



MINUTES OF MEETING
OHIO WATER DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
DECEMBER 11, 2025

Chairman Browning called the monthly meeting of the Ohio Water Development Authority (OWDA) to order at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, December 11, 2025. Pursuant to the notice in compliance with the provisions of R.C. 121.22, the meeting was held at the offices of the OWDA, 480 South High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

Board members in attendance:

Gregory Browning	Chairman
Chris Whistler	Vice-Chairman
Gordon Reis	Board Member
Jimmy Stewart	Board Member
Amy Holtshouse	Board Member
Patrick Smith	Designee for Lydia Mihalik, Director of the Ohio Department of Development (Development)
Mindy Bankey	Designee for Mary Mertz, Director of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR)
Shelby Croft	Designee for John Logue, Director, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA)

Other attendees:

Michael Fraizer	OWDA Executive Director
Angela Hawkins	OWDA Chief Legal/Ethics Officer and Policy Advisor
Todd Skruck	OWDA Chief Financial Officer/Secretary-Treasurer
Dan Gill	OWDA Deputy Executive Director, Program Operations
Kim Killian	OWDA Loan Officer
Ryan Callender	Bond Counsel, Squire Patton Boggs (US) LLP, (SPB)
Allison Binkley	Bond Counsel, Squire Patton Boggs (US) LLP, (SPB)
Jon Bernstein	Chief, Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA)

Mr. Fraizer, Executive Director, reported that the notice of the Ohio Water Development Authority meeting was in compliance with R.C. 121.22 and O.A.C. 6121-1-13 and a quorum was established for the meeting.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting on October 30, 2025

****MOTION****

Chairman Browning called for a motion to approve the October 30, 2025, regular Board Meeting minutes.

Moved by Ms. Holtshouse.
Seconded by Mr. Whistler.

Motion passed unanimously.

II. GENERAL LOAN INFORMATION

Board Summary Report

Mr. Skruck, Chief Financial Officer and Secretary Treasurer, provided information on the loans, including a list sorted by program, along with loan amount, term, rate, and a description of the project. The year-to-date lending volume in each program was also provided.

Economic Analysis

Mr. Skruck provided details on operating ratio, debt coverage (rates/debt service), cost as percentage of Median Household Income (MHI), and demographic factors such as population change and unemployment.

III. INDUSTRIALS

Approval of Inducement Resolution Amendment and Authorizing Resolution 72-25

Mr. Fraizer, Executive Director, stated that Intel Corporation (Intel) representatives made a presentation at the last Board meeting to provide an update on their Ohio One project at the New Albany, Ohio, manufacturing campus. Intel is requesting an amendment to the inducement resolution extending the agreement to December 31, 2026. Mr. Fraizer said Ms. Allison Binkley, Bond Counsel, Squire Patton Boggs LLP, is present and available to answer questions.

Chairman Browning asked for confirmation that it's purely an extension with no changes. Mr. Fraizer said that is correct; there are no changes.

****MOTION****

A motion was made to pass Resolution No. 72-25 amending and extending the expiration of the original resolution authorizing the execution of an inducement agreement related to the financing of the costs of the acquisition, construction, and installation of a water development project and solid waste facilities to be owned and operated by Intel Corporation, which is set to expire on December 31, 2025 and is being extended for an additional year to December 31, 2026.

Moved by Mr. Stewart.
Seconded by Mr. Smith.

Motion passed unanimously.

IV. FRESH WATER LOAN FUND PROGRAM

Projects and Authorizing Resolution 73-25

Ms. Killian, Loan Officer, advised the Board of 11 Fresh Water Loan Fund Program loans this month under Resolution 73-25; six are for construction and five are for planning. There are two loans each for Columbus and Licking Regional Water District and individual loans for Butler, Caldwell, Circleville, Gibsonburg, Medina County, Springfield, and Washingtonville. The projects listed in the attached Exhibit A were presented. The total loan amount is \$29,505,840.35.

Board Member Reis asked how OWDA can make loans to the City of Columbus and Licking Regional Water District if the entities are not covering their debt service. Mr. Skruck said if the operation ratio is below one, typically that means the local governmental agency has a cumulative surplus that is being depleted. There is an annual deficit, but they are obviously getting their cumulative surplus reduced gradually over time.

Mr. Reis asked if this is integrated into OWDA's debt, will it reduce the Authority's coverage? Mr. Skruck responded that the intent is still to decrease cumulative surplus over time.

Ms. Killian explained that when reviewing a loan application in the underwriting stage, staff verify that the Local Governmental Agency (LGA) has current rate increases in place, as well as future rate increases the entity will be passing. Staff also examine the cumulative surplus balance because some communities purposely front-end that balance knowing they have projects coming up in the future. Using Columbus as an example, Ms. Killian said they have \$336 million in surplus, making it low risk for OWDA as Columbus has enough equity to cover debt service.

Mr. Reis said he doesn't see it, and he's not arguing that Columbus can't afford to cover their debt service. He asserted OWDA has a covenant that says these local governments must cover their debt service by a certain amount, and they are not. Mr. Reis asked why OWDA approves these loans.

Mr. Skruck stated that cumulative surplus can be included in debt service coverage.

Mr. Reis disagreed, stating you cannot count the cumulative surplus. He said that's not the way to look at Operations and Maintenance (O&M). If you have a negative number, you can't integrate that and say it's fine because they have a surplus. He said OWDA documents don't say that. Mr. Reis said his point is that OWDA is in a dance with Columbus and is increasing their volume of lending to 25-30% of the borrowing. He said they can't be at 0.9 to do this.

Mr. Skruck responded they're not. He said Columbus is at 1.19, and their debt coverage is 1.49.

Mr. Reis said he's looking at a report that says Columbus is 0.9, and Licking County isn't high enough either.

Mr. Skruck explained that Licking County is running down a cumulative surplus. For example, right now their cumulative surplus is approximately \$15 million, and in 2030 it will be

approximately \$5 million. In the underwriting stage, staff looked at zero rate increases as well as the projected rate increases over the next five to seven years.

Mr. Reis suggested we table this discussion until a later meeting.

Mr. Ryan Callender, Bond Counsel, Squire Patton Boggs LLP, noted that LGAs can count their reserves in debt service coverage.

Mr. Reis apologized and said he stands corrected.

Mr. Fraizer said he thinks the data Mr. Reis referenced was for Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) loans, and the loans currently being discussed are Fresh Water (FW) loans. The report does show the operation ratio for Columbus is 0.96 in WPCLF, and the reserves kick in based on the guidance previously stated.

Mr. Skruck said this is correct. Columbus has different operation ratios under the various program funds.

****RESOLUTION****

For the Fresh Water Loan Fund Program, Chairman Browning called for a motion to approve Resolution 73-25 authorizing cooperative agreements for planning and construction of wastewater and water management facilities between certain named political subdivisions of the state of Ohio and the Ohio Water Development Authority.

Moved by Mr. Stewart.
Seconded by Mr. Smith.

Motion passed unanimously.

V. FRESH WATER REFINANCE LOAN PROGRAM

Tax-Exempt Projects and Authorizing Resolution 74-25

Ms. Killian advised the Board of two Fresh Water Refinance Loan Program loans under Resolution 74-25 this month that qualify for tax-exempt rates. The two loans for the Village of Florida as listed in Exhibit B were presented. The total loan amounts will not exceed \$615,000.00 and will have minimum interest rates of 2.52% and 2.01% for each.

****RESOLUTION****

For the Fresh Water Refinance Loan Fund Program, Chairman Browning called for a motion to approve Resolution 74-25 authorizing cooperative agreements for the refinancing of certain existing debt, the proceeds of which was used to finance wastewater and water management facilities, between certain named political subdivisions of the state of Ohio and the Ohio Water Development Authority.

Moved by Mr. Stewart.
Seconded by Ms. Holtshouse.

Motion passed unanimously.

VI. DRINKING WATER ASSISTANCE LOAN FUND PROGRAM

Projects and Authorizing Resolution 75-25

Ms. Killian advised the Board of 13 Drinking Water Assistance Loan Fund Program loans under Resolution 75-25 this month; four are for planning/design and nine are for construction. There are two loans each for Ashtabula County and Columbus; and individual loans for Ada, Canfield, Jefferson Regional Water Authority, Lithopolis, Middlefield, Napoleon, North Lewisburg, Saint Henry, and Warren. Additionally, two loans are receiving lead service line funding: one for Columbus and one for Warren. The projects listed in the attached Exhibit C were presented. The total loan amount is \$29,727,836.10.

****RESOLUTION****

For the Drinking Water Assistance Loan Fund Program, Chairman Browning called for a motion to approve Resolution 75-25 authorizing Drinking Water Assistance Loan Fund agreements between named political subdivisions and persons, the Director of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, and the Ohio Water Development Authority, for financing construction, operation, and ownership of water facilities pursuant to R.C. 6109.22.

Moved by Mr. Stewart.
Seconded by Mr. Whistler.

Motion passed unanimously.

