

**BLRWPCA MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2025, 7:00 PM
MINUTES**

The BLRWPCA Board held its regular meeting on Wednesday, January 29, 2025, at 7:00 P.M., with Robert Morra presiding, and in attendance were Jessica Webb, Jim Rupert, Robert Grasis (Vernon), and Mike Ruef (WPCA Coventry), while Richard Hayes, John Kleinhans (Town of Vernon Administrator), Richard Barger (Town Attorney), and Bill Watkins (Coventry DPW Director) joined via Zoom.

Not Present: Cheryl Udin, Dan Champagne.

1. Call to Order.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Public Comment.

No Public comment was made.

3. Approval of Minutes:

Motion: Jim Rupert made a motion to accept the minutes as presented in the packet. -
2nd – R. Hayes | Yes: 3 Abstain: 1

4. New Business:

a. Consider and act on establishing a refund process when necessary.

Rich Hayes would like to have an example of when refunds might be needed, and Jim Rupert will work on a refund policy for the authority and gather examples of when refunds might be necessary.

5. Pending Business:

a. Collection Enforcement through Tax Sale.

Terry Hjarne provided a document that stated that two properties are set for tax sale on April 1st in Vernon.

b. 890 Boston Turnpike EDUs.

A \$60,000 payment was received, but the property is still in arrears by \$20,000. A lien will be placed on the property if the remaining balance is not paid.

c. FY2025/2026 Budget and Public Hearing.

BLRWPCA discussed the budget for the current fiscal year, noting that it was consistent with the previous year's budget. Rich Hayes mentioned that the total budget for the previous year was just over 60,000, with a significant portion of that being spent on equipment. R. Morra also highlighted an issue with septic odor in the area around Preuss and restaurants, which they are trying to address. The team also discussed the need for a reserve fund, which was established but not yet reflected in the current budget. John asked about the proposed budget, which Town clarified would be presented in April. Jim Rupert to update the spreadsheet with fiscal year 24 budget numbers and adjust the percentage based on the correct number of properties.

d. Contract discussion with Coventry regarding a sewer extension into Coventry.

Coventry Town representatives Mike Ruef and Bill Watkins reviewed the proposed sewer connection between Bolton and Coventry. Coventry proposed a \$375,000 connection fee for 21 parcels. Final approval is pending, with discussions on fee structures, flow estimates, and potential connection fees to Manchester.

The town proposed Coventry pay 9% of total sewer use fees plus additional maintenance costs. Richard Barger raised concerns about administrative fees and fairness, questioning reserve capacity valuation. Coventry's grant is worth \$1.2 million, with 20% from local funding. Benefit assessments are set at \$12,000 per single-family house.

Daily water flow estimates vary, with discrepancies between past reports and current estimates. The board discussed Coventry installing and owning a flow meter for consistency, along with annual calibration and maintenance. They also considered a flow-based contribution for repair costs.

- BLRWPCA to schedule an executive session to discuss the Coventry sewer connection proposal. Bob Morra to coordinate with Vernon and send out proposed dates for a meeting in late February to discuss the Coventry sewer connection details.
- BLRWPCA to have their engineering consultant and legal counsel present at the next meeting to discuss the Coventry proposal.
- Mike will revise the spreadsheet he sent over.

6. Additional Matters & Other Business.

None.

7. Adjournment.

Motion: The meeting was adjourned by J. Rupert at 8:01 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Suellen Kamara

Please see the minutes of subsequent meetings for corrections to these Minutes and any corrections hereto.