



**LANSING BOARD OF WATER & LIGHT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**

**Tuesday, January 13, 2026 – 5:30 P.M.
REO Town Depot - Board of Water & Light Headquarters
1201 S. Washington Ave., Lansing, MI 48910**

BWL full meeting packets and public notices/agendas are located on the official web site at <https://www.lbwl.com/about-bwl/governance>.

AGENDA - UPDATED

Call to Order

Roll Call

Public Comments on Agenda Items

1. Approval of the Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes of November 6, 2025 **TAB 1**
2. Retirement Plan Committee (RPC) Update..... **TAB 2**
3. Large Load Update **INFORMATION ONLY**
4. Board Self-Evaluation Survey **INFORMATION ONLY**
5. Resolution Honoring Commissioner J. R. Beauboeuf **TAB 3**
6. Resolution Honoring Commissioner Robert Worthy **TAB 4**
7. Resolution Honoring Commissioner Brian Ross..... **TAB 5**
8. Easement Grant to Lansing MI Ventures, LLC Resolution **TAB 6**

Other

Adjourn

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Meeting Minutes
November 6, 2025

The Committee of the Whole of the Lansing Board of Water and Light (BWL) met at the BWL Headquarters-REO Town Depot located at 1201 S Washington Ave., Lansing, MI, on Thursday, November 6, 2025.

Chairperson Sandra Zerkle called the Committee of the Whole Meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and asked the Corporate Secretary to call the roll.

Present: Commissioners Beth Graham, Chris Harkins, Semone James, DeShon Leek, David Price, Dale Schrader, and Sandra Zerkle; and Non-Voting Commissioners J. R. Beauboeuf (East Lansing) and Brian Ross (DeWitt Township)

Absent: Commissioner Tony Mullen and Non-Voting Commissioner Bob Worthy (Delta Township)

Corporate Secretary LaVella Todd declared a quorum.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Semone James, **Seconded** by Commissioner Beth Graham to approve the Committee of the Whole Meeting minutes of September 9, 2025.

Action: Motion carried. The minutes were approved.

Public Power Contest Winner Recognition

Chairperson of the Board David Price presented certificates of recognition to the five Public Power Week Coloring Contest Winners: Ally Rapelje from Post Oak Academy, Blessing Tesa from Attwood Elementary, Ephraim Niyonyishu from Cavanaugh Elementary, Hayven Thomas from Cavanaugh Elementary, and overall winner Alexa Martinez from Cavanaugh Elementary.

Retirement Plan Committee (RPC) Update

Chief Financial Officer Scott Taylor presented the Retirement Plan Committee (RPC) update. In the Defined Contribution 401(a) and Deferred Compensation 457(b) Plans, four participants have assets in the State Street GTC Retirement Income Builder (RIB) Series with a total of just under \$1.5 million which indicates the plan is adopting well. Lifetime income funds are being promoted and educational sessions will be held in the new year. The forfeiture process for DC Plan 1 has started for approximately three pay periods needed to utilize the balance and an administrative procedure for managing forfeitures is being formalized. Secure Act 2.0 Requirements effective January 1, 2026 include the mandatory Roth catch-up contributions for

high earners. Individuals aged 50 or older earning more than \$145,000 in the previous year from the employer sponsoring the plan will be required to make catch-up contributions to their 457 plan on a Roth (after-tax) basis. HR is working on a communication to all participants regarding 3rd party vendors reaching out to participants on retirement advisory services to reiterate that these are not from the BWL RPC and to remind participants the resources that are available.

Commissioner Harkins asked what percentage of staff fully vest in the DC contributions. CFO Taylor responded that he would look up the information and provide it to the Commissioners.

Energy Optimization Plan 2026-2029

Energy Planning & Decarbonization Manager, Jennifer Binkley-Power presented the Energy Optimization Plan 2026-2029. The overall goal of the plan is to reduce energy waste and future costs of utility service. The intent is to delay the need for constructing new electric generating facilities. Ms. Binkley-Power provided an overview of Public Act 229 of 2024 Section 71.(2) which amends and adds to prior Energy Waste Reduction legislation Public Act 295 of 2008, 2016, 2020. Ms. Binkley-Power also provided the requirements of the EWR Plan, the spending and saving allowances and the electrification plan. The plan needs to be approved by the Board of Commissioners and MPPA will submit the plan to the MPSC by December 31, 2025, as a joint filing on behalf of all MPPA members. The EWR Plan will be refreshed every four years.