VII. WATER POLLUTION CONTROL LOAN FUND PROGRAM

Projects and Authorizing Resolution 76-25

Ms. Killian advised the Board of 17 Water Pollution Control Loan Fund Program loans under Resolution 76-25 this month; six are for planning/design and 11 are for construction. There are two loans for Columbus, and individual loans for Ashtabula, Athens County, Butler, Canton, Cardington, Lithopolis, Magnetic Springs, Medina County, Mount Vernon, Muskingum County, Pike County, Summit County, Thornville, Tuscarawas, and Woodville. The projects listed in the attached Exhibit D were presented. The total loan amount is \$61,253,543.91.

****RESOLUTION****

For the Water Pollution Control Loan Fund Program, Chairman Browning called for a motion to approve Resolution 76-25 authorizing Water Pollution Control Loan Fund agreements between certain named political subdivisions, the Director of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, and

the Ohio Water Development Authority, for financing construction, operation, and ownership of wastewater facilities pursuant to R.C. 6111.036.

Moved by Mr. Stewart.
Seconded by Mr. Whistler.

Motion passed unanimously.

Supplemental Project and Authorizing Resolution 77-25

Ms. Killian advised the Board of three Water Pollution Control Loan Fund Program supplements under Resolution 77-25 this month. The construction projects for Athens, Bay Village, and Columbus listed in the attached Exhibit E were presented. The total loan supplement is \$3,878,984.00.

****RESOLUTION****

For the Water Pollution Control Loan Fund Program, Chairman Browning called for a motion to approve Resolution 77-25 authorizing supplements to loan agreements between certain named political subdivisions, the Director of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, and the Ohio Water Development Authority, for financing construction, operation and ownership of wastewater facilities pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 6111.036.

Moved by Mr. Stewart.
Seconded by Ms. Holtshouse.

Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Browning asked Ms. Killian to consider adding to the statistics provided in the OWDA Annual Report. He said the current report publishes the total dollars OWDA has sent to every county in Ohio since 1968, and it would be interesting to add the population of each county to this summary. He feels the information would add a proportional perspective, especially if it showed the last five years of funding. Chairman Browning said OWDA has a state-wide mission, and it would be good to have this information so the Board can make comparisons at the per capita level. Ms. Killian responded that staff would do this.

VIII. STRATEGIC INITIATIVES FUND

Strategic Initiatives Partnership Program – Approval of H2Ohio Grant Requests

Mr. Fraizer said agency partners from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) and Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) presented their lists of projects at the last Board meeting requesting support from the Strategic Initiatives Fund (SIF).

Mr. Fraizer reviewed the steps taken to date to complete the Board's mission of being responsible partners state-wide using the funds from the Strategic Initiative Partnership Program (SIPP). There have been modeling discussions, the importance of the initiatives has been strategized, goals have been stressed that projects need to have state-wide impact, and the potential impact of projects have

been examined. He said this effort highlights how OWDA is continuing to be a partner in the state with fellow agencies to move the overall water quality mission of H2Ohio forward. Mr. Fraizer stated that the projects being considered are one-time requests, and there is no further commitment from OWDA going forward.

Chairman Browning asked for a representative from each agency to briefly state how the money will be used conceptually if the Board approves these grants.

Mr. Terry Mescher, P.E., H2Ohio Program Director, ODA, explained that to date, they have focused their H2Ohio efforts almost exclusively on cropland nutrient management. In the last five years, ODA has learned that at the regional watershed level, especially in Northwest Ohio, nutrients are being managed within ODA's guidelines. Mr. Mescher said there are some exceptions at the local farm level, but in general, they are pleased with nutrient management progress. He said they are now beginning to focus their efforts on the water management side.

Mr. Mescher said ODA has been working on projects to redesign and rebuild conservation ditches over the last three years. He explained that the ditches are more than a drainage ditch. They have capacity to process nutrients as the water flows downstream while also providing some storage within the channel cross section.

Mr. Mescher explained that, with the funds ODA is requesting, they'd like to further develop the ability to manage water. Their proposal is to capture the water, hold it on the landscape in the spring when nutrient loads going into Lake Erie or the Ohio river basins are the highest, then hold it and reuse later in the year to irrigate crops. He said this approach does a couple of things for producers and private landowners. First, ODA is encouraging them to irrigate; and as the project continues to develop, they will benefit economically. Second, the approach takes the stored water and reapplies to cropland any nutrients, sediment, phosphorus and nitrogen that would've been lost in runoff. Mr. Mescher explained their proposal extends over a 5-year period.

Chairman Browning asked for more details on the 5-year timeline. Mr. Mescher said ODA will identify sites over the next 12-18 months. They will conduct engineering during months 18-30 of the timeline and then construct projects thereafter.

Mr. Stewart asked how sites are prioritized. Mr. Mescher responded that the first priority is to identify sites that can recycle, reuse and capture the water. This is a new management approach in Ohio as there isn't currently much irrigation in the state. The second priority is to find willing participants as the structures will be built on private land requiring cooperation from these landowners. Project costs and sediment reduction will be leading indicators as well.

Ms. Holtshouse asked if there will be a targeted geographical area, or will it be a state-wide effort. Mr. Mescher said efforts will be targeted towards crop land with some focus on the highest load watersheds in the Maumee River and elsewhere. He said as the project unfolds, he estimates there will be more focus on phosphorous and nitrogen load reduction than sediment. Mr. Mescher said ODA has other tools that can be used to manage sediment on the farm.

Mr. Reis asked for an explanation on what high load means. Mr. Mescher explained that annually there is approximately two million pounds of phosphorus that travels through the Maumee River Basin and enters into Lake Erie. That load is two million pounds of phosphorus. ODA's goal is to

reduce the load by 40% or 800,000 pounds annually. The load is the actual pounds of phosphorus, nitrogen or sediment that is pulled out of the water stream and kept out of the river system. Mr. Mescher said the goal is to eventually see the results of this load reduction at the gages. He said this will probably be a decades effort, not a two-year effort.

Chairman Browning stated that OWDA is investing in a strategy and not just specific projects. Mr. Mescher said this is correct.

Mr. Jon Bernstein, Chief, Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance, OEPA, stated that his agency receives the smallest share of H2Ohio funding. He said that from the beginning, OEPA has focused on water quality of drinking water and wastewater. Mr. Bernstein explained that the agency's philosophy has been to concentrate on the first mile or last mile of funding to leverage their funds within the State Revolving Fund (SRF), as well as OWDA funds and other grants. Mr. Bernstein said they have completed nearly \$100 million in projects through H2Ohio with approximately half of that used for infrastructure projects.

Mr. Bernstein explained that the majority of projects presented to OWDA are for infrastructure. All of them are agency priorities as identified by their drinking water and wastewater divisions.

Mr. Reis asked a series of questions related to the fund reserves and how funding will be replenished for the SIF. Chairman Browning corrected Mr. Reis saying the Board is considering \$10 million for each of the two agencies. Mr. Reis raised concerns that this would drive the reserves down to \$21 million. Chairman Browning stated there is a \$21 million reserve in the SIF, and it's still there. There was a discussion to explain to Mr. Reis the funding sources and future decisions of the Board related to funding future projects. Mr. Reis then asked how OWDA will replenish these funds.

Mr. Skruck reminded the Board that money is replenished in the SIF with money from the annual fresh water loan repayments and other sources.

****MOTION****

Chairman Browning called for a motion to approve Strategic Initiatives Partnership Program grants to OEPA for \$10 million and ODA for \$10 million for the H2Ohio projects as outlined in Exhibits F and G.

Moved by Mr. Stewart.
Seconded by Mr. Whistler.
Abstained by Ms. Croft.

Motion passed unanimously.

Stream Gaging Program

Mr. Fraizer introduced Mr. Thomas Harris, Associate Director, Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Water Science Center, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), to present their yearly report and request for funding. He said no Board action will be required at this meeting.

Mr. Harris said the stream gaging program consists of 72 river gages and 150 ground water gages.

Last year the organization upgraded many of its sites to allow for quicker data collection rates. Mr. Harris said the sites transmit information on an hourly basis, 24 hours a day, 365 days per year. Many of the sites are used as National Weather Service flood forecast points and for drought designations. He explained that Northwest Ohio is currently in severe drought conditions. Their gages throughout the state support flood forecasting and drought designation, as well as water quality and precipitation reporting.

Mr. Harris said that even during the federal government shutdown, USGS staff serviced the gages to protect lives and property. He added that OWDA has been funding the gaging program since 2008; and USGS has appreciated this relationship.

Chairman Browning asked Mr. Harris to explain how the gaging program works as he would to a layman. Mr. Harris said the gages are located along farm property lines and within cities, counties and municipalities so that when river stages rise quickly, there can be evacuations to save lives and property. River gages report every hour which allows for timely forecasting, alerts and warnings. He used the example of the Hocking River in Athens, Ohio, and said that gage is located across the street from the university, which is in a flood plain. The gage can provide an alert for an early evacuation.

Mr. Reis asked if this is the type of gage being installed at Camp Mystic in Texas that flooded over the summer. Mr. Harris said yes, the gages USGS uses would support that type of alert. Chairman Browning asked if the USGS gage was present, would they have known to get out? Mr. Harris said yes, they would have had enough warning time to get out.

