

**MONROE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY
CONFLICTS OF INTEREST POLICY
(READOPTED OCTOBER 2020)**

**ARTICLE 1
PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Conflicts of Interest Policy is to protect the Authority's interest when it is contemplating entering into a transaction or arrangement that might benefit the private interest of a Member, officer or employee of the Authority. This policy is intended to supplement but not replace any applicable state laws governing conflicts of interest applicable to the Authority.

A conflict of interest is just one example of a violation of ethical conduct. This policy is intended to complement the Authority's Code of Ethics Policy by providing specific procedures to deal with conflicts of interest. To the extent that a matter falls within the scope of both this policy and the Authority's Code of Ethics Policy, the provisions of this Conflicts of Interest Policy shall govern.

**ARTICLE 2
PROHIBITION AGAINST CONFLICTS**

Section 1107 of the New York Public Authorities Law sets forth the following requirements with respect to conflicts of interest:

It shall be a misdemeanor for any of the members of the authority, or any officer, agent, servant or employee thereof, employed or appointed by them to be in any way or manner interested directly or indirectly in the furnishing of work, materials, supplies or labor, or in any contract therefore which the authority is empowered by this title to make.

In the event the Authority discovers a violation of the above provision, the Authority shall conduct an investigation and, if warranted, report the offense to the Inspector General of the State of New York.

This policy provides additional guidance regarding real or potential conflicts of interest, including circumstances not within the scope of Section 1107 of the New York Public Authorities Law.

ARTICLE 3 DEFINITIONS

As used herein, the following terms shall have the meanings set forth below:

1. Interested Person

This includes any Member, officer, employee or member of a committee with Member-delegated powers who has a direct or indirect Financial Interest, as defined below.

2. Financial Interest

A person has a Financial Interest if the person has, directly or indirectly, through business, investment or family:

- (a) an ownership or investment interest in, or employment with, any entity with which the Authority has a transaction or arrangement, or
- (b) a compensation arrangement with any entity or individual with which the Authority has a transaction or arrangement, or
- (c) a potential ownership or investment interest in, or compensation arrangement with, any entity or individual with which the Authority is negotiating a transaction or arrangement.

Compensation includes direct and indirect remuneration as well as gifts or favors that are substantial in nature.

A Financial Interest is not necessarily a conflict of interest. Under Article 4, Section 2, a person who has a Financial Interest may have a conflict of interest only if the appropriate body determines that a conflict of interest exists. As described in the Authority's Code of Ethics Policy, no conflict of interest exists where a Financial Interest arises solely from a relative that holds a clerical, ministerial or low-level management position with an existing or potential vendor, lacks the power to influence the relationship between the business and the Authority and did not obtain his or her position as a means to influence a Member, officer or employee of the Authority.

ARTICLE 4 PROCEDURES

1. Duty to Disclose

An Interested Person must disclose the existence of his or her Financial Interest and all material facts surrounding the Financial Interest to the Executive Director, the Chairperson of the Authority or the independent Ethics Board formed pursuant to Article 4 of the Authority's Code of Ethics Policy.

2. Determining Whether a Conflict of Interest Exists

After disclosure of the Financial Interest and all material facts, and after any discussion with the Interested Person, the recipient shall consult with counsel and either render a written decision or refer the matter to the independent Ethics Board.

3. Procedures for Addressing a Conflict of Interest

(a) An Interested Person may make a presentation to the Executive Director, the Chairperson of the Authority or the Ethics Board.

(b) The ruling person or body shall, if appropriate, appoint a disinterested person or committee to investigate alternatives to the proposed transaction or arrangement.

(c) After exercising due diligence, the ruling person or body shall determine whether the Authority can obtain an equal or more advantageous transaction or arrangement with reasonable efforts from a person or entity that would not give rise to a conflict of interest.

(d) If an equal or more advantageous transaction or arrangement is not reasonably attainable under circumstances that would not give rise to a conflict of interest, the ruling person or body shall refer the matter to the independent Ethics Board to determine whether the transaction or arrangement should proceed or be terminated. A ruling to proceed shall include a determination that the transaction or arrangement is in the Authority's best interest, is done for its own benefit and is fair and reasonable to the Authority.

(e) Notwithstanding the foregoing, the provisions of Article 2 hereof shall govern any violations of Section 1107 of the New York Public Authorities Law.

4. Violations of the Conflicts of Interest Policy

(a) If the ruling person or body has reasonable cause to believe that an Interested Person has failed to disclose actual or possible conflicts of interest, it shall inform the Interested Person of the basis for such belief and afford him or her an opportunity to explain the alleged failure to disclose.

(b) If, after hearing the response of the Interested Person and making such further investigation as may be warranted in the circumstances, the ruling person or body determines that the Interested Person has in fact failed to disclose an actual or possible conflict of interest, it shall take appropriate disciplinary and corrective action.

ARTICLE 5 RECORDS OF PROCEEDINGS

The ruling person or body shall keep records of all proceedings, including:

1. the names of the persons who disclosed or otherwise were found to have a Financial Interest in connection with an actual or possible conflict of interest, the nature of the Financial

Interest, any action taken to determine whether a conflict of interest was present, and the ruling person or body's decision as to whether a conflict of interest in fact existed.

2. the names of the persons who were present for discussions and votes relating to the transaction or arrangement, the content of the discussion, including any alternatives to the proposed transaction or arrangement, and a record of any votes taken or written rulings made in connection therewith.

ARTICLE 6

ANNUAL STATEMENTS

Each Member and officer shall annually sign a statement affirming that such person has:

- (a) received a copy of the conflicts of interest policy,
- (b) read and understands the policy, and
- (c) agreed to comply with the policy.

The Authority shall furnish all other employees with a copy of this Conflicts of Interest Policy on an annual basis.