Chairperson Zerkle asked whether this plan is where BWL enters customers' homes to determine where energy savings can be made. Ms. Binkley-Power affirmed and responded there is a list of programs for customers.

Commissioner Schrader asked whether the EV chargers and rebates were part of the 1.5% of total retail electricity sales. Ms. Binkley-Power said they were not.

Commissioner Harkins asked whether there are programs currently in operation that are indicating diminishing returns and are there other programs with more capability that efforts should be focused toward. Ms. Binkley-Power responded that electrification is a good place to pivot, contractors will need to be trained, and a trade ally network for some measures will need to be created.

Commissioner Graham asked whether BWL had a program similar to DTE reaching out to realtors to go through a checklist of items for savings. Ms. Binkley-Power responded that from previous experience, the program was semi-successful and realtors need to be incentivized to be an advocate with that type of program, and also that BWL is considering such a program.

Commissioner Price asked how much load was reduced by converting to LEDs over the last 10 years. Ms. Binkley-Power responded that she didn't have that figure but would follow up and provide it to the Commissioners.

Motion by Commissioner David Price, **Seconded** by Commissioner, Beth Graham, to approve the Energy Optimization Plan 2026-2029 Resolution and forward it to the full Board for consideration.

Action: Motion Carried.

First Amendment to the Cafeteria Plan – HSA

Executive Director of Human Resources Michael Flowers presented the First Amendment to the Cafeteria Plan – HSA (Health Savings Account).

Motion by Commissioner David Price, **Seconded** by Commissioner Chris Harkins, to approve the Adoption of the First Amendment to the Cafeteria Plan Resolution and forward it to the full Board for consideration.

Action: Motion Carried.

Special Electric Service Contracts for Large Load Customers and Membership in Regional Transmission Organization

General Manager Dick Peffley spoke about the Special Electric Service Contracts for Large Load Customers and Membership in Regional Transmission Organization Resolution being presented to the Committee. GM Peffley stated BWL is negotiating with several large customers, exploring new technologies for energy sources while maintaining reliability for existing customers. GM Peffley gave brief overviews of two new technologies for energy sources that have been vetted: Solar Thermal Technology and Fuel Cell Technology. Both technologies potentially have high reward for BWL with minimal risk. GM Peffley also explained to the Committee that it could be possible that BWL may have to buy energy outside of the service territory depending on how many of these large customers come to this area. BWL is exploring an option of becoming a member of the PJM (Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland) regional transmission organization, which manages wholesale markets for energy and capacity on the east coast, while MISO manages for central states. There is a plant in Niles, MI in the PJM region that puts 1,000 MW into the market and BWL is requesting 400 MW from them. In order to purchase energy from this plant, BWL would need to be a member of PJM. BWL is competing internationally to land these large customers.

Chairperson Zerkle thanked GM Peffley and the staff for their hard work in bringing the businesses to BWL and the city.

Commissioner Price stated that one of the objections that is heard on social media and in the public in providing electric service to the emerging industry of AI and data centers is that it results in increased rates for current customers. GM Peffley responded that won't be the case for BWL as the infrastructure will be paid for by the new customers and as they ramp up, we'll see reduced forecasted rate increases for customers. This will also result in an additional \$1 million in return on equity to the city.

Commissioner Harkins commented on the importance of remaining environmentally conscious, but highlighted language in the resolution about negotiating agreements that would hold other customers harmless and not burden the existing BWL customers' rate base, and said those protections were critical to him in supporting the resolution. GM Peffley responded that the CEO of Deep Green from the United Kingdom stated he was impressed with Lansing Board of Water & Light and that they have never worked with a utility like it and is looking forward to working with us on their project.

Commissioner Zerkle commented that this operational project that GM Peffley brought to the Board has been explained well in what the purpose was and how it would better the community and the company. GM Peffley responded that several high-level staff were working on the project and it will be well vetted.

Commissioner James asked what types of returns are projected? GM Peffley responded that negotiations are in progress and returns should be similar to those of other customers. Commissioner James added that the pros and cons have been provided and that she doesn't see any negative aspects to the ratepayers. GM Peffley responded it was a win-win and the mayor of the City of Lansing stated he cannot see any drawback as the two parking lots for the project aren't being utilized. The building Deep Green will build doesn't look industrial, there will be a walking path, and murals created by local artist. Additionally, there will be jobs created for the community.