Chairman Browning asked for more conceptual details on their funding. Mr. Harris said in addition to OWDA's contribution of approximately \$645,000, additional funding comes from USGS at the federal level. He shared that it costs \$15,000 to operate each stream gage site per year. Chairman Browning asked if he is satisfied that they have the funding needed. Mr. Harris said yes, they have adequate funding.

Mr. Fraizer asked for confirmation that OWDA contributes just under 50% of the gage program budget with the matching federal funds previously described. Mr. Harris said yes, this is correct.

Chairman Browning asked for clarification that Ohio has what we need with the current system in place. Mr. Harris responded that his office is considering adding more gages to the Mohican area, which is located in a valley with many campers.

Chairman Browning stated that OWDA does not have an endless supply of money, yet we would not want to find out after the fact that we should have given \$25,000 more to avoid a serious situation. Mr. Harris responded that the gages are serviced every six weeks to make sure they are reading accurately. In addition, they take flow measurements where they verify the reading, relay this information to the National Weather Service, and then store the data in their database perpetually. The National Weather Service uses these measurements to distribute flood forecasts when necessary.

Mr. Stewart asked how long stream gages have been in existence in Ohio. Mr. Harris said some sites have been in existence for over 100 years. Mr. Stewart said he has seen instances where there's been a big flood and then when you look historically, the recent flood is not even close when making comparisons.

Chairman Browning asked if there's an inflation increase in prices. Mr. Harris said no, prices are the same.

Ms. Holtshouse asked if USGS has any indicators on the security of their federal funding. Mr. Harris said they expect a slight increase from Congress in 2026 because water is a priority initiative for the President. He said if they receive a slight federal increase, they will lower the cost to OWDA.

Mr. Reis said he wants to understand where OWDA fits into the picture in the scope of all the needs to abate pollutants.

Chairman Browning said as a practical matter, when the Board discusses strategy, it must be a staged strategy. He said these issues are too big, too costly and take too much time; so OWDA is investing step by step and stage by stage.

Ms. Holtshouse said USGS stream gage data is critical to do all the modeling from flood risk to water quality. She said it is used for a huge amount of different scientific analysis to show the actual flow on a day-to-day basis. She also stated this information is the backbone of many other data sets.

Mr. Reis asked if we are actually just doing the modeling at this point. Chairman Browning said no, there is functionality because they are warning people if there's a flood coming.

Mr. Fraizer said this information is all encompassing. It is raw data that is used for the modeling aspect, there's prevention, drought impacts, and historical trends.

Chairman Browning asked if USGS has the resources to maintain the system to replace parts, etc. when needed. Mr. Harris said yes, they do. He then introduced Mr. Alex Covert, Biologist and Environmental Health Chief, Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Water Science Center, USGS. Mr. Covert explained that stream gages support the calculations where you need loadings and discharge data from the gages.

Mr. Reis stated that USGS should host a seminar for those of us idiots who do not understand loading and this or that so the Board can understand their language.

Chairman Browning asked the USGS representatives if there's any information the Board should consider since their last presentation a year ago. Mr. Harris responded that the Data Collection Platform (DCP) inside the gages has been upgraded. He said in some respects it's like upgrading your cell phone. The systems were advanced to have a quicker signal going out because the old signals were too slow. Mr. Harris said each DCP is \$4,000; and this is considered a maintenance cost under the gage program.

Mr. Reis said this \$15,000 per year, per gage, gets to be expensive. Mr. Harris said that is correct. He reminded Mr. Reis that OWDA is not paying the full cost of each gage. There is cooperative matching funds and federal stream gage funds as well. Mr. Harris said it costs money to fix gages that are in harm's way. They're going to eventually need repaired because of Mother Nature.

Mr. Reis asked where the cash flow comes from to maintain the gages. Mr. Harris responded that it comes from OWDA, federal priority stream funds and cooperative matching funds.

Mr. Fraizer wrapped up the discussion saying this was a presentation, and no Board action is needed until next month.

Presentation of Program Guideline Revisions

Mr. Fraizer introduced the topic of program guideline revisions. He stated that for reference, the Board had great discussion in September concerning the possibility of increasing security on some types of loans, especially brownfield loans. The Board agreed that staff would look at the program guidelines, and last month the SIF modeling was presented. Mr. Fraizer introduced Mr. Dan Gill, OWDA Deputy Executive Director, Program Operations, to give the presentation on program guideline revisions.

Mr. Gill informed the Board of four SIF guidelines to present at this meeting: Brownfield Loan Program, Dam Safety Loan Program, Local Economic Development Loan Program, and the Solid Waste Loan Program. They represent programs where loans were approved over the last five years, except Brownfield Loan Program is currently not available. He said there are more SIF programs that will be reviewed in the future, and staff are working through them deliberately. Mr. Gill stated that the materials in the Board book show the guidelines in their entirety, with the revisions for consideration shown in red.

Chairman Browning asked Mr. Gill to briefly conceptualize the changes since the Board had the opportunity to read them prior to the meeting.

Mr. Gill said the Board discussed the security on new developments for brownfield loans earlier this year, so essentially the recommendations are to tighten the security of these loans to ensure OWDA does not take unnecessary risks for loans approved under this program. One example of this added security he mentioned was if there is a mortgage on a subject property, OWDA will demand first position, whether it's shared or individually. Mr. Gill said the suggested revisions are built with flexibility so if there are project reasons to do more or less, the Board will have that discretion.

Mr. Gill stated that the programs for dam safety, local economic development and solid waste previously went through modeling conversations. These programs have maximum loan amounts listed in their guidelines. The revisions suggest the maximum loan amounts be increased to \$10 million per project, and flexibility to the Board will still exist. Mr. Gill said language is included to ensure the loans are dependent upon OWDA having available funding and leaving the Board with enough discretion to work through specifics on any individual projects.

Chairman Browning asked how long the maximum loan amount has been \$5 million. Mr. Gill said approximately 5 years, and he doesn't believe there was a maximum prior to that. He said the rationale for the \$10 million cap is that it will allow the Board to spread the money around to as many projects as possible instead of having one project eat up the entire budget for a calendar year. Mr. Gill said that with the proposed brownfield loan modifications, he anticipates less applications. The initial feedback he's received is that the shared position will be difficult for some customers to accept.

Mr. Reis asked why the maximum for the programs was raised from \$5 million to \$10 million. Mr. Gill explained that staff felt there was room to increase the capacity considering there is less loan volume going through these programs. He explained the modeling shows with the lower level of inquiries in these programs and the loan volume OWDA budgets for this area, there is room to

increase the maximum loan amount. Mr. Gill stated that a \$20 million maximum was not considered because that is approximately what the budget model is for annual SIF lending. In trying to find the correct balance, he said \$10 million is a number where OWDA can provide significant financial assistance for some of these projects.

Mr. Reis said this means OWDA would be on the first lien with any other lender. Mr. Gill said that's what OWDA will be requesting on brownfield projects. He said the security on other project loans is a little different. OWDA is not getting mortgages on the subject property for them, so the security can be the rates they are paying depending on the project. He said if OWDA is funding a sewer system or a water system to extend some lines for economic development, then the sewer fund and the water fund have rates that are pledged to support repayment of those loans.

Mr. Gill further explained that if there is a situation where an LGA is struggling to make their payments, OWDA will request them to increase their rates so they can collect enough revenue to pay the loan repayment. If it becomes a more difficult situation, then OWDA will start working with the Auditor of State. Mr. Gill said solid waste projects can have special assessments levied on properties within their district, and this secures those loans.

Mr. Reis asked if OWDA would have a first lien on those payments. Mr. Gill said that it has not been stated in those terms. He said they have debt obligations, and he believes it is a shared position where they must satisfy those debts. When staff are underwriting loans, they are taking note of all the existing debt the customer has in place at that time and any debt they are considering for future projects. Mr. Gill said if staff has any concerns that there won't be enough money for a customer to pay their bills and repay the loan, then staff will have a conversation with the applicant to address those concerns prior to bringing the loan to the Board for consideration.

Mr. Reis said his concern is that OWDA did such a lousy job with the brownfield loans that he's questioning our ability to assess risk in these other projects. He said he doesn't see much difference in doing a brownfield project and a solid waste project for a community where somehow the flow control gets broken legally and now, they don't have to dump their waste in the facility or there's a history of solid waste volume going down.

Mr. Gill said one of the biggest distinctions between brownfield and the others is that brownfield is really a speculative program where you're building a project and speculate that there will be users who use it. He said in this scenario, you're going to clean up the land, put in a mixed-use development, expecting tenants to come in and rent the properties, and you're going to have commercial establishments rent space. Solid waste districts have existing customers that OWDA is basing the underwriting on, so there is not a speculative nature to it. This is the big thing that separates the projects done through OWDA's Brownfield Loan Program versus some of the other loan programs.

Mr. Reis said his point is that when it is revealed that they have a tax pledge, he wants that pledged to OWDA. He said he doesn't think staff would ask for it, and that is why he's challenging how we do things. He doesn't want any more brownfield defaults. Mr. Reis said this can be avoided by looking at security and saying, "I want that". He said he doesn't think staff knows how to do that.

Mr. Gill stated this is part of the language added to the guidelines for the Board's consideration to firm up the security and reduce the amount of risk OWDA is comfortable with.

