

Paul Colangelo, Jr., Chair B. Paul O'Meara, Jr., Vice Chair Marlo Thomas Watson, Secretary/Treasurer Jim Almond, Member Dean E. Dickey, Member Charles A. Grymes, Member K. Jack Kooyoomjian, Ph.D., Member

# Calvin D. Farr, Jr., P.E., General Manager/CEO

# MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING OF MARCH 13, 2025

**Board Members Present:** 

Jim Almond (via MS Teams), Dean E. Dickey, Charles A. Grymes, K. Jack

Kooyoomjian, Ph.D., B. Paul O'Meara, Jr., Marlo Thomas Watson.

**Board Members Absent:** 

Paul Colangelo, Jr.

Staff:

Calvin D. Farr, Jr., Hari Kurup, Astrid Nelson, Don Pannell, Lily Bahrami, Austin Bae, Lyle Beefelt, Samer Beidas, Kathy Bentz, Drew Cockram, Lee-Anne Dandrea (via MS Teams), Michael Fox, Michael Kozerovskis, Michelle Miranda, Glenn Pearson, Tony Piccione, Shailaja Poluru, Darby Roltsch, Ian Sansoni (via MS Teams), Doug Shoop, Brian Sipes, Zachary Waszczak, Jeanetta Williams, April

Bean, and Kim Murray.

Legal Counsel:

Mark Viani/Bean Kinney & Korman, P.C.

Guests:

Paul Hood.

Mr. Almond joined the meeting at 4:00 PM via MS Teams from Maryland for personal reasons.

## CALL TO ORDER and GENERAL MATTERS

Vice Chair O'Meara called the meeting to order at 4:01 PM.

# a) Consideration of Approval of Minutes of February 13, 2025, Board Meeting

Vice Chair O'Meara asked if there were any edits to the minutes from the February 13, 2025, Board Meeting; hearing none, the minutes were approved as presented.

# b) <u>Consideration of Announcements by Staff</u>

i. <u>At Places</u>: Mr. Farr noted the following items at Board Members' places: (1) Updated Proposed Amended Bylaws; (2) Printed copy of the new Customer Handbook; and (3) New Prince William Water jackets.

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### c) <u>Citizens' Time</u>

There were no citizens signed up to speak.

### 2. COMMENDATION/PRESENTATION

a) Commend Paul Hood.

Mr. Farr invited Mr. Hood to join him at the lectern while he shared anecdotes from Mr. Hood's colleagues and read the resolution commending Mr. Hood for 10 years and six (6) months of service. Mr. Hood thanked the Board and staff. Dr. Kooyoomjian shared comments on Mr. Hood's work and thanked him for his service.

Vice Chair O'Meara called for a motion to approve the resolution.

Motion:

Dr. Kooyoomjian moved that the Prince William Water Board of Directors does hereby commend Mr. Paul Hood for his exceptional service to the customers of Prince William Water and the citizens of Prince William County and conveys best wishes for happiness in his retirement.

Second:

Mrs. Thomas Watson

Ayes:

Kooyoomjian, Thomas Watson, Almond (via MS Teams), Dickey, Grymes, O'Meara

Absent:

Colangelo

b) Presentation: Mr. Farr presented the National Association of Clean Water Agencies' (NACWA) National Environmental Achievement Award for the Water Academy to Michelle Miranda. The award recognizes individuals and NACWA member agencies that have demonstrated exceptional contributions to environmental protection and the clean water community. The award highlights Prince William Water's efforts to educate the community about its mission, to engage its stakeholders in protecting water resources, and to inspire Water Academy participants to become environmental ambassadors.

## CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Amend Bylaws of Prince William County Service Authority and Revise Prince William Water Board of Directors' Public Meeting Policy.
- b) Intent of Prince William Water to Reimburse Certain Capital Expenditures with the Proceeds of Debt.

Vice Chair O'Meara asked if any Board Members wished to pull either item from the Consent Agenda. None asked to do so. He called for a motion to approve both items on the Consent Agenda.

Motion:

Mr. Dickey

Second:

Mrs. Thomas Watson

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Discussion: Dr. Kooyoomjian thanked staff and Board Members for their collaboration on updating/amending the Bylaws.