Commissioner Schrader asked if fuel cell technology was being put next to the downtown location and if it was a California company. GM Peffley said he couldn't respond due to a non-disclosure agreement. Commissioner Schrader asked if the fuel cell was considered clean energy. GM Peffley responded that it was considered clean energy in two states so far. Commissioner Schrader commented that it was a brilliant plan due to the amount of space being used and reduction in the emissions of natural gas.

Motion by Commissioner David Price, Seconded by Commissioner Semone James, to approve the Special Electric Service Contracts for Large Load Customers and Membership in Regional Transmission Organization Resolution and forward it to the full Board for consideration.

Action: Motion Carried.

Regular Board Meeting Schedule 2026 Resolution

Chairperson Sandra Zerkle presented the Regular Board Meeting Schedule 2026.

Commissioner James asked if the Committee Meetings would need to be moved for November 2026 and if the November 2026 Board Meeting could be held on an alternate date.

Commissioner Price stated that traditionally the November Board Meeting was held the week

prior to Thanksgiving to allow for taking vacation Thanksgiving week. The Committee determined that moving the Committee Meeting day will be considered.

Motion by Commissioner David Price, Seconded by Commissioner Beth Graham, to approve the Regular Board Meeting Schedule 2026 Resolution and forward it to the full Board for consideration.

Action: Motion Carried.

Other

Motion by Commissioner David Price, **Seconded** by Commissioner Beth Graham, for excused absences for Commissioner Tony Mullen and Commissioner Robert Worthy.

Action: Motion Carried.

Adjourn

Chairperson Sandra Zerkle adjourned the meeting at 6:33 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sandra Zerkle, Chairperson
Committee of the Whole



RETIREMENT PLAN COMMITTEE (RPC)

Investment Activity Updates for Committee of the Whole: 1/13/2026

Investment Activity Update

- Defined Benefit Plan (DB) & Voluntary Employee Benefit Administration Plan (VEBA)
 - Nothing new to report.

Investment Activity Update

- Defined Contribution 401(a) & Deferred Compensation 457(b) Plans
 - Nothing new to report.



RETIREMENT PLAN COMMITTEE (RPC)

Administrative Activity Updates for Committee of the Whole: 1/13/2026

Administrative Activity Update

- Defined Benefit Plan (DB) & Voluntary Employee Benefit Administration Plan (VEBA)
 - VEBA Only
 - Based on sufficiency of funding and investment performance, the RPC approved the FY26 Q1 reimbursement from the VEBA Plan to the BWL of \$2,532,748. The amount was calculated consistent with the terms of the Administrative Services Agreement (ASA).

Administrative Activity Update

- Defined Contribution & Deferred Compensation Plans
 - Forfeiture Processing DC Plan 1
 - Proper utilization of the forfeiture balance has been completed for CY 2025 per plan and IRS requirements.
 - At its November meeting, the RPC voted to approve an administrative procedure for managing forfeitures, which will help to ensure continued compliance with plan and IRS requirements moving forward.