Mr. Fraizer said the solid waste rates and assessments are dedicated to the repayment stream to back the loans. Mr. Skruck added that solid waste loans are with public entities and brownfield loans are private loans.

Chairman Browning asked if state law requires OWDA to offer brownfield loans. Mr. Fraizer responded that state law requires OWDA to have a fund to potentially support a program, but that we may have a brownfield program. He said the SIF could, in theory, support the brownfield program, but that program is currently suspended. Mr. Fraizer said OWDA has received a legal opinion that the organization is in compliance with the law.

Chairman Browning said brownfield is an ongoing discussion.

Mr. Smith said the state Brownfield Remediation Program just closed around \$88 million with approximately \$1 million per county to support those applications. He said another program round will be opening in the spring for an additional \$100 million plus.

Chairman Browning said brownfield is fundamentally a development program and not a water program.

Mr. Reis said his point is that OWDA doesn't know how to ask for the security because we see the levy yet we don't grab it.

Chairman Browning said to Mr. Reis' point, OWDA is not done evaluating our situation to figure out what makes sense. He said there's more work to be done.

Ms. Holtshouse asked what the revenue stream is for the operations that qualify for dam safety loans. She asked if they are mostly drinking water infrastructure dams.

Mr. Gill said he doesn't have much contextual information to go off because OWDA has received several inquiries but has only approved one dam safety loan. He said the approved loan is secured with a special assessment levied on all the parcels within their district that benefit from the protection levies initially installed after the 1913 flood.

IX. FINANCIAL

Municipal Advisor RFP Results Recommendation and Approval

Mr. Fraizer said that, as the Board is aware, staff have been working through the Municipal Advisor RFP process since August. He said they appreciated the responses to the RFP from some well-qualified applicants. Mr. Fraizer said staff reviewed the applications and scored them pursuant to the RFP. He thanked Chairman Browning, Vice Chairman Whistler and Board Member Stewart for their role in reviewing the applications and participating in the interviews. After this thorough review, Mr. Fraizer said the top three proposals were very close. Based on the scoring results, Mr. Fraizer recommended the Board authorize the Executive Director to negotiate a contract with Hilltop Securities, Inc., who received a score of 116 points. Mr. Fraizer said he would be happy to answer any questions the Board may have.

Chairman Browning added that it was a thorough, professional and objective analysis of the applicants from a group of competitive and largely national entities.

Mr. Fraizer concurred and stated that PFM has served OWDA well for many years, and no one criticized their service to the OWDA during this RFP process. He said there were strong proposals and strong interviews. Mr. Fraizer said he wants to extend a note of thanks to PFM for the work they've done for OWDA.

****MOTION****

Chairman Browning called for a motion to authorize the Executive Director to negotiate a contract with Hilltop Securities, Inc. as the OWDA Municipal Advisor.

Moved by Ms. Holtshouse.
Seconded by Mr. Stewart.

Motion passed unanimously.

After the motion, Mr. Fraizer noted that staff will move forward with providing the necessary termination notice required under the contract with PFM.

Projected Financing Calendar 2026-2027

Mr. Skruck presented the bond issuance calendar for the next two years. He explained that the calendar shows the strategy for each of the three programs. We review a draw schedule based upon prior project disbursements. He said they look at previous seasons, compare encumbered balances to a year ago, and anticipate areas with possible increases. Mr. Skruck said staff creates the draw schedules for the three funds and provides the information to the asset managers, and those draw schedules allow us to estimate where OWDA will need to issue debt to replenish funds.

Mr. Skruck said the bubble chart shows the SRF issuances. He noted this is a change OWDA is planning for 2026 to issue for the WPCLF and DW programs under an SRF issuance instead of individually for each program. At the bottom of the fund waterfall, the programs are cross collateralized. Excess loan repayments for WPCLF can then be used to cure DW defaults, and vice versa. Mr. Skruck said the advantages will be for OWDA to be more efficient, it will create larger block sizes and allow more frequent issuances for each program to be cost effective. He also explained that labeling the transaction as an SRF issuance is positive overall, while internally staff will keep separate details for each program.

Mr. Fraizer added that in 2026, OWDA will issue \$400 million, ideally in May, which will be split between the two OEPA partner programs at \$200 million each. He said an advantage of doing it this way will allow OWDA to go to the bond market once, instead of going multiple times. Merging them together will provide OWDA with more flexibility.

Mr. Reis asked hypothetically, if he were to buy the bonds, what the bonds will say on them. Mr. Skruck responded that they will be titled State Revolving Fund and inside will list the programs. Mr. Reis then asked if below the title it would split the purposes. Mr. Skruck said they will be split for OWDA records and will likely be split inside the official statement.

Mr. Reis asked for verification if the recording of the split will be inside or on the cover of the bond document. Mr. Callender indicated staff and consultants are still working on plans. He said the split will likely occur in the certificate of award at the time of pricing, and that will indicate the portion going to DW and WPCLF. Further clarity will be gained as this proposed change is worked on in 2026.

Mr. Skruck said most of the other states issue it as an SRF program, so OWDA is not inventing anything new. He said the plan is to do two SRF issuances annually, with one in the first half of the year and the other in the second half of the year. He estimates that OWDA will have two \$400 million SRF issuances and two FW issuances. Mr. Skruck explained that in 2016 two series of FW bonds were issued, an A series that has a June 1st call date and a B series which has a December 1st call date. He said OWDA will call those bonds and simultaneously issue approximately \$100 million of new money funds for project disbursement. Mr. Skruck said the chart, as presented to the Board, was prepared to showcase the strategy for the coming year.

Chairman Browning asked how many issuances OWDA would need to do if the organization went out of business tomorrow. Mr. Skruck responded that OWDA has a \$4 billion encumbered balance. He said there is \$2 billion cash on hand; so OWDA would need to raise \$2 billion, and there is capacity to do that.

Mr. Fraizer said OWDA would still do all of the issuances next year. Mr. Skruck said yes, that is correct.

Chairman Browning asked if the assumption is that the level of loan activity will continue into the coming year. Mr. Skruck responded that the assumption allows for a slightly lower level of loan activity. He said if it's higher, then staff will adjust and look at the draw schedule again. He added that he does expect draws to increase. Mr. Skruck said OWDA will be starting the new year at \$16 million per week in WPCLF project disbursements, and by June he expects that number to increase to \$20 million per week. He monitors these trends quarterly to see where it will lead issuance sizes in 2027. He said this is an educated estimate.

Mr. Reis asked what he missed because he thought OWDA was issuing \$3 billion this year. Mr. Skruck said no, there is \$2.7 billion in loans awarded.

Mr. Reis said that bonds follow this. Mr. Skruck said yes, bonds do follow, and OWDA funding is approximately 78% from the bond market. Mr. Skruck explained that it depends on how long projects take. He said not every project disburses within one year. Some take as much as three or more years to disburse.

Chairman Browning stated that it's a plan that is subject to change, at least on the margins.

WPCLF Series 2025 Pricing Results

Mr. Skruck provided the Board with an update regarding the November 18, 2025, WPCLF bond issuance where OWDA issued \$500 million par size, and Jefferies served as the senior manager. Mr. Skruck stated that Jefferies was unable to attend the Board meeting as they were serving as senior managers for another Ohio issuer this week. They will provide a detailed presentation at the January Board meeting, so Mr. Skruck said he would provide highlights of the transaction in the interim.

There were \$581.5 million in project funds raised with a true interest cost of 2.92%. As discussed previously, Mr. Skruck said this was a bullet transaction which helped provide OWDA with increased proceeds in the beginning.

Mr. Fraizer said the transaction provided \$500 million in bonds and \$580 million in cash. He said the deal closed recently, and the money is already allocated to projects. He added that no adjustments were made throughout the bond transaction, which he understands was a new experience.

Appointment of Fresh Water Revolving Fund Series 2026 A Refunding and New Money Underwriting Team

Mr. Skruck informed the Board the first issuance of the new year will be the Fresh Water Revolving Fund Series 2026 A. He explained that an underwriting team will be appointed at the January meeting along with an authorizing resolution for the Board to approve. Mr. Skruck said the goal will be for OWDA to get \$100 million of new money and \$125 million of refunding bonds to refund the current 2016 A series on June 1, 2026. He said based on the current interest rate environment and information provided by underwriters, he is expecting \$15 million or 11% of present value savings from this transaction.

Review of Professional Service Fees

Mr. Skruck said staff typically provides the Board with a list of professional service fees at the last meeting of each year to make a comparison of the fees paid over the previous two years. This list includes asset managers, underwriters, bank products, and trustees.

Mr. Fraizer said the information for this discussion was provided in the printed Board materials, and Board members can see calendar 2025 to present. He said it was also sent as an attachment with his Board summary email. He explained a reset was made for the underwriters, as you know they are the banks that assist with bond transactions. The materials reflect those conducted in the new underwriting cycle. So, only two of the bond transactions for the year are shown in this report.