Mr. Grymes thanked the Management and Budget team for producing a clear description of the financial information and managing the finances appropriately.

Ayes:

Dickey, Thomas Watson, Almond (via MS Teams), Grymes, Kooyoomjian, O'Meara

Absent:

Colangelo

## 4. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

- a) Mr. Farr reported that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) conducted a three-day audit/inspection last week of the West water system for compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act, visiting every water tank, pump station, and metering vault in the West system. They shared a number of positive observations and expect to provide their draft report within 70 days. Mr. Farr stated he will update Board Members when the EPA report is received.
- b) Mr. Farr noted the four House Bills he briefed the Board on last month were all passed by the General Assembly; the Governor has until March 24 to act on them.
- c) Mr. Farr stated that he attended the Mid-Atlantic Utility Conference earlier this week. He confirmed staff is already doing or planning to implement many of the best practices shared at the conference, including efforts with Artificial Intelligence. He was also honored to serve on the panel titled, "From the Top: Public/Private Executives Panel" that included private sector executives and NACWA's CEO, Adam Krantz.
- d) Mr. Farr also shared that he spoke to this year's cohort for the Transformative Water Leadership Academy facilitated by American Water Works Association (AWWA) and the WaterNow Alliance. The leadership academy is a 10-month program that provides for the next generation of water utility leaders to focus on foundations of sustainable community leadership. Mr. Farr spoke to the members about "Fostering a Supportive Workplace of Culture." He shared his leadership story and Prince William Water's approach to its "Workplace of Choice" Area of Excellence.
- e) Mr. Farr spoke to Board Members about the Annual Customer Relationship Survey. A Staff Report which provided the results was included in their packages this month. Listening to customers and incorporating their feedback into plans and actions is part of continuous improvement and performance excellence. He noted Prince William Water continues to have top quartile results in all of the surveys. The highest scores continue to be in reliability, upkeep of the water and sewer system, and the courtesy and helpfulness of employees. Staff follow up on all feedback and uses it to inform the customer communication plan.
- f) Mr. Farr notified Board Members that on Saturday morning, February 8, Fairfax Water informed Prince William Water staff that they had detected low levels of propylene glycol at their intake on the Potomac River. They advised it could potentially cause a temporary, abnormal water taste or odor in the drinking water. (Propylene glycol comes from airport deicing operations at Dulles International Airport.) Per the Food and Drug Administration, the substance is approved as a common additive in food and other consumer products, so its presence in drinking water was not a safety concern. Prince William Water and Fairfax Water staff proactively posted notices regarding the substance discovery on their websites and social media platforms for customers' awareness. By Saturday evening, Fairfax Water was no longer able to detect

propylene glycol, and Prince William Water staff never detected any at the entry point along Route 28. Prince William Water received no taste or odor complaints from customers during this time, and drinking water continuously met all regulatory standards.

- g) Mr. Farr provided updates on the Communications Report and several Community Outreach events, including the Green Business Council Conference held earlier today, which included a Water Quality Panel discussing the Occoquan Reservoir. Deputy General Manager Don Pannell served on the panel and Board Member Charlie Grymes was the moderator.
- h) Mr. Farr shared information on People & Talent, including distribution of the new Prince William Water jackets on March 7, Employee Appreciation Day. He noted that an Employee Engagement Pulse Survey is being conducted this month ahead of the full-fledged Employee Engagement Survey in the fall of 2025. Mr. Farr added that Segal (consultant) has been engaged to do a compensation and benefits study. Mr. Farr also reported that David Jenkins, Automotive Technician II, recently received the World Class Technician Award. The title is held by only 2,375 automotive technicians in the United States.
- i) Mr. Farr reminded Board Members the Annual Business Plan Work Session is scheduled for Tuesday, April 22, 2025, at 9:00 AM. A light breakfast will be provided at 8:30 AM.
- j) Mr. Farr also noted that Kidz@Work Day is scheduled for Thursday, April 24 (9 AM to 1 PM) at the Spittle Building.
  - k) Mr. Farr noted a closed meeting is needed this evening.