Glossary

- **DB** Defined Benefit Plan - The plan is a noncontributory single-employer defined benefit pension plan for employees of the BWL. The Defined Benefit Plan, by resolution of the Board of Commissioners, was closed to employees hired subsequent to December 31, 1996, and a defined contribution plan was established for employees hired after December 31, 1996. Effective December 1, 1997, all active participants in this plan were required to make an irrevocable choice to either remain in this plan (defined benefit) or move to the newly established defined contribution plan. Those participants who elected to move to the defined contribution plan received lump-sum distributions from this plan that were rolled into their accounts in the newly established defined contribution plan. Of the 760 employees who were required to make this election, 602 elected to convert their retirement benefits to the newly established defined contribution plan.
- **VEBA** Voluntary Employee Benefit Administration - The Post-Retirement Benefit Plan is a single-employer defined benefit healthcare plan. The Plan provides medical, dental, and life insurance benefits. Substantially all of the BWL's employees may become eligible for healthcare benefits and life insurance benefits if they reach normal retirement age while working for the BWL.
- **DC 401(a)** Defined Contribution Plan - The Defined Contribution Plan covers substantially all full-time employees hired after December 31, 1996. In addition, 602 employees hired before January 1, 1997 elected to convert their retirement benefits from the Defined Benefit Plan effective December 1, 1997. The Defined Contribution Plan operates as a money purchase pension plan and meets the requirements of Sections 401(a) and 501(a) of the IRC of 1986, as amended from time to time. For employees hired before January 1, 1997, the BWL is required to contribute 15.0% of the employees' compensation. For employees hired after January 1, 1997, the BWL is required to contribute 9.5% of the employees' compensation. In addition, the BWL is required to contribute 3.0% of the employees' compensation for all employees who are not eligible to receive overtime pay and 0.5% of the employees' compensation for all nonbargaining employees. No participant contributions are required.
- **DC 457(b)** Deferred Compensation Plan - The Deferred Compensation Plan covers substantially all full-time employees. The BWL contributes \$1,000 on behalf of each participant as of the first pay period of each year. Additionally, the BWL will provide a 100% match for each participant's contributions annually, up to \$1,500.
- **ASA** Administrative Services Agreement – The administrative services agreement is an agreement between the BWL and the VEBA trust regarding the payment of VEBA plan benefits. The agreement calls for the BWL to handle the processing of benefit payments and allows for the reimbursement for payment from the VEBA trust if certain conditions are satisfied. These conditions include both funding status and investment performance measures.

RESOLUTION 2026-XX-XX
Resolution Honoring Jean Richard Beauboeuf

WHEREAS, it is a pleasure to extend this expression of our thanks and best wishes to Jean Richard Beauboeuf for his service as a Commissioner of the Board of Water & Light; and,

WHEREAS, Jean Richard (J. R.) Beauboeuf was appointed as an Advisory Commissioner of the Board of Water & Light on July 28, 2023, to represent East Lansing; and

WHEREAS, J. R. Beauboeuf last served as a non-voting member of the Committee of the Whole, Finance Committee and Human Resources Committee; and

WHEREAS, J. R. Beauboeuf has lived in East Lansing since 1986, and was educated at Michigan State University, received a BS degree in Economics and Econometrics and a MS degree in Economics and Business Administration; and

WHEREAS, J. R. Beauboeuf is the Director of Risk Management and Legal Services at Lansing Community College; has served as Administrator at the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth, as Adjunct Faculty of Mathematics, Finance and Quantitative Methods at Davenport University, and as Adjunct Faculty of Applied Mathematics at MSU College of Human Medicine; and

WHEREAS, on behalf of his colleagues, employees of the Board of Water & Light and the citizens of Lansing, we offer our sincere gratitude for the time, energy, and talent he devoted as a Commissioner of the Board of Water & Light.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the members of the Board of Commissioners hereby honor and commend J. R. Beauboeuf for his years of distinguished service in Regular Board Meeting this 27th day of January, 2026. We sincerely wish J. R. Beauboeuf continued success in all his future endeavors and achieving that which is in the best interest of our community.

David Price, Chairperson
Beth Graham
Semone James
Tony Mullen

Sandra Zerkle, Vice Chairperson
Chris Harkins
DeShon Leek
Dale Schrader

Motion by Commissioner _____, **Seconded** by Commissioner _____, to approve the resolution of tribute for the outgoing Commissioner J. R. Beauboeuf at a Board meeting held on January 27, 2026.

Action:

RESOLUTION 2026-XX-XX
Resolution Honoring Robert Worthy

WHEREAS, it is a pleasure to extend this expression of our thanks and best wishes to Robert Worthy for his service as a Commissioner of the Board of Water & Light; and,

WHEREAS, Robert Worthy was appointed as an Advisory Commissioner of the Board of Water & Light on July 1, 2023, to represent Delta Township, and last served as a non-voting member of the Committee of the Whole, Finance Committee and Human Resources Committee; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Worthy was born in Lansing , is a lifelong resident of Lansing and Delta Township, graduated from Grand Ledge High School, holds an Associates of Arts degree from Lansing Community College, a Bachelor of Arts degree from Michigan State and a Juris Doctorate from Cooley Law School; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Worthy has worked at Smith Brothers Law Office in Grand Ledge, Franchino Mold in Lansing, and currently owns and operates The Worthy Company in Grand Ledge, a manufacturer's representative company representing die cast tooling and equipment manufacturers from the US, Canada, EU, Taiwan and Japan; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Worthy has served as an officer for the Michigan Chapter of the American Mold Builders Association, currently chairs a committee for North American Die Cast Association, National and serves as a Director for the Michigan Chapter of the North American Die Cast Association. He has served on the National Board of Governors for the North American Die Cast Association a total of 18 years; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Worthy serves as a Director and Treasurer of Mitten Misfits Farm Sanctuary, a 501c3 nonprofit in Delta Township; and

