

# **SPRING-BENNER-WALKER JOINT AUTHORITY**

## **REGULAR MEETING**

**May11, 2026**

### **ATTENDANCE:**

<b>AUTHORITY MEMBERS:</b>	<b>Spring</b>	Joseph Galbraith Rodney Maney Christie McMurtrie
	<b>Benner</b>	Brian Book Willis Houser, Jr William Hughes
	<b>Walker</b>	Dennis Brown Thomas Richards

**GUESTS:** See Attached Guest List

**CONSULTING SOLICITOR:** Michael Levandoski, Esq.

**CONSULTING ENGINEER:** Steven Gibson, P.E. & Brian Shura, P.E.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:** Will L. Barton

**EMPLOYEES:** Kelly Gill & Melissa White

### **CALL TO ORDER:**

The May 11, 2026, Regular Meeting of the Spring-Benner-Walker Joint Authority was called to order at 4:00 P.M. by Joseph Galbraith, Chairman. Mr. Galbraith thanked everyone for attending and stated that the meeting would be recorded for transcription purposes.

### **ROLL CALL:**

Willis Houser, Jr., Secretary, took Roll Call, recording seven members present. Mr. McKee was excused from the meeting and Mr. Book entered the meeting at 4:02 P.M. Mr. Galbraith, Chairman, noted that with a quorum present, the Spring-Benner-Walker Joint Authority was permitted to conduct business under the laws of Pennsylvania.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Mr. Galbraith, Chairman, led the Board members, Professional Services, Guests and Employees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:**

Mr. Galbraith asked the Board if there were any questions and/or changes to the April 27, 2026 meeting minutes as presented. **Mr. Brown moved, seconded by Mr. Hughes to approve the Minutes of the April 27, 2026 Regular Meeting as presented.** 7 ayes, 0 nays, 2 absent. **The motion carried.**

Mr. Book entered the meeting at 4:02 P.M.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

**Bobby Rahal Automotive Group** – We received a letter from Ron Ferris of Bobby Rahal Automotive Group regarding sewer service to Tax Parcel No. 37-5-25 along Shiloh Road in Benner Township. Mr. Ferris indicated a joint agreement for upgrades to Shiloh Road, which includes turning lanes and three traffic signals, has been reached; therefore, he intends on beginning the design of his project to include four automobile dealerships and other commercial parcels with construction commencing in 2027. Mr. Ferris expressed concern with the timing of SBWJA's sewer extension project and the impacts it would have on his business. At this time Mr. Ferris is requesting that SBWJA serve his project with sanitary sewer via a holding tank until the sewer extension project is completed to his property or allow UAJA to serve his project. Mr. Barton spoke with the PA Department of Environmental Protection, (PA DEP) to discuss their requirements for a holding tank to serve this property until public sewer is available. A draft response to Mr. Ferris was provided to the Board for the meeting and will be sent within the next few days.

**PA DEP** – We received a letter from Andrew Eldred of the PA DEP indicating the Department has reviewed our Authority's application to change the blended phosphate chemical at the Hampton Hills water system from AquaMag to SeaQuest. The application is administratively complete and is under technical review.

**APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS:**

Approval of Requisitions:

**Revenue Fund Requisition 2020-143** – Mr. McMurtrie presented the Board with Revenue Requisition #2020-143 in the amount of \$55,495.55. Mr. Galbraith asked if there were any questions regarding the presentation of Revenue Fund Requisition 2020-143. **Mr. Book moved, seconded by Mr. Brown to approve Revenue Requisition 2020-143 payable to SBWJA in the amount of \$55,495.55.** 8 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. **The motion carried.**

**Bills by Vendor – Water Fund- Mr. Brown moved, seconded by Mr. Hughes to approve Bills by Vendor for the Water Fund in the amount of \$4,500.00 as presented. 8 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. The motion carried.**

**GUESTS:**

**John Elnitski** – Mr. Elnitski addressed the Board regarding his proposed RV Park project near the Bellefonte Airport and the possibility of Spring Benner Walker Joint Authority, (SBWJA) providing public water for the project. Mr. Elnitski indicated previous discussions were held with the former Benner Township Water Authority Board regarding this project; therefore, he wanted to make the SBWJA Board aware of the need for water service to the RV Park. Mr. Shura informed the Board that his firm completed an evaluation of alternatives for water system improvements which was mainly to address the elevated nitrate levels at the Grove Park well; however, one alternative was to have an interconnection of the two distribution systems that would have required an easement from Mr. Elnitski. Mr. Shura mentioned that the RV Park could be served by the Hampton Hills water system but would require a booster station. Mr. Galbraith assured Mr. Elnitski the Board would discuss his need for public water after having a chance to review the water system improvements evaluation completed by Mr. Shura.