Mr. Skruck said this is for informational purposes only. He said one highlight is that the debt volume in 2024 was \$1.53 billion, and this year it was over \$1 billion. The issuance amounts are down, although it doesn't include the WPCLF transaction which closed in December. Mr. Skruck said that going forward, it may be more beneficial to have this presentation at the January meeting if there is a late year issuance again.

Mr. Reis asked if staff stole this methodology from Jefferies. Mr. Skruck explained that Jefferies provided the bubble chart and will provide OWDA with updates on a rolling forward calendar.

Mr. Reis said he thought Jefferies should be given credit for the chart. Chairman Browning responded that the chart has their name on it. Mr. Fraizer said OWDA puts Jefferies' name on the information they provide every time and gives credit where credit is due.

Presentation of Liquidity Reserve Policy

Mr. Fraizer reminded the Board that staff were given a directive in August to present a liquidity reserve policy by year-end following the adoption of the high borrower concentration policy. He said Mr. Callender will present the proposed policy, and no Board action will be required today.

Mr. Callender provided a quick refresher from the Board's conversation six months ago. He said the only restriction to work around is that the liquidity reserve policy cannot be considered a debt service reserve fund, as this would raise tax issues. A debt service reserve fund has implications, including capping the reserve and restricting how much money can be earned on the money in the reserve.

Mr. Callender explained that the policy works with guidance from IRS to avoid being considered a debt service reserve. The rationale is because 90% of OWDA expenses are debt service, so any type of cash reserve is going to fall into that category. He said the essence of this liquidity reserve is that it states it will be a policy of the Board to maintain at least a 100% coverage of all expenses for any particular year in available cash, meaning available to be spent on actual operating expenses. Mr. Callender said the caveat that it won't create problems with the tax-exempt debt is that it can only be tested every six months. He said the role of the CFO to do long-range forecasting must continue to make sure it's maintained on a regular basis. Mr. Callender said no specific funds will be named to provide flexibility on where the cash is and that cash is actually available.

Mr. Reis asked how much available cash is needed. Mr. Skruck responded that OWDA has just under \$200 million in WPCLF, \$80 million in DW and approximately \$80 million in FW. He said a calculation has been run once, and he plans to run them every May 1st and November 1st. He explained the timeline saying these are the months between repayment cycles and when FW money is floated at service. The total for debt service paid comes from a cash flow statement from the prior year's audit. Mr. Skruck said the calculation on May 1, 2026, will be completed using the 2025 audited financial statements for debt service and operating expense line items. He said the account used to measure it with will be the most recent trust statement.

Chairman Browning asked what the defined 100% of expenses will be. Mr. Skruck said he can provide this information in detail later and estimates last year's debt service at \$240 million plus expenses.

Chairman Browning asked how this will impact OWDA's current practice. Mr. Skruck said staff have been letting excess loan repayments build in anticipation of future Inflation Reduction Act projects and other projects needing taxable monies. He explained that using this reserve, OWDA will spend some of that money instead of bond proceeds for project disbursements. Mr. Skruck stated the policy provides a gauge to keep a healthy fund balance.

Mr. Reis asked if this means OWDA will spend the excess loan repayments and then replenish. Mr. Skruck said it will be spent down to the reserve threshold.

Chairman Browning asked what impact is expected on money available in the SIF. Mr. Skruck responded that it won't have any impact on the SIF. He said the policy of placing 15% of the excess FW loan repayments into the SIF, as well as the SIF loan repayments, will continue to be at the Board's discretion.

Mr. Skruck said calculation specifics will be provided at the next meeting.

Monthly Financial Report

Mr. Skruck said all three programs have enough capacity to meet obligations for the next year, as outlined along with the encumbered balances in the lending capacity slide shared with the Board. He

said the encumbered balances have risen to nearly \$4 billion when the SIF is included. He explained that as OWDA continues to award more loans, the encumbered balance will rise in preparation for future disbursements. Mr. Skruck said there is adequate cash for the next year in WPCLF and DWAF. He said the FW fund will be replenished in March with \$100 million.

X. OTHER

Legislative Concept

Mr. Fraizer stated that the Board has discussed pursuing a legislative concept in the past. OWDA currently purchases notes, essentially as an insurance policy in the event all customers ask for payouts of their loans at once, OWDA can draw down the funds from those products to meet those payment requests if called upon. The Board was previously provided with a background document related to the nuances of this proposal. Mr. Fraizer said there is a constitutional requirement for OWDA to have enough cash on hand, or to be in the process of collection, to have the ability to operate and award future loans. He said the Board directed the Executive Director to craft a legislative component to allow OWDA to have the ability to eliminate some, if not all, purchase notes.

Mr. Fraizer said OWDA had a previous legislative concept, and a large tenant of the draft was tied to making sure OWDA maintained AAA status. Based on feedback from the administration, it is not preferred that any legislative concept includes rating agencies' determinations. Consequently, the proposal has been re-evaluated, and Mr. Fraizer believes it meets the threshold for neutrality. He would like to follow up first with the Office of Budget Management and then potentially the Governor's office to be sure they are aware of OWDA's intentions.

Mr. Fraizer reviewed the draft of the legislative concept with the Board. He summarized it by saying that OWDA can use the bond market to meet the constitutional test with the Authority's ability to go out and get bonds under its current capacity. Mr. Fraizer said that while purchasing note agreements is the cost of doing business, he sees the potential of pursuing this legislative avenue in the next year.

Chairman Browning asked how it will affect OWDA financially if this concept becomes law and the organization can change its practices. Mr. Fraizer responded that the purchase notes cost is approximately \$6 million per year. Mr. Skruck added that OWDA would probably need to keep some purchase notes on hand.

Ms. Angela Hawkins, OWDA Chief Legal/Ethics Officer and Policy Advisor, stated that if this legislation is enacted, her recommendation to the Board would be to adopt a policy to have a plan.

Mr. Reis said he brought this to the Board's attention two years ago pointing out OWDA is losing \$6 million per year. He said this thing has not moved at the speed he thinks it should have. He thinks the organization is spending too much time worrying about legal ease and going back and forth. He claimed there are too many meetings about this, and it's costing \$100,000 per week. He said by the time Monday comes, OWDA will have blown another \$60,000 because there wasn't a plan in place. He said he doesn't think there is expediency needed to have this move forward. He wants to know who is going to be responsible, how it's going to be done, and he wants to see it all in writing. Mr. Reis claimed to have called the OWDA office about this topic in April and was told it would be included in the budget bill. He said the budget bill passed, so in September he called, asked if it was

included in the budget bill and was told no. He said he called at least three additional times in the last year and was basically told we're working on it. He said that's not good enough for him as it's costing a fortune.

Mr. Fraizer said, respectfully, it's not a fortune. He said he appreciates the fact that it's \$6 million, yet it's the cost of doing business. He said the budget he's about to present to the Board is \$5.5 million to operate this entity, and OWDA had \$2.7 billion in loans this year. He emphasized there is a process to pass legislation, and there are people around him who have publicly served and can appreciate the process. Mr. Fraizer said he will take the lead on this project. He said it's a nuance item that he personally doesn't think OWDA should pursue right now because of current Ohio politics.

Mr. Fraizer stated that to implement and seek passage of the legislation, OWDA must work through the process with the administration. He said it's important to follow the appropriate steps, explaining with the example of if elected officials and Office of Budget and Management (OBM) are contacted to see where they stand on this item and they have not been informed, it could cause a problem for getting the legislation passed. Mr. Fraizer explained that he has a good name in state circles, and he doesn't want to jeopardize this or the reputation of OWDA by not following procedure. He acknowledged the process takes time, yet he believes there are opportunities to do it the correct way. Mr. Fraizer said with everything else that is going on at OWDA, to be told that staff are not doing their job is an issue for him.

Mr. Stewart said he's trying to understand Mr. Reis' statements and asked him if he's suggesting that OWDA should put out a suggested bill without consulting the governor's office and getting any feedback. Additionally, he stated he didn't appreciate Mr. Reis blaming the Executive Director and saying he is not doing his job.

Mr. Reis said it's been two years of nothing happening and Mr. Stewart was chairman of the Board. Mr. Stewart corrected Mr. Reis' recollection, responding that he was not chairman at that time.

Mr. Reis asked for a time out. He said OWDA has the former director of the budget who is extremely close to the governor, Mr. Stewart, and Mr. Whistler, who have all served in government capacities at one point in time in their career.

Mr. Stewart said that's correct. He asked Mr. Reis if he is suggesting that OWDA ignore the process and submit a bill without consulting with the governor's office. Mr. Reis responded yes, he thinks this should be done tomorrow.

Mr. Fraizer also noted state legislators are not even in session. Mr. Fraizer will continue working on this project, and will keep it on the list to update the Board and move forward.

Chairman Browning said OWDA needs the support of the OBM and their staff, and that's the bottom line. He said he will be happy to talk to the director to get clarity about this. He agrees that \$6 million in the big picture is a small amount, but OWDA is still spending it. Chairman Browning believes the utility of the purchased notes is around zero, as there is almost no theoretical possibility OWDA would use the insurance given the current state of the Authority's finances.

Chairman Browning said the Board and staff will work on this to move forward, and the Chairman will get an update to provide for the Board.

Mr. Reis asked that the topic be included as an agenda topic at every meeting and the Board be provided with written reports.

