

EAST BERLIN AREA JOINT AUTHORITY  
103 LOCUST STREET / PO BOX 37  
EAST BERLIN, PA 17316

March 14, 2025  
-SPECIAL MEETING-

A special meeting of the East Berlin Area Joint Authority Board called by Chairman Green to welcome representatives of Pennsylvania American Water Company. The meeting took place on March 14, 2025 at 103 Locust St., East Berlin, PA. The meeting was presided over by Chairman Green. Chairman Green opened the meeting at 7pm with a Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag.

**Members Present:** Chairman G. Green, V.C. R. Weidner, R. Teal, V. Krall, W. Staub

**Also Present:** Buchart Horn, Secretary M. Earp, Operator N. Boyer

**Guests:** Marcus Kohl and Brandy Braun of PAWC, Mr. J.T. Hand & Matt Scarpato of York Water, Craig Schriver, Anna Devita, Michael Baker, Stephanie Haley, & Curvin Dennis of East Berlin

**Public / Guest Comment:** Chairman Green turned the floor over to Marcus Kohl of PAWC.

Mr. Kohl shared the following information with the board.

- PAWC is a subsidiary of American Water which is the largest investor-owned water/wastewater provider in the nation. PAWC:
  - has a lab in Illinois, allowing them to handle all of their samples in-house.
  - has their own engineering teams, water quality compliance teams, and operations teams which allows them the ability to handle challenges efficiently and expertly.
  - currently serves 19% of Pennsylvania with systems as small as 26 customers up to systems that serve large portions of Pittsburgh & Scranton/Wilkes-Barre area.
  - invests heavily into aging infrastructure.
  - cares about the communities they serve.
  - has back up power and water sources. They meet all regulatory requirements. They want to be compliant on day one, if they can be.
  - employs locally and values their employees.
  - have experience with PFAS treatment.
  - understands the challenges associated with the Lead Service Line Inventory and has a team dedicated to that project. They have a program to replace service lines at no cost to the homeowner.
  - does not know if the spent media from carbon filters is hazardous.
  - Unknown exactly how they would use the system (options include: add treatment, interconnect with York, bring in surface water). The ultimate goal is to minimize the need for treatment.

Other Information offered:

- Drinking water has more regulations than other fields. There are additional regulatory challenges coming down the road as the EPA continues to test for more types of PFAS/PFOS. Wastewater permits are also anticipated to become more stringent.
- PAWC shares its costs across all of its customers, which allows for rate stabilization (costs spread across 700,000 customers as opposed to East Berlin's 791 customers).
- Rates are significant, but they have robust assistance programs. Rates are indicative of Class A product & service.
- PAWC has experience at taking over smaller systems and ensures the transition will be smooth and seamless for customers.
- The PUC does not allow for rate changes immediately upon acquisition. Rate changes are held to a specific formula related to rate cases and increases are incremental, in order to prevent rate shock.

- PAWC are interested in both water/wastewater.
- Mr. Kohl expressed that if a sale were to take place, they would keep the current employees. He stated there is room for advancement in the company. The corporate office is located in Mechanicsburg.
- Mr. Kohl went over the acquisition process and timeline, which includes testimonies, applications, approval of the PUC, and other steps in between.
- Mr. Kohl explained how a Fair Market Value Rate is determined. He explained there are two types of valuations; Fair Market Value and Depreciation of Original Costs. He said one is not necessarily better than the other.
- Mr. Kohl feels PAWC is a viable option for the EBAJA and thanks everyone for their attention.

A customer asked if the water was safe to drink. Members pointed out that the DEP guidelines state it is okay to drink the water, despite it being considered a long term hazard. It was suggested people check out the EPA website for suitable water filters. Water filters come in all sizes and prices. Product packaging should indicate certification to NSF/ANSI 53 or NSF/ANSI 58 for PFAS reduction.

Chairman Green thanked everyone for coming.

**Motion to adjourn** the meeting was made by W. Staub with a second by V. Krall. **Motion carried.**  
Meeting was adjourned by Chairman Green at 7:42 p.m.

The next monthly board meeting is scheduled to be held **April 3, 2025** at 103 Locust Street at 7:00 p.m.