

NEGAUNEE-ISHPEMING WATER AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING
October 15, 2025
WATER TREATMENT PLANT

CALL TO ORDER:

A regular meeting of the Negaunee-Ishpeming Water Authority was held on Wednesday, October 15, 2025 and was called to order at 4 p.m. by John Jackson.

MEMBERS PRESENT: James Bertucci, Paul Gravedoni, John Jackson, Kristen Mariuzza and Tony McGrath

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Paul Gravedoni made a motion to approve the agenda as amended, changing the unpaid bills to \$133,350.80. Kristen Mariuzza seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Kristen Mariuzza made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 17, 2025 meeting as presented. James Bertucci seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

CLAIMS & ACCOUNTS:

James Bertucci made a motion to approve the claims & accounts as amended to \$133,350.80 and to pay the bills. Kristen Mariuzza seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

Jake Forchini said plant operations are going smoothly. Jeff Talsma installed a dial to control the permanganate feeder manually and gave the quote for the lightning damage at the plant. The City of Ishpeming is processing the quote with the insurance company.

Jake noted the cities continue to use less water than expected, with the weekends being particularly low. Neither city has a leak right now. James Bertucci asked about how the line flows to the two cities, and how it is monitored and double-checked. Jake gave an explanation of how NIWA staff can tell if things are amiss.

Jake gave an overview of the maintenance that has been done in the plant in the last month.

Kristen Mariuzza made a motion to accept the manager's report as presented and place it on file. Tony McGrath seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Teal Lake Well Project Update—Ryan Morgan talked the board through the change order that was presented. Municipal credited about \$40,000 to NIWA due to City of Ishpeming's help with this project. Jake gave thanks to the DPW staff for their work.

Tony McGrath made a motion to approve Change Order #1 for the Well Project and to authorize Jake Forchini to sign the order. James Bertucci seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Ryan said the screen slot size is 50. It would be an additional \$25,000 to use artificial gravel. Kristen Mariuzza asked why they're recommending artificial. Ryan said Municipal recommended this because they think rehabs are easier and there is less chance of damaging the screen.

Jake said Dan Wiitala said he felt NIWA could do two different screen sizes without a problem. This method is working well on #11.

The board discussed that artificial gravel is useful in a rehab scenario and cleans off easier. It was noted that Municipal is recommending one slot size. Tony McGrath spoke historically about having different slot sizes in the past, and what previous drilling companies said about it then. He asked if it was prudent to put off the decision until Dan Wiitala to be present to give his recommendation.

Jake called Dan, but he was not available. Ryan read the email from Dan on this issue to the board so they had Dan's input in some form. Kristen noted that NIWA is still within the original estimate with the savings from the City of Ishpeming's help with site prep.

Tony McGrath made a motion to approve the switch from natural filter pack to an artificial filter pack with a 50-slot screen. Kristen Mariuzza seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Kristen Mariuzza made a motion to approve the pending Change Order #2 for the additional cost to change to artificial gravel. Paul Gravedoni seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Ryan said Jeff Talsma provided documentation needed and he feels GEI should be able to have the proposal by the next meeting.

- Well #10 Drilling Proposal—Jake said this proposal is for budgetary purposes; he noted there is no feasibility study. The deadline for the next round of funding is Nov. 1. NIWA could apply for EGLE traditional funds (SRF). Kristen suggested submitting the ITA to buy the board more time to figure out which well would be best to submit for.

Kristen Mariuzza made a motion to submit the Well #10 proposal for the ITA funding. Tony McGrath seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

- 3rd Quarter Financial Reports and Board Compensation—Jake Forchini noted in the revenue/expenditure report, he missed adding in the Aquatic Informatics \$1,000 charge in the office line item.

The board discussed next month's meeting date and decided on no change.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None.

ADJOURNMENT:

Paul Gravedoni made a motion to adjourn at 4:48 p.m. Tony McGrath seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Prepared by Kristy Basolo, recording secretary

Approved and respectfully submitted by James Bertucci Secretary/Treasurer