WHEREAS, on behalf of his colleagues, employees of the Board of Water & Light and the citizens of Lansing, we offer our sincere gratitude for the time, energy, and talent he devoted as a Commissioner of the Board of Water & Light.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the members of the Board of Commissioners hereby honor and commend Robert Worthy for his years of distinguished service in Regular Board Meeting this 27th day of January, 2026. We sincerely wish Robert continued success in all his future endeavors and achieving that which is in the best interest of our community.

David Price, Chairperson
Beth Graham
Semone James
Tony Mullen

Sandra Zerkle, Vice Chairperson
Chris Harkins
DeShon Leek
Dale Schrader

Motion by Commissioner _____, **Seconded** by Commissioner _____, to approve the resolution of tribute for the outgoing Commissioner Robert Worthy at a Board meeting held on January 27, 2026.

Action:

RESOLUTION 2026-XX-XX
Resolution Honoring Brian Ross

WHEREAS, it is a pleasure to extend this expression of our thanks and best wishes to Brian Ross for his service as a Commissioner of the Board of Water & Light; and,

WHEREAS, Brian Ross was appointed as an Advisory Commissioner of the Board of Water & Light on July 1, 2025, to represent DeWitt Township; and

WHEREAS, Brian Ross last served as a non-voting member of the Committee of the Whole, Finance Committee and Human Resources Committee; and

WHEREAS, Brian Ross previously served as a BWL Non-Voting Advisory Board Member representing DeWitt Township from January 17, 2018, through June 30, 2018, and July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022; and

WHEREAS, Brian Ross has been a Trustee for DeWitt Charter Township since 2006, has been employed and actively involved in the utility service sector for almost 47 years, and has served in leadership roles in both state and local government for many years; and

WHEREAS, Brian Ross currently serves as Chair of the Clinton County Department of Public Works, represents DeWitt Township as a Commissioner for the Southern Clinton County Municipal Utilities Authority and Secretary of the Next Michigan Development Corporation, Chair of the EGLE Municipal Operator Certification Board, is a past president of the Michigan Water Environment Association and served as a Board member for 11 years; and

WHEREAS, on behalf of his colleagues, employees of the Board of Water & Light and the citizens of Lansing, we offer our sincere gratitude for the time, energy, and talent he devoted as a Commissioner of the Board of Water & Light.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the members of the Board of Commissioners hereby honor and commend Brian Ross for his year of distinguished service in Regular Board Meeting this 27th day of January, 2026. We sincerely wish Brian Ross continued success in all his future endeavors and achieving that which is in the best interest of our community.

David Price, Chairperson
Beth Graham
Semone James
Tony Mullen

Sandra Zerkle, Vice Chairperson
Chris Harkins
DeShon Leek
Dale Schrader

Motion by Commissioner _____, **Seconded** by Commissioner _____ to approve the resolution of tribute for the outgoing Commissioner Brian Ross at a Board meeting held on January 27, 2026.

Action:

RESOLUTION 01-XX

Easement Grant to Lansing MI Ventures, LLC

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners hereby recommends that Lansing City Council grant a drainage easement to Lansing MI Ventures, LLC. The easement will be located on property occupied and maintained by the Lansing Board of Water & Light, specifically a portion of 2030 Lake Lansing Road and 2320 Wood Road, Lansing, MI 48912; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, the General Manager of the Lansing Board of Water & Light is authorized to execute all documents to effectuate this easement grant once approved by the Lansing City Council.

Staff Comments: Lansing MI Ventures, LLC requested an easement for drainage. The BWL has performed an assessment and negotiated mutually agreeable terms of said easement (together with a construction and cost sharing agreement) in exchange for \$25,000.

Motion by Commissioner _____, **Seconded** by Commissioner _____ to approve the Resolution for the Grant Easement to Lansing MI Ventures, LLC at a Board Meeting held on January 27, 2026.

Action: