



**CONFERENCE OF WESTERN WAYNE**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**February 13, 2026**

**1. CALL TO ORDER- GRAHAM-HUDAK**

Supervisor Anne Marie Graham-Hudak called the meeting to order at 9:31 am.

Supervisor Anne Marie Graham-Hudak welcomed the board and audience to Canton Township

**2. ROLL CALL- McCRAIGHT**

Supervisor McCraight called the roll:

Supervisor Ann Marie Graham-Hudak, Canton Charter Township;

Mayor Pro Tem John Carter ,alternate, City of Northville;

Mayor Robert McCraight, City of Romulus;

Mayor John Rhaesa, City of Wayne;

Mayor Ken Voigt, City of Belleville;

Supervisor Kelly Trombly, Huron Township;

Fire Chief Joseph Murray, alternate, City of Dearborn;

Supervisor Pat McRae, Redford Township;

Mayor Byron Nolen, City of Inkster;

Supervisor Chuck Curmi, Plymouth Township;

Supervisor Mark Abbo, Northville Township;

Mayor Mark Jacobs, City of Garden City;

Deputy Mayor Jim Godbout, alternate, City of Westland;

Mr. Tim Rush, alternate, Sumpter Township;

Supervisor Kevin McNamara, Van Buren Township;

Mayor Linda Filipczak, City of Plymouth.

CWW Board Member/voting alternate of record not present: City of Livonia, City of Dearborn Heights.

Others present: Congresswoman Debbie Dingell and Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib and members of the audience.

**3. INTRODUCTIONS- GRAHAM-HUDAK**

Board members and the audience introduced themselves.

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**4. ADOPTION OF AGENDA- GRAHAM-HUDAK**

Motion by Rush, supported by McRae to approve the agenda for February 13, 2026.

**5. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES-McCRAIGHT**

Motion by Jacobs, supported by Abbo to approve the meeting minutes for January 9, 2026.

**6. TREASURER'S REPORT- VOIGT**

Motion by McCraight, supported by McRae to approve the December 31, 2025 treasurer's report.

AYES: All. Motion carried.

**7. DIRECTORS REPORT-SELLEK**

**Work Projects Case In Court**

A block remains in place on the state expending work project funds that the House canceled.

**The Court of Appeals denied the state's request for an immediate appeal of a lower court's decision, siding, for now, with the House's rejection of work project funding.**

In *House v. DTMB et. al.*, the Court of Claims granted a preliminary injunction blocking the state from expending work project funds that were blocked by the [House Appropriations Committee](#).

[Attorney General Dana Nessel](#) issued an opinion declaring the mechanism House members used to block the funding unconstitutional, thereby allowing the state to spend the funds.

**However, the House sued in the Court of Claims. That court granted a preliminary injunction but has not ruled with finality in the case. The next hearing is scheduled for Feb. 27.**

The state appealed the preliminary injunction to the Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court. **Last Thursday, the Court of Appeals said it was not persuaded that the issue needed immediate appellate review.**

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### **Manhattan Project Waste Trial Commences**

**A bench trial kicked off on February 2 that could determine whether shipments of Manhattan Project-era radioactive waste to a landfill in Western Wayne County [can resume](#).**

Belleville, Van Buren Township, Canton Township, Romulus, and the Van Buren Township Fire Chief filed a [lawsuit](#) in September 2024 to stop the shipments, and Wayne County also intervened in the case.

Wayne County Circuit Judge Kevin Cox [issued an injunction](#) on Aug. 6 to suspend shipments of elevated-radiation waste from sites managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to Wayne Disposal.

### **GLWA Proposes Water, Sewer Rate Increases**

**GLWA is proposing a 6.83% rate hike for water customers and a 5.98% increase for sewer customers for FY 2027.** In a letter to the 112 communities GLWA serves, they cited an increase in infrastructure needs, a decrease in investment earnings and other factors that are driving up costs for water and sewer services.

Last year, the authority proposed a 7.73% water increase and a 5.39% sewer increase, but ultimately approved a 5.9% and 4.5% rise, respectively, after public pressure.

**As a reminder, under the authority's creation, water and sewer rate increases were capped at 4% until June 30, 2025.**

**The public hearing on the rate increases is scheduled for February 25 at 1:00 p.m.,** following further review by its Audit Committee and Board of Directors.

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### **State Lawmakers Trying to Explain Local Road Funding**

House members are trying to determine how to break down the increases in transportation revenue their districts should see after passing the road funding package, but it is hard to pinpoint exact figures, the House Fiscal Agency (HFA) told lawmakers during a committee hearing.

The [House Appropriations State and Local Transportation Subcommittee](#) heard an HFA breakdown of the road funding plan, which was not readily available when the plan first originated.

The senior fiscal analyst at the HFA, said preliminary numbers show counties should be seeing an overall 30% increase in their road funds, with an additional \$408 million slated for road commissions.

**Overall, the counties went from receiving \$1.3 billion last year to \$1.7 billion this year.**

**Cities and villages will receive around \$220 million more this year.**

**However, the HFA said there is no way to project how much funding each community would receive this year.**

For these projections to be met, tax collection expectations must be met.

The gas tax increase means Michigan Transportation Fund revenue is set to rise by \$715.6 million by October and \$1.07 billion by next January. The net change in transportation fund revenue with the elimination of the individual income tax earmark of \$600 million next October will be a \$33.7 million increase by October and \$350.6 million by January.

For the Corporate Income tax revenue earmark of \$688 million to be fully distributed for roads, the revenue overall must hit \$1.9 billion. This earmark will increase by \$88 million each year until the total reaches over \$1 billion by the end of fiscal year 2029-30.

For the Wholesale Marijuana Tax, the net estimated revenue by October sits at \$312 million while January is estimated at \$417 million with an additional \$3 million for administration costs.

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### **Wholesale Cannabis Tax in Court of Claims**

The marijuana industry has challenged the legality of the new cannabis wholesale tax, enacted in the Comprehensive Road Funding Tax Act last year, as a violation of the Constitution's requirement that legislative changes to voter-initiated acts obtain three-quarters majorities in both legislative houses.

However, a Court of Claims judge rejected the claim in *Michigan Cannabis Industry Association v. State of Michigan et al.* [Judge Sima Patel](#) ruled for the state in all but one aspect, ordering more discovery into the effect of the new tax.

#### **Both parties have appealed.**

Requesting permission to file a brief supporting the state's request to appeal the one portion of the case where Patel ruled against it are the Michigan Public Transit Association, Michigan Association of Transportation Systems and the Michigan Environmental Council. A portion of the tax revenue will go to the Comprehensive Transportation Fund, which supports local public transit.

In the brief, the three groups contend that the courts cannot compel the Legislature to weigh disputed economic predictions about how legislation might affect a voter-initiated law.

### **SEMCA 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

SEMCA is celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary on March 3, from 4:30 – 7:00 p.m. at Crystal Gardens in Southgate. CWW will attend to commemorate the occasion.

### **March CWW Board Meeting**

Our next Board meeting will be held on March 13 in Canton Township. Growth Works will be providing its annual update.

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## **B. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE-HEALANDER**

### **FEDERAL:**

On February 3, President Trump signed a \$1.2T appropriations bill, ending a partial government shutdown that lasted a few days. The bill funds most agencies until September 30, 2026.

The deal includes temporary funding for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) through February 13 (today), with further negotiations expected on immigration police language tied to DHS appropriations. If an agreement is not reached by today, federal essential services continue, but DHS services to states and locals (grants, FEMA reimbursements) can be paused.

The funding package generally exceeds earlier budget targets under the Fiscal Responsibility Act by tens of billions of dollars, signaling higher discretionary spending levels for FY 2026.

