

NEGAUNEE-ISHPEMING WATER AUTHORITY  
REGULAR MEETING  
June 18, 2025  
WATER TREATMENT PLANT

CALL TO ORDER:

A regular meeting of the Negaunee-Ishpeming Water Authority was held on Wednesday, June 18, 2025 and was called to order at 4:06 p.m. by James Bertucci.

MEMBERS PRESENT: James Bertucci, Paul Gravedoni and Tony McGrath

MEMBERS ABSENT: John Jackson, Kristen Mariuzza

OTHERS PRESENT: Kristy Basolo, Plan B Publishing  
Jake Forchini, NIWA plant manager

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Paul Gravedoni made a motion to approve the agenda as amended, changing the unpaid bills to \$15,660.88. Tony McGrath seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Paul Gravedoni made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 21, 2025 regular meeting as amended, changing the start date on the Teal Lake project to August, and to place them on file. James Bertucci seconded it, and the motion passed unanimously.

CLAIMS & ACCOUNTS:

Tony McGrath made a motion to approve the claims & accounts as presented and to pay the bills as amended. James Bertucci seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

John Jackson arrived at 4:11 p.m. and took over chairmanship of the meeting.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

Jake Forchini said a lot happened in the last two months. Jeff Talsma tested the new radios at the plant. He is also working with Energenics to get the permanganate feeder auto feature figured out. NIWA will have to program a new page on the SCADA system to control the chemicals. He also is getting a quote to replace the high-speed gear-box ratio to help keep the pace of the motor and not burn it out, and there will be more on that next month.

Jake said the firewall went out in the last lightning storm; the warranty work was done and a temporary one was put in place during that process. The storm damaged equipment at Wells 9, 10 and 11, and the plant limped along for the night. Frayling came in the next day and the plant is now back operational. AT&T also repaired the phone line from a different lightning strike.

Jake also noted the plant is currently running as one system because Ishpeming is doing tank maintenance. Lindberg will not use NIWA for fill disposal, but may still help fix the roads.

Paul Gravedoni made a motion to accept the manager's report as presented and place it on file. James Bertucci seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- Teal Lake Well Project Update—Jake said regarding Contract A, NIWA is actively trying to have the City of Ishpeming do the prep work for the well site to save about \$15,000. They need to have stake put in the ground from GEI to proceed.

GEI didn't have a draft Contract B ready for the meeting today, but will have it by next Thursday, and will come to Ishpeming go over it. If there are no major changes, they could go out to bid before July 4. Jake noted it might not be possible to get the project done this year. If the bids went out before July 4, they might have bids back by the August meeting.

The board discussed that they thought they were running early on this project's timeline, and were disappointed it might not be completed in 2025.

- Sales by Customer Analysis—The board discussed the graphs and noted there really isn't a trend to base budgeting off of, which is what they were hoping for.

- Talsma Controls Radio Replacement Quote—Jake Forchini explained this quote would cover all the new radios. He said they could likely sell the old system parts for \$1,000 each, either now or later. Tony McGrath asked if this system would be compatible with a future fiber system, and Jake said fiber could be run to Wells #1 through 6, but fiber lines could not be dedicated to the other wells. Jake noted that with the current system, there is a spare of all the major things, and this quote does not include spares for the new system.

The board discussed that the signal is better with the new radios, and it is more reliable. It was noted that the old system does not have spare parts available to purchase anymore. Talsma will likely want to do this project in the fall, so the board has time to decide on this.

The board requested a new quote with spare parts included and talked about Talsma being a sole provider in the area with regards to the NIWA bidding policy.

James Bertucci made a motion to table the proposal. Tony McGrath seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- NIWA/Cities Compensation Committee—TABLED

- Johnson Controls MAU #2 Quote & Discussion—Tony McGrath made a motion to take the Johnson Controls discussion off the table. James Bertucci seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Johnson Controls said this project came in far higher than expected and that it probably is not worth it to put in a new system at this time. The board talked about the single bidder situation, and who would write the spec for a bid if it needed to go out to attract competitive bidders.

Tony McGrath made the motion to award the bid to Johnson Controls in the amount of \$11,079 for the retrofit of the thermostat and the controller. James Bertucci seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

- 2026 Preliminary Budget Discussion—John Jackson made a motion to take the budget off the table for discussion. Tony McGrath seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Jake Forchini said he trimmed the fat as much as he could to reduce expenses so the price per gallon would not be so high. He suggested he might find an avenue to drop the special projects fund surcharge by getting money into the account so as to not borrow as much from the City of Ishpeming, and then pay down the loan as quickly as possible.

The board talked about the project funding, and how the match and payments will work. They discussed about how to relieve the burden on the cities. They noted they don't have to approve the budget until next month. Tony McGrath wants to wait to vote on the budget until all board members are present to make this decision. Jake will look at the numbers again before then.

Tony McGrath made a motion to table the 2026 budget discussion for next month's meeting. James Bertucci seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

#### ADJOURNMENT:

Paul Gravedoni made a motion to adjourn at 4:57 p.m. James Bertucci seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Prepared by Kristy Basolo, recording secretary

Approved and respectfully submitted by James Bertucci Secretary/Treasurer