



GREAT LAKES WATER AUTHORITY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

September 17, 2015, 5:00 p.m. SPECIAL MEETING

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Chairman Daddow called the meeting to order at 5:02 PM.

2. Quorum Call

Quorum Call

Chairman Robert Daddow, Vice Chairman Gary Brown, Secretary Isaiah McKinnon, Directors Brian Baker, and Joseph Nardone

Absent: Director Edward Hood

3. Approval of Agenda

Chairman Daddow requested approval of agenda.

MOTION:	JOSEPH NARDONE
SUPPORT	GARY BROWN
ACTION:	APPROVED

4. Approval of Minutes

Approval of minutes of September 2, 2015 Meeting – TABLED

5. Public Comment

Public Comment (3 minutes per speaker)

James T. Taylor, of the Charter Township of Van Buren came before the Board to endorse Sue McCormick for appointment as CEO of the Great Lakes Water Authority. He argued that the Board's insistence on the search process has unintentionally damaged employee morale and alienated a number of suburban community customer representatives.

Chairman Daddow requested a motion for the Board to receive and file the public comment document from James T. Taylor. **ATTACHMENT 5A**

MOTION:	ISIAH MCKINNON
SUPPORT:	JOSEPH NARDONE

ACTION:

APPROVED

6. **Communications**

None

7. **Old Business**

None

8. **Closed Session**

A) 2015 – 09 – 11 Resolution regarding Closed Session request pursuant to Section 8(f) of the Michigan Open meetings Act, MCL 15.268 (f) to review and consider the contents of an application for employment or appointment to a public office if the candidate requests that the application remain confidential. **ATTACHMENT 8A**
Chairman Daddow requested a roll call to enter into closed session at 5:13 PM.

Quorum call:

Chairman Robert Daddow, Vice Chairman Gary Brown, Secretary Isaiah McKinnon, Directors Brian Baker, and Joseph Nardone

MOTION:	ISAIAH MCKINNON
SUPPORT:	GARY BROWN
ACTION:	YES

Chairman Daddow requested a roll call to return from closed session.

MOTION:	ISAIAH MCKINNON
SUPPORT:	GARY BROWN
ACTION:	YES

The only matter discussed was confidential applicant materials.

9. **New Business**

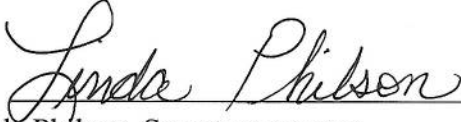
A) Such Other Matters – None


10. **Adjournment**

A) Motion to Adjourn.

MOTION:	ISAIAH MCKINNON
SUPPORT:	GARY BROWN
ACTION:	ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM.

Prepared by: 
Linda Phylson, Secretary pro tem
DWSD Board of Water Commissioners

Approved by: 
Isaiah McKinnon, Board Secretary
Great Lakes Water Authority Board of Directors

September 17, 2015

ATTACHMENT 5A

TO: THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE GREAT LAKES WATER AUTHORITY

I respectfully come before this Board for two reasons. First, is to endorse Sue McCormick for appointment as CEO of the GLWA. Interim CEO McCormick's accomplishments and inspiring leadership is well recognized, and requires no further elucidation. My second concern, however, is just as important for the Board to consider in its decision on a CEO. My concern is that the Board's insistence on this search process has unintentionally damaged employee morale and alienated a number of suburban customer representatives. You may not be aware that there is an increased risk of a potential exodus of a significant number of the talented staff and management that have fully bought in and contributed to the program established by Ms. McCormick. The delay of reaffirming Ms. McCormick's leadership and direction, has created a perception that the organization may once again be headed in the wrong direction, and these employees have remained only because of their confidence in Ms. McCormick. These are not the employees we want to lose, as they have the talents and skills we desperately need at the GLWA and DWSD-R.

What you may also not be aware of is that this CEO search process has also created a strong suspicion among a growing number of the customer communities that this board is moving in the opposite direction of the transparency that we have had under Ms. McCormick and her executive team. There is a perception that this Board is intentionally limiting customer involvement in the CEO selection process. I have had one customer community representative recently inform me that they have disengaged from their prior involvement, because they have the perception that transparency is not a priority of this board and customer input is not valued. Other communities have also expressed to me that they didn't think a search was needed, as we already had the person we needed to move us forward. They have suspicions that there are other agendas at play, "mucking up the waters."

Let me say to the Board that naming Ms. McCormick as CEO is the best way of insuring that not only is the damage minimized, but of erasing these perceptions and insuring that the many positive changes that she has already accomplished at DWSD are continued and extended with the GLWA. Remember that both Moody's and Fitch have recognized the progress in DWSD over the last year by raising DWSD's bond ratings from stable to positive. According to these ratings agencies, Ms. McCormick and her executive team is THE primary reason for this upgrade of confidence. To remove the existing leadership of Ms. McCormick from the picture raises a specter of uncertainty, sending a mixed message to these and other agencies for the future.

I truly hope that you board members seriously consider how damaging perceptions can be. Perceptions may not be true, but they have the power to strengthen or tear down that which we are seeking to build.

James T. Taylor
Director of Public Services
Charter Township of Van Buren

Great Lakes Water Authority
Resolution 2015- 09 -11
RE: Closed Session Request

By Board Member: ISALAH MCKINNON

Whereas The Board of Directors (Board) of the Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) has received the attached request from counsel to meet in Closed Session as allowed by the Michigan Open Meetings Act (the Act); and

Whereas GLWA Management has received applications in which the applicant has requested that the contents be reviewed in Closed Session.

Now, Therefore Be It:

Resolved That the Board agrees to meet, in closed session, pursuant to Section 8(f) of the Michigan Open Meetings Act which permits a Public Body to meet in Closed Session; “to review and consider the contents of an application for employment or appointment to a public office if the candidate requests that the application remain confidential;” **And Be It Finally**

Resolved That an affirmative roll call vote of 2/3 of the Board Members appointed and serving is required for approval of this Resolution.

Adopted by the Great Lakes Water Authority Board on: September 17, 2015



**GREAT LAKES
WATER AUTHORITY**

INTERIM COUNSEL

September 15, 2015

HONORABLE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

RE: Closed Session Request - CEO Search Process

A meeting in closed session is requested to discuss labor strategy. Section 8(f) of the Michigan Open Meetings Act, MCL 15.268(c) allows a public body to meet in closed session: "to review and consider the contents of an application for employment or appointment to a public office if the candidate requests that the application remain confidential." This Section of the Act also provides that; "all interviews by a public body for employment or appointment to a public office shall be held in an open meeting pursuant to this act."

As you are aware you are currently performing a national search for a CEO for the GLWA. I have been advised that certain candidates for that position have requested that their applications be considered in Closed Session pursuant to this provision of the Open Meetings Act quoted above and therefore a Closed Session is requested for that purpose.

Respectfully Submitted,

William M. Wolfson

William M. Wolfson
Interim General Counsel
GLWA