The House did pass a 3-year extension bill on the ACA credits, but presently there is no consensus on the extension in the Senate. The traditional ACA premium tax credits, or income-based subsidies, are still available, but the enhanced tax credits expired January 1, 2026.

### **BUDGET UPDATE**

The Governor's office presented the 2026-2027 Executive Budget Proposal on Wednesday. Some important things to note:

- CWW's Rescue Recovery program with Growth Works was included at \$1 million
- Revenue Sharing largely remained flat
- \$50 Million included for public safety revenue grants to local governments
- Once again includes an increase to landfill tipping fees from .36 to \$5 per ton
- \$43.2 Million in one time funding for the Election Equipment Reserve Fund
- \$20.4 Million for trail Court programs that aim to address substance and mental health issues.

This is just the first step in what will be a lengthy budget process. The Governor will also be giving her final State of the State address on February 25.

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**STATE:**

**DISASTER AND EMERGENCY CONTINGENCY FUND**

SB 109 would create a new minimum for the disaster and emergency contingency fund. Currently the required balance for the fund is \$2.5M. SB 109 would raise that minimum to \$75M. The bill changes the requirements for the fund, but the legislature would still have to appropriate the monies to the fund. This could result in an increase in grants available to locals, but ultimately would be dependent on budgetary allocations.

The bill was passed by the Senate, but hasn't been in the House.

**BROWN ALERTS**

HB 4427 would require issuance of a "brown alert" for a county if the waters of that county are found to contain a dangerous level of E. Coli. The concern with this bill is that it only addresses county emergency management and not the other emergency management.

The bill sponsor acknowledged the issue with federal preemption, but with all the changes happening at the federal level, this legislation will prime Michigan to be ready to phase in the changes when the federal government allows for it.

HB 5319 and HB 5320 would prohibit drones flying near or over critical infrastructure and impose penalties for violating those restrictions.

HB 5321 and HB 5322 create a database of restricted zones and flight paths for drones as well as outline penalties and sentencing guidelines for using drones in restricted areas.

HB 5323 and HB 5324 allow for critical infrastructure and buildings to install geofencing to prevent drone use and provide for official "no drone" signage for use in Michigan under the Department of Transportation.

HB 5328 prohibits state and local entities from purchasing and using drones manufactured by companies of concern as defined by federal standards. HB 5329 establishes the same company prohibitions for public universities.

HB 5330 would allow public safety agencies to use drones that might otherwise be restricted. Representative Bruck explained HB 5330 would prevent the legislation from taking away tools from law enforcement that might already be using drones.

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HB 5331 would outline standards for purchasing drones for local governments that align with the federal guidelines, and HB 5332 would establish a drone registry with the Department of Transportation.

### **SENATE ALSO TALKS DRONES**

A bill that would allow the government to use drones to inspect telecommunication towers and in emergency response assistance was discussed at a Senate Local Government Committee meeting last week.

The bill, SB 525 , introduced by Senator Kevin Hertel (D-Saint Clair Shores), would amend the Unmanned Aircraft Systems Act and permit the government to use drones, or an unmanned aircraft system to inspect telecommunications towers and relevant infrastructure.

It would also allow the government to use drones to participate in recovery,assessment, or inspection efforts in response to a declared state of emergency or state of disaster. In this situation, drone usage would be limited strictly to assisting with the disaster.

Brad Stoddard, Director of the Michigan Public Safety Communications System, said this bill could help increase efficiency of fixing towers in addition to saving the statemoney.

## **8. PRESENTATIONS**

Assad Turfe and SMART's Jordan VonZyda presented on the upcoming mileage.

## **9. ELECTED OFFICIALS' COMMENTS**

Congresswomen Dingell and Tlaib updated the board that most of the 2026 Federal budget was passed and will be in touch with communities on approval on the development projects.

## **10. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Comments were made by the public.

## **11. OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

## **12. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Abbo, supported by Jacobs to adjourn the CWW Board meeting at 11:15 a.m.

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