Mr. Almond asked about a contingency plan for federal employees losing their jobs who may have trouble paying their water bills. Ms. Nelson advised staff will watch the past due (over 90 days) accounts closely and will work with customers on payment plans and alternative arrangements. She noted the Temporary Assistance Program (TAP) could also help these customers with their bills. Mr. Almond asked how this would affect the bottom line and is it a concern. Ms. Nelson stated it is not a concern at this time and staff will continue to watch things closely.

#### 5. ATTORNEY'S TIME

Mr. Viani confirmed a closed meeting is needed under Code of Virginia § 2.2-3711A8, General Legal Advice.

Vice Chair O'Meara requested a motion to authorize a closed meeting to discuss items under Code of Virginia § 2.2-3711A8, General Legal Advice.

Motion:

Mrs. Thomas Watson

Second:

Dr. Kooyoomjian

Ayes:

Thomas Watson, Kooyoomjian, Almond (via MS Teams), Dickey, Grymes, O'Meara

Absent:

Colangelo

#### 6. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Vice Chair O'Meara asked if Board Members had any comments or questions on the Administrative Reports. Dr. Kooyoomjian complimented staff on the Capital Improvement Program and shared comments on some of the projects.

#### CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS PRESENTED BY MEMBERS

Mrs. Thomas Watson thanked Ms. Spence, Ms. Goodson, and everyone who worked on the very successful Women of Water event on March 6 to recognize Women's History Month. She congratulated Ms. Miranda on the NACWA Award, and staff on the successful EPA inspection.

Mr. Grymes shared his appreciation for Ms. Bentz and the Communications Team for their work on today's Green Business Council panel. He also appreciated staff giving Mrs. Eagles' husband and son an opportunity to speak at the Water Art Invitational.

Dr. Kooyoomjian congratulated Ms. Miranda and her team for the NACWA Award. He stated he enjoyed the Service Awards luncheon and recognizing employees for their service. He noted he is a lead judge representing the Federal Water Quality Association for the annual Prince William-Manassas Regional Science Fair. Dr. Kooyoomjian also reported that the Prince William Committee of 100 is hosting a panel on March 20 about the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) issues. He also shared his appreciation for everyone who is involved with the Water Art Invitational, including the artists, staff, and the judges.

Mr. Dickey congratulated Ms. Miranda on her award and reflected on his time at the Water Academy sessions. He thanked Mr. Farr for his leadership. He realized how far the organization has come while listening to Mr. Hood's resolution being read. Mr. Dickey commended the team that built the SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) system. He also congratulated Mr. Jenkins on his award.

Mr. Almond also congratulated Ms. Miranda on her award and Mr. Hood on his retirement. He noted he is never surprised but always excited about the excellence achieved by staff under Mr. Farr's leadership. He restated his appreciation for the plan that staff has to assist federal workers (customers) with their bills, as needed.

Vice Chair O'Meara asked staff to keep up the great work.

#### 8. CLOSED MEETING

Vice Chair O'Meara announced a closed meeting at 4:56 PM to discuss items under Code of Virginia § 2.2-3711A8, General Legal Advice.

Upon conclusion of the closed meeting at 5:03 PM, and in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, a motion was made by Mrs. Thomas Watson and seconded by Mr. Dickey to return to an open meeting certifying that to the best of the Members' knowledge, the only matters considered were those that were appropriate to be discussed under Code of Virginia § 2.2-3711A8, General Legal Advice.

#### CERTIFICATION FOR CLOSED MEETING

**WHEREAS**, the Prince William Water Board of Directors has convened a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and,

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**WHEREAS,** § 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the Prince William Water Board of Directors that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Prince William Water Board of Directors hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered in the closed meeting.

Motion:

Mrs. Thomas Watson

Second:

Dr. Kooyoomjian

Ayes:

Thomas Watson, Kooyoomjian, Almond (via MS Teams), Dickey, Grymes, O'Meara

Absent:

Colangelo

# 9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:04 PM.

Mr. Almond disconnected from MS Teams at 5:05 PM.

Marlo Thomas Watson

Secretary/Treasurer