Chairman Browning said he would talk to OBM and staff, and report back to the Board next month.

Mr. Skruck said he had an additional update for the monthly finance report. On November 15, 2025, OWDA sent semi-annual repayment invoices to 708 borrowers for 3,565 loans, totaling \$404 million due on January 1, 2026. He said the Board will be provided with a status update on the repayments at the January meeting.

Mr. Whistler said he had comments regarding the previous conversation. He said even if the chairman is friendly with folks, everyone in the room knows there are lots of processes involved. He said it's not just one person; it's a process. Mr. Whistler said anyone who has worked in legislation understands there are timeframes and strategies. He said some strategies might last a decade and some last weeks; it all depends on the situation. He said he didn't care for the suggestion that there wasn't any effort being put towards this because as everyone knows, there's a lot of activity going on at OWDA, from many different directions.

Mr. Whistler said he believes where OWDA stands today shows the growth of the organization over time. He noted the growth has not only been since the arrival of Mr. Fraizer, and staff have done a great job. He said there will always be things that make us question what we can balance to do more work. He noted that OWDA just completed a giant process to select a municipal advisor and said the volume of work accomplished by this team is exceptional. Mr. Whistler also commented that he believes people need to be very careful in how they choose their words. People are in positions of balancing getting things done with the overall volume of work being accomplished.

Mr. Reis said he appreciates the efforts, but \$6 million is a lot of money. He said he was a client of Neil Clark and Paul Tipps, and he saw how business got done with lightning speed.

Approval of 2026 Operating Budget

Mr. Fraizer said OWDA has had some cost fluctuations since he presented the 2026 budget for consideration at the last meeting, which was also highlighted in his recent email. One major change was the estimated cost for the replacement of the furnaces. Three bids were received, and the bid for \$14,448 will be accepted.

Starting from the top of the budget, Mr. Fraizer said the largest change from last year is salaries and fringes. He said that three additional employees have been hired since 2024, making a current staff of 20 to help accommodate OWDA's growth. He said a 10% reserve was originally calculated under fringes, and after further consideration, this was reduced to 5%. In total, Mr. Fraizer said there is a \$338,000 reduction from the proposed budget that was presented in October. He said the anticipated surplus budget is now \$550,000.

Chairman Browning asked Mr. Fraizer to provide the broad estimates for the proposed budget that is relative to 2025, and explain the big picture of the proposed budget.

Mr. Fraizer said he has worked hard with the Board over the last year to make budget adjustments as necessary and to provide clarity. He said his biggest goal is to always be open and transparent. Mr.

Fraizer explained that the salary study was done, and that it had a big impact. He informed the Board that he doesn't anticipate requesting any large salary increases from 2026 to 2027. Mr. Fraizer said it's built into the salary line item to hire one more employee to round out the staff. He shared that although salaries are higher, this budget line item is tight, and he appreciated working with the vice chairman on this topic. There is an approximate \$15,000 contingency built in for salaries.

Chairman Browning stated there's a major repositioning of the agency going on that could end up being generational; and he feels it's important for the Board to know we're supporting major changes, investing in our enterprise and our mission. He said he believes the entire Board thinks this investment is a good thing, and you can see this through the agency.

Mr. Stewart said the Chairman's remarks were well stated, and he concurs with him.

****MOTION****

Chairman Browning called for a motion to approve the 2026 operating budget as proposed.

Moved by Mr. Stewart.
Seconded by Mr. Whistler.

Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Fraizer also informed the Board there is a status update on the current 2025 operating budget in the materials presented.

Approval of 2026 Board Meeting Calendar

Mr. Fraizer said last month he presented the calendar for the 2026 Board meeting schedule and requested the Board to approve it as presented.

****MOTION****

Chairman Browning called for a motion to approve the 2026 Board meeting calendar.

Moved by Mr. Smith.
Seconded by Ms. Bankey.

Motion passed unanimously.

XI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REMARKS

Mr. Fraizer shared with the Board that OEPA was recently informed they will receive hundreds of millions of dollars for lead service line support. Mr. Bernstein said yes, it was good news after a long delay. He said the allotments were released for lead service line grants for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2025. Mr. Bernstein said Ohio is in line for approximately \$202 million, 49% of which will be used for principal forgiveness, and the remaining balance will stay in line with their policy of 0%

financing. He said in addition, there's \$45 million in FFY 2022 dollars that will be going to OEPA with another \$50 million to be allocated to Ohio next year.

Chairman Browning asked if there's an estimated need established. Mr. Bernstein responded that it would be billions. He said all of this money will be spent for years to come. He explained that OEPA is approaching the five-year mark for FFY 2022, so they have until the end of 2026 to spend that money. Mr. Bernstein said that realistically, OEPA will be spending this money until 2029-2030, and there will still be a demand after that.

Mr. Reis asked what the impetus is for individual homeowners. Mr. Bernstein responded that it's a preventative measure. He said typically the water is safe unless there's something that disturbs a lead service line and that can cause the water going into private homes to be lead contaminated. He said if you remember years ago, in Flint, MI, they changed the water chemistry which leached lead into homes causing a massive problem with lead poisoning.

Mr. Reis asked if OEPA was just going to go down streets and announce they are going to do this. Mr. Bernstein said USEPA is requiring water utilities to replace lead lines over a 10 to 15-year period. He said communities can do this in a number of different ways. They might already know where lead lines are or discover them as they're replacing a water main. They must first identify them, and many communities don't know where the lead is. He said OEPA and OWDA have supported identification in the past and now are ramping up efforts for replacement of these lines across the state.

Ms. Holtshouse asked if there is a gauge of how many communities know where their lead lines are. Ms. Shelby Croft, Chief Strategy Officer, OEPA, responded that there's a requirement for all communities to identify them. She said she doesn't know the percentage, although it's a good percentage. She said identifying them means determining which are lead service lines, galvanized lines (which also need to be replaced), and other unknown lines. Mr. Bernstein added that Ohio is the second highest ranked state in the country, behind Illinois, for lead service line problems.

Mr. Stewart asked if Ohio's problems are partly due to when many of the housing areas were built. Mr. Bernstein responded yes, in addition to being a Great Lakes state. He added that newer builds certainly won't have lead lines.

Mr. Fraizer said he wanted to remind the Board of the ethics training that must be completed by year-end. He said he and Mr. Gill are working with agency partners at OEPA and ODNR on the RFP for the Southeast Ohio Water Study. Mr. Fraizer expressed his appreciation to all and wished everyone a happy holiday. He said he's looking forward to 2026.

XII. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Chairman Browning thanked everyone for a great year, lots of progress and many big decisions. He applauded the Board and the staff for their work, and expressed best wishes to all for the holidays and new year.

****MOTION****

BOARD MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 11, 2025

Chairman Browning called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Moved by Mr. Stewart.
Seconded by Mr. Reis.

Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.



CHAIRMAN



SECRETARY-TREASURER

Exhibit A
Fresh Water Loan Fund Program
12/11/2025 Board Meeting

Account	Local Government Agency	Project Name	Project Description	Loan Amount	Interest Rate	Term (years)
11655	Butler, Village (Richland)	Water & Wastewater Improvements 2022	Replacement of 2,500 feet of waterline on Grant Street and relining of 550 feet of sanitary sewer lines along College and Cleveland Streets to replace aging lines.	\$240,312.60	3.89%	20
11646	Caldwell, Village (Noble)	NCI Sewer Lift Station Replacement	Design of a pump station to serve the Noble Correctional Institution to replace the existing station that has exceeded its useful life.	\$130,455.00	4.45%	5
11649	Circleville, City (Pickaway)	North Area Waterline Capital Improvements	Design of 16,000 ft of waterline along Mulberry, Georgia, Lynwood, Lincoln, Collins, Pershing, Dartmouth, Atwater, McGraw, Wilson, North Court and Sunshine roads to replace aging waterlines.	\$604,107.00	4.45%	5
11659	Columbus, City (Franklin)	Upground Reservoir R1 & R3 Engineering Services	Design of two upground reservoirs and associated raw water lines near the JR Doutt reservoir to meet future water demands.	\$4,458,433.00	4.45%	5
11660	Columbus, City (Franklin)	O'Shaughnessy Dam Independent Review	Development of a preliminary engineering report to identify safety issues relating to the O'Shaughnessy Dam.	\$567,884.00	4.45%	5
11625	Gibsonburg, Village (Sandusky)	Long Term Control Plan Phase IV Improvements	Construction of 2,600 feet of storm sewers to separate combined sewers and reduce sewer overflows.	\$669,906.00	3.89%	20
11657	Licking Regional Water District	Outville Booster Station Project	Construction of a booster station along Outville Road to replace an existing booster station that has exceeded its useful life.	\$3,168,050.00	4.12%	25
11658	Licking Regional Water District	Outville Elevated Storage Tank	Construction of an elevated water storage tank along Outville Road to replace an existing storage tank that has exceeded its useful life.	\$6,061,409.20	4.12%	25
11658	Licking Regional Water District	Outville Elevated Storage Tank	Construction of an elevated water storage tank along Outville Road to replace an existing storage tank that has exceeded its useful life.	\$2,912,891.80	4.71%	25
11650	Medina County	Hinckley WWTP Electrical Upgrade	Construction of electrical improvements at the Hinckley WWTP to replace equipment that has exceeded its useful life.	\$4,102,729.00	3.89%	20
11656	Springfield, City (Clark)	WTP Control System Upgrade	Construction of improvements to the WTP control system to replace the existing system, which has exceeded its useful life.	\$6,535,933.00	3.89%	10
11652	Washingtonville, Village (Columbiana)	Elevated Tank Replacement	Design of a 100,000 gallon elevated water storage tank along High Street to replace the existing storage tank, which has exceeded its useful life.	\$53,729.75	4.45%	5