**Gene Stocker** – Mr. Stocker asked about the deficiencies regarding the permits for the Shiloh Road Project and wanted to know if they have been resolved. Mr. Gibson responded that the items needed for the permits resubmission were the Storm Water Consistency letter, the Flood Plain Consistency letter, the flowage easements and the Waste Management Plan. Mr. Gibson stated they have all of the flowage easements, and the Storm Water Consistency letter. They are currently working on obtaining the Flood Plain Consistency letter as well as the Waste Management Plan which is a direct work product from the soil sampling work. They are preparing to begin the soil sampling work; however, before the soil sampling can begin the easements with Penn State University, (PSU) must be finalized. The deadline for resubmission of these permits to the PA DEP is June 30, 2026. Mr. Gibson mentioned that it is likely a time extension will be filed with PA DEP due to the soil sampling work and the waste management plan not being completed by that time.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT:**

**System Overview** – The System Overview was made a part of these official meeting minutes.

**SOLICITOR’S REPORT:**

**Penn State University Right-of-Way Agreements** – Mr. Levandoski suggested this be discussed in an executive session due to the negotiations with real estate.

**Buffalo Run Right-of Way** – Mr. Levandoski stated after further research of the property deeds he discovered this Authority has a right-of-way along the former Railroad bed and does not own the property. The deed the Authority obtained in 1986 does state deed but the language within indicates it is a right-of-way we were obtaining from Bellefonte Central Railroad Company.

**ENGINEER’S REPORT:**

**Shiloh Road Sewer Extension Project:**

**PFAS Soil Sampling** – Mr. Gibson indicated he has been working with the subcontractor, DMS Environmental Services, to discuss the beginning stages for the collection of the soil sampling starting with non-PSU parcels and continuing with the PSU parcels once the necessary easements are approved.

**Pennvest Consultation** –A planning consultation with Pennvest has been scheduled for July 15, 2026 at 11 A.M. to discuss funding for the project.

**Rockview Forestry Pump Station 6A Upgrade** – Mr. Gibson informed the Board that they are currently reactivating the design to prepare for permits readiness since working out agreements with the facility owner. The design that was put on hold late last year will be reviewed for Part II of the permit and will be submitted to PA DEP along with the Flood Plain Permit. Plans and drawings are being prepared so that the permits can move forward.

**WATER ENGINEER’S REPORT:**

Mr. Shura had nothing further to add at this time.

**OLD BUSINESS:** There was no Old Business presented for discussion.

**NEW BUSINESS:** There was no New Business presented for discussion.

**WELCOMING OF NEW BOARD MEMBER –**

Mr. Galbraith welcomed Mr. Thomas Richards to the Board, as our newly appointed representative of Walker Township.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** – Mr. Galbraith recessed the Board for an Executive Session at 4:31 p.m. to discuss legal and real estate. The meeting reconvened at 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Brown exited the meeting at 4:35 p.m.

**QUESTIONS FOR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:**

Mr. Hughes asked for an update on the Rockview EQ tank refurbishing. Mr. Barton stated the section of failed concrete has been removed and is currently being prepared for the new concrete to be poured.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**Mr. Hughes moved, seconded by Mr. Book to adjourn the meeting at 5:02 p.m. 7 ayes, 0 nays, 2 absent. The motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,



Willis Houser, Jr. Secretary



Melissa White, Recording Secretary

CC: Benner Township \_\_\_\_\_  
Spring Township \_\_\_\_\_  
Walker Township \_\_\_\_\_

**SPRING-BENNER-WALKER JOINT AUTHORITY**  
**170 IRISH HOLLOW ROAD**  
**BELLEFONTE, PA 16823**  
**(814) 355-4778**

**REGULAR MEETING**  
**May 11, 2026**

**GUEST LIST**

1. John En. Iski
2. Gene Strohm
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