the service material on both sides. We also had a meeting on predicting modeling, our contractor is working with DEP to do a statewide model, and they are using RAWA as an example.

Mr. Standish advised the Engineers Report was submitted and there are no further actions. Mr. Luckey asked a question about Albright College Library line. Mr. Standish advised this is a project to install a fire service line to the library.

Solicitor Ed Stock advised there are no action items.

No Executive Session was needed.

Chairman McCracken stated the next Board Meeting will be on October 21, 2025.

Chairman McCracken asked for a motion to adjourn, a motion was made by Mr. Luckey at 4:34 pm.