Exhibit B
Fresh Water Refinancing Loan Fund Program
12/11/2025 Board Meeting

Account	Local Government Agency	Project Name	Project Description	Max Loan Amount	Min Interest Rate	Est Term (years)
11653	Florida, Village (Henry)	Refinance of USDA-RD Bond WEP 2-1	Refinance of USDA-RD loan with a principal balance of \$394,200 and an existing interest rate of 4.5% for the construction of a new wastewater collection and treatment system. Loan qualifies for the tax-exempt rate.	\$415,000.00	2.520	20.5
11654	Florida, Village (Henry)	Refinance of USDA-RD Bond WEP 1-1	Refinance of USDA-RD loan with a principal balance of \$186,203.18 and an existing interest rate of 4.5% for the construction of a new wastewater collection and treatment system. Loan qualifies for the tax-exempt rate.	\$200,000.00	2.010	5.5

Exhibit C
Drinking Water Assistance Loan Fund Program
12/11/2025 Board Meeting

Account	Local Government Agency	Project Name	Project Description	Loan Amount	Interest Rate	Term (years)
11690	Ada, City (Hardin)	Water Treatment Plant Improvements	Construction of WTP improvements, including clarifier upgrades, pump replacements, SCADA updates, and chemical feed improvements, to improve operations and address permit violations.	\$2,178,933.00	0.00%	30
11690	Ada, City (Hardin)	Water Treatment Plant Improvements	Construction of WTP improvements, including clarifier upgrades, pump replacements, SCADA updates, and chemical feed improvements, to improve operations and address permit violations.	\$2,640,790.00	P/F	30
11682	Ashtabula County	Harpersfield Water Tower	Construction of a 300,000 gallon elevated water storage tank in Harpersfield Township to increase capacity for anticipated growth.	\$2,676,693.38	3.41%	30
11683	Ashtabula County	South River Road Waterline Extension Phase 2	Construction of 16,600 feet of waterline along South River, Brandt, and Atkins Roads to extend service to users currently served by wells.	\$417,152.14	0.00%	20
11683	Ashtabula County	South River Road Waterline Extension Phase 2	Construction of 16,600 feet of waterline along South River, Brandt, and Atkins Roads to extend service to users currently served by wells.	\$1,000,000.00	P/F	20
11663	Canfield, City (Mahoning)	C.H. Campbell Elementary Water Service Improvement	Design of 650 feet of waterline along Deertrail, Moreland and Blueberry Hill roads to provide a secondary line for continuous service to C.H. Campbell Elementary School.	\$34,281.00	0.00%	5
11684	Columbus, City (Franklin)	Atlanta Drive Area Waterline Improvements	Construction of 10,700 feet of waterline in the Atlanta Drive service area to replace aging waterlines.	\$6,993,780.62	3.20%	20
11695	Columbus, City (Franklin)	Lead Service Line Replacement - Part 2	Replacement of 390 lead service lines throughout the distribution system.	\$2,872,333.76	0.00%	20
11695	Columbus, City (Franklin)	Lead Service Line Replacement - Part 2	Replacement of 390 lead service lines throughout the distribution system.	\$3,239,014.66	P/F	20
11695	Columbus, City (Franklin)	Lead Service Line Replacement - Part 2	Replacement of 390 lead service lines throughout the distribution system.	\$2,279,462.62	3.20%	20
11687	Jefferson Regional Water Authority	Water Treatment Plant Improvements	Design of WTP improvements, including a new raw water source well, filtration upgrades, pump replacements, and SCADA updates, to improve operations.	\$234,970.00	0.00%	5
11685	Lithopolis, Village (Fairfield)	Jackson Lake Campground Water Interconnect	Construction of 2,700 feet of waterline to extend service to the Jackson Lake Campground that is currently served by on-site wells.	\$394,517.96	0.00%	30
11689	Middlefield, Village (Geauga)	Water Well #5 Connection	Construction and connection of water supply well #5 to the Middlefield WTP to increase the supply of source water.	\$1,802,905.84	2.70%	20

Exhibit C
Drinking Water Assistance Loan Fund Program
12/11/2025 Board Meeting

Account	Local Government Agency	Project Name	Project Description	Loan Amount	Interest Rate	Term (years)
11671	Napoleon, City (Henry)	Maumee River Waterline Crossing	Design of 4,600 feet of waterline that includes a Maumee River crossing to replace an aging waterline and provide service to 307 additional households.	\$412,216.90	0.00%	5
11669	North Lewisburg, Village (Champaign)	Water Line System Improvements	Design of 26,400 feet of waterline in the State Route 245 and 559 areas to replace aging lines.	\$152,025.00	0.00%	5
11673	Saint Henry, Village (Mercer)	Raw Water Line Construction	Construction of 15,900 feet of raw water main from the new western wellfield to the WTP to increase capacity and meet supply demands.	\$1,455,232.70	2.91%	30
11693	Warren, City (Trumbull)	2022 Waterline Replacement Program (Area C) - LSL	Construction of 5,300 feet of waterline along Second and Union Streets to replace aging waterlines and lead service lines.	\$729,594.56	3.20%	20
11693	Warren, City (Trumbull)	2022 Waterline Replacement Program (Area C) - LSL	Construction of 5,300 feet of waterline along Second and Union Streets to replace aging waterlines and lead service lines.	\$100,548.02	0.00%	20
11693	Warren, City (Trumbull)	2022 Waterline Replacement Program (Area C) - LSL	Construction of 5,300 feet of waterline along Second and Union Streets to replace aging waterlines and lead service lines.	\$113,383.94	P/F	20

Exhibit D
Water Pollution Control Loan Fund Program
12/11/2025 Board Meeting

Account	Local Government Agency	Project Name	Project Description	Loan Amount	Interest Rate	Term (years)
11681	Ashtabula, City (Ashtabula)	Harbor Pump Station and EQ Basin Improvements	Design of a pump station and force main in the Harbor service area to replace an existing pump station that has exceeded its useful life and an equalization basin to reduce sewer overflows and basement backups.	\$3,842,000.00	0.00%	5
11661	Athens County	US 50 New Marshfield Gravity Sanitary Sewer	Construction of 12,000 feet of sanitary sewers, 4,000 feet of force main, and one pump station to provide service to 242 users in the unincorporated area of New Marshfield whose residents are currently served by onsite treatment systems.	\$1,459,985.00	0.00%	45
11661	Athens County	US 50 New Marshfield Gravity Sanitary Sewer	Construction of 12,000 feet of sanitary sewers, 4,000 feet of force main, and one pump station to provide service to 242 users in the unincorporated area of New Marshfield whose residents are currently served by onsite treatment systems.	\$3,750,000.00	P/F	45
11668	Butler, Village (Richland)	Solids Handling Building Improvements	Design of a new solids handling facility at the Butler WWTP to improve operations.	\$180,250.88	0.00%	5
11662	Canton, City (Stark)	Monument Rd Sanitary Sewer Replacement	Construction of 1,800 feet of sanitary sewer along Monument Road to replace aging sewers.	\$1,213,590.80	3.20%	20
11688	Cardington, Village (Morrow)	Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements	Construction of WWTP improvements, including biosolids handling upgrades and SCADA updates, to improve operations.	\$2,957,878.00	0.00%	20
11679	Columbus, City (Franklin)	JPWWTP Sludge Dewatering Improvements	Design of biosolids handling improvements at the Jackson Pike WWTP to improve operations.	\$3,132,414.21	0.00%	5
11691	Columbus, City (Franklin)	BP Hilltop - Palmetto Westgate LL, Phase 2	Rehabilitation of 994 sanitary sewer service laterals within the Hilltop area to reduce stormwater from entering the sanitary sewer system.	\$9,832,248.54	3.10%	20
11677	Lithopolis, Village (Fairfield)	Jackson Lake Campground Sewer Interconnect	Construction of 7,000 feet of force main and one pump station to provide service to the Jackson Lake Campground that is currently served by an onsite treatment system.	\$1,060,568.60	0.00%	30
11686	Magnetic Springs, Village (Union)	Central Sewer System	Construction of a centralized sanitary sewer system and pump station to provide service to 115 users currently served by onsite treatment systems. Treatment will be provided at the Village of Richwood WWTP.	\$1,074,920.00	0.00%	30
11686	Magnetic Springs, Village (Union)	Central Sewer System	Construction of a centralized sanitary sewer system and pump station to provide service to 115 users currently served by onsite treatment systems. Treatment will be provided at the	\$4,050,000.00	P/F	30

