

The Laurens County Water and Sewer Commission Adopts New Capacity Fees
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In order to ensure that a sustainable water and sewer system is available for future generations, the Laurens County Water & Sewer Commission (LCWSC) is taking proactive steps that will allow us to continually meet the needs of our community both today and tomorrow.

These steps include a recently completed 50-year Water Resources “Master Plan” that evaluated the capacity of all County water resources and their ability to serve projected population growth; a 10-Year Capital Improvement Program (CIP) consistent with this Master Plan to provide for both effective resource management and new capital projects; and, the development of capacity fees to partially fund capital projects as defined by the CIP.

These new projects include the expansion of our current wastewater treatment facility, the construction of new wastewater package plants, expansion of water lines and associated pumping facilities for higher capacity, and the construction of a water treatment plant on Lake Greenwood. Many of the sewer projects are related to potential economic development activity and will require contributed capital (grants) to be constructed. A summary of anticipated projects can be found below.

While LCWSC will continue to apply for federal and state grants for construction projects, we also recognize that this source of funding is becoming less and less available. Therefore the LCWSC must look to other funding sources such as capacity fees, similar to what other utility systems in South Carolina have done to fund capital projects. The theory behind capacity fees, since they are only charged to new customers, is to allow new growth to pay for growth-related projects. Undoubtedly, current system improvements must be made before substantial facility and services growth can occur. For this reason, these projects are funded with bond issues (loans) that are partially paid through existing rate payers and partially funded through new capacity fees. The more capacity fee funds collected from new customers, the lower future rate increase will need to be.

Water and wastewater capacity fees will be driven by meter size; the LCWSC and its rate consultant, using industry approved methodology, calculated each fee based upon proportional usage from every user group. Fees increase in proportion to tap size from ¾” up to 4” lines; LCWSC will determine fees on a case-by-case basis for new customers with 6” lines or larger. A table of water and wastewater capacity fees by meter size is as follows:

Meter Size	Demand Factor (gpd)	Water Capacity Fee		Wastewater Capacity Fee	
		Water Treatment	Water Distribution	Bush River WWTP	Wastewater Collection
3/4"	300	\$ 800	\$ 400	\$ 975	\$ 25
1"	900	\$ 2,400	\$ 2,750	\$ 3,650	\$ 80
1 1/2"	1,500	\$ 4,025	\$ 4,575	\$ 6,075	\$ 130
2"	4,200	\$ 11,250	\$ 12,850	\$ 17,050	\$ 370
3"	8,000	\$ 21,450	\$ 24,500	\$ 32,520	\$ 700
4"	31,600	\$ 84,825	\$ 96,850	\$ 128,450	\$ 2,800
6" or <	TBD	TBD		TBD	TBD

- * **Capacity fees will only be applied to new customers who tap into the LCWSC system after April 1, 2013.**
- * **Most Residential Customers require a ¾ inch tap.**
- * **LCWSC customers not connected to public wastewater system will only be assessed the water treatment and water distribution capacity fee.**
- * **LCWSC wastewater customers not served by the Bush River Regional WWTP will not be assessed the wastewater treatment component of the wastewater capacity fee. *They could be charge a wastewater treatment capacity fee by a neighboring sewer treatment provider.***

LCWSC 10-Year Capital Plan Overview

Water

2013-2016

Purchase 1.8 MGD capacity from Greenville Water System
 Expand water lines in the Greenpond and Fairview road areas
 Build booster pump station and upgrade line in Scuffletown Rd./Ft. Inn area
 Install 12" water line from Highway 25 elevated water tank, down Indian Mound to Riverfork Road

2017-2020

Build 2.5 MGD water plant on Lake Greenwood
 Install 20" water line on Hwy 221 from Lake Greenwood water treatment plant to Waterloo
 Install 12" water line from Waterloo to Cold Point and on Stagecoach Rd.
 Construct improved booster pump stations in Waterloo, Maddens, Cross Hill and Milam Road
 Secure additional capacity from Greenville Water System at 250,000 gallons per day

2021-2023

Install 12" water line along Indian Mound and Metric Roads
 Upgrade line on Hwy 14 from Laurens to Gray Court
 Install distribution lines near Mountville

Sewer

2013-2016

Upgrade Clinton Joann WWTP to regain full treatment capacity lost to outdated equipment and lower permit limits that the plant was designed to meet
 Install lift stations and associated piping for Powers South and Owings II industrial sites
 Upgrade Sand Creek Force Main

2017-2020

Upgrade Millers Fork Force Main
 Install lift stations and associated piping for Airport and Thomason II commercial/industrial areas
 Upgrade collection system capacity for the Owings Industrial Park area

2021-2023

Install small treatment plants and associated lift stations and piping for Cauthens' Bridge and Gray Court areas
 Install lift stations for Lakeside, Piedmont and Innovation Drive commercial/industrial areas
 Install gravity sewer to Maddens/221 area