Exhibit D
Water Pollution Control Loan Fund Program
12/11/2025 Board Meeting

Account	Local Government Agency	Project Name	Project Description	Loan Amount	Interest Rate	Term (years)
			Village of Richwood WWTP.			
11680	Medina County	Plum Creek Pump Station Replacement	Design of a pump station to replace the Plum Creek pump station, which has exceeded its useful life.	\$740,000.00	0.00%	5
11678	Mount Vernon, City (Knox)	WWTP Upgrades	Design of WWTP improvements, including solids handling upgrades, addition of biological phosphorus removal, new chemical feed facilities, new sludge dewatering building and new anaerobic digesters to improve plant efficiency.	\$2,337,416.00	0.00%	5
11666	Muskingum County	Boggs Road Sanitary Sewer Extension	Construction of 2,400 feet of sanitary sewer in the Boggs Road area to extend service to nine users currently served by onsite treatment systems.	\$55,808.88	0.00%	20
11666	Muskingum County	Boggs Road Sanitary Sewer Extension	Construction of 2,400 feet of sanitary sewer in the Boggs Road area to extend service to nine users currently served by onsite treatment systems.	\$356,088.00	P/F	20
11675	Pike County	Beaver Creek Sanitary Sewer Improvements	Construction of 10,000 feet of force main, 3,000 feet of sanitary sewer and three pump stations along Beaver Creek Road, Howard-Denver Road and in Twin Mills subdivision, to eliminate sanitary sewer overflows and extend service to 46 households currently served by onsite treatment systems.	\$1,883,016.00	0.00%	25
11675	Pike County	Beaver Creek Sanitary Sewer Improvements	Construction of 10,000 feet of force main, 3,000 feet of sanitary sewer and three pump stations along Beaver Creek Road, Howard-Denver Road and in Twin Mills subdivision, to eliminate sanitary sewer overflows and extend service to 46 households currently served by onsite treatment systems.	\$4,000,000.00	P/F	25
11667	Summit County	Q-183, Pump Stations 6 & 13 Improvements	Construction of improvements to two pump stations and 300 feet of force main in the City of Hudson to replace equipment that has exceeded its useful life.	\$7,815,080.00	3.20%	20
11674	Thornville, Village (Perry)	WWTP Modernization & Expansion: Phase 1	Design of WWTP improvements, including headworks upgrades, a new equalization basin, UV disinfection improvements, and tertiary filtration upgrades, to increase capacity and replace equipment that has exceeded its useful life.	\$545,000.00	0.00%	5
11670	Tuscarawas, Village	WWTP Improvements	Construction of WWTP improvements, including	\$1,294,079.00	2.91%	30

Exhibit D
Water Pollution Control Loan Fund Program
12/11/2025 Board Meeting

Account	Local Government Agency	Project Name	Project Description	Loan Amount	Interest Rate	Term (years)
	(Tuscarawas)		bar screening, aeration system, and a UV disinfection building to improve operations.			
11664	Woodville, Village (Sandusky)	Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements	Construction of WWTP improvements, including a tertiary filter building, chemical feed, and UV disinfection, and 11,000 feet of waterline to provide potable water to the treatment facility and address discharge permit violations.	\$9,673,200.00	0.00%	30

Exhibit E
Water Pollution Control Loan Fund Program
12/11/2025 Board Meeting

Account	Local Government Agency	Project Name	Project Description	Loan Amount	Interest Rate	Term (years)
11129	Athens, City (Athens)	Athens City-County Reg. Bikeway Force Main Imps.	Construction of 6,500 feet of sanitary force main along the Hocking River bike path to provide conveyance capacity for 1,500 county residential users who will be tying into the City's collection system. Supplement No. 1 is for the construction of a drinking water well to replace two existing wells that were abandoned to accommodate the new force main.	\$755,000.00	0.00%	30
11061	Bay Village, City (Cuyahoga)	Wolf Road EQ Tank	Construction of a 1.3 MG storage tank to eliminate sanitary sewer overflows. Supplement No. 1 is for an OPWC funding shortfall.	\$1,235,067.00	3.20%	20
9137	Columbus, City (Franklin)	Lower Olentangy Tunnel (LOT)	Construction of 17,000 feet of 12 foot diameter tunnel along the Olentangy River to reduce CSOs and provide relief from the OSU campus area to the Arena District. Supplement No. 1 is for additional construction management services. Supplement No. 2 is for additional engineering services during construction.	\$1,888,917.00	3.20%	20

H2Ohio – Division of Drinking and Ground Waters - Exhibit F



**Environmental
Protection
Agency**

Entity	Description	Proposed	Requested
Nashville (Holmes County)	Funding will go toward a new water storage tank and supply for the Village.	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 250,000.00
Put in Bay (Ottawa County)	Funding will assist with Put in Bay's water treatment plant rehab.	\$ 448,000.00	\$ 448,000.00
Adena (Jefferson County)	Funding will be for a waterline repair for the Village that will assist 820 people.	\$ 407,000.00	\$ 407,000.00
Barnesville (Belmont County)	Funding will assist Barnesville with a north waterline extension, impacting the Village of 6,500 people.	\$ 1,880,573.00	\$ 1,880,573.00
Bridgeport (Belmont County)	Funding will help with the Village's water tank repair, impacting a community of 2,830 people.	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ 1,000,000.00
Steubenville (Jefferson County)	Funding will go toward repairing water meters, impacting 17,000 residents.	\$ 180,000.00	\$ 180,000.00
Warren Water Authority (Jefferson County)	Funding will be for a waterline replacement, assisting 481 people.	\$ 317,000.00	\$ 317,000.00
Muskingum County	Funding will assist in Dozer Ridge water main extension, connecting residents with Muskingum County Water.	\$ 566,300.00	\$ 566,300.00
Donnelsville (Clark County)	Funding will go toward extension of water service from Clark County to the Village of Donnelsville and the construction of a water distribution system in Donnelsville.	\$ 2,000,000.00	
Ada (Hardin County)	Funding will go toward improvements to their water treatment plant.	\$ 2,000,000.00	
		Total\$	\$ 5,048,873.00

H2Ohio – Division of Surface Water - Exhibit F



Entity	Description	Proposed	Requested
Western Lake Erie Basin Gages	Funding will support two years of funding for ten stream flow gage sites in the Western Lake Erie Basin.	\$210,000.00	\$210,000.00
Chloride Grants	Funding will be used for mini-grants for local communities to improve road salt storage and distribution practices to reduce salt pollution in Ohio's waterways where chloride is present.	\$1,000,000.00	\$1,000,000.00
Amherst Water Pollution Control Center (Lorain County)	Funding will help optimize biological nutrient removal in an expanded facility to reduce occurrence of untreated bypasses.	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00
Garret Ridge (Vinton County)	Funding will extend 7,271' of waterlines to residential homes and supply clean and reliable drinking water. Ohio EPA is partnering with Department of Development on this project.	\$1,553,127.00	\$1,553,127.00
New Boston (Scioto County)	This project will help install a new force main, increasing capacity and redundancy for the collection system outlet to Portsmouth Lawson Run wastewater treatment plant and to assist in eliminating combined sewer overflows.	\$1,700,000.00	\$1,700,000.00
Licking County Soil and Water Conservation District	Funding will go to construct 1.6 acres of wetland that will treat and retain agricultural nutrients from row crop runoff upstream of Buckeye Lake.	\$80,000.00	\$80,000.00
Fulton County	Funding will go to install agricultural best management practices in four watersheds within the Maumee Watershed, that are impaired due to sedimentation and nutrients. The anticipated total phosphorus reduction to Maumee Watershed/ Lake Erie is 600 lbs/year.	\$143,000.00	\$143,000.00
Warren Water Authority (Jefferson County)	Funding will replace four small duplex pump stations, one duplex grinder pump station, control panels, and plumbing. This will fix failing equipment and untreated sewage from overflowing into residential yards.	\$245,000.00	\$245,000.00
Steubenville (Jefferson County)	Funding would go toward a sewer line replacement for failing and old sewer lines throughout their distribution.	\$1,000,000	
Kenton (Hardin County)	Funding would go toward waterline extensions to close the loop throughout Kenton's distribution.	\$2,000,000	
Devola (Washington County)	Funding will assist in sewer extension projects that will help keep rates affordable.	\$1,500,000	
Ottawa County	Funding would be to implement a phosphorus removal process using alum at the Danbury Township Wastewater Treatment Plant to significantly reduce the phosphorus concentrations in effluent.	\$250,000	
Total		9,451,127.00	\$4,951,127.00

BUDGET PROPOSAL - \$10 MILLION - Exhibit G

	Item	# of Structures / Instances	Cost per Structure	Total Cost
Practice Installation	Drainage Water Recycling	15	\$455,000	\$6,825,000
	DWR Engineering - PE Firm	15	\$62,000	\$930,000
	DWR Outreach - SWCD	15	\$3,000	\$45,000
Water Quality Results	Monitoring - ODA/Outsource	8	\$100,000	\$800,000
	Research Assistance	1	\$800,000	\$800,000
Continuation	Watershed Stream Gage Monitoring Cost	1	\$600,000	\$600,000
	Total			\$10,000,000