



Laurens County Water and Sewer Commission

**Board of Commissioners Meeting
March 23, 2021**

Minutes

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Philip O'Dell (II), Jurell Byrd, Secretary (III), Bill Teague, Vice Chairman (IV), Susan Curry, Treasurer (V), John McMurray, (VI), Ted Davenport, Chairman (VII), and Doug Hendrick (Municipal)

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Sam Peden (I)

STAFF: Jeff Field, Executive Director
Steve Griffin, Construction Manager
Damas Mattison, Regulatory Compliance and Operations Manager
Wendy Medlock, Director of Finance
Angie Nelson, Director of Administration and Customer Service
KC Price, Engineering Manager

ATTORNEY: Allen M. Wham

PRESS: Clinton Chronicle

GUESTS: None

Call to Order

Invocation

Approval of February 23, 2021 Minutes

Chairman Remarks

Executive Director Remarks

LCWSC Monthly Financial Summary

LCWSC Monthly Operations Summary

New Business

1. Resolution regarding Property Transfer associated with Lake Greenwood Raw Water Intake

Old Business

1. Bush River Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant Land Application Project
2. Lake Greenwood Water Treatment Plant (WTP) Update

Executive Session

Upon returning to open session, the Commission may take whatever action deemed appropriate on matters discussed in executive session.

1. Legal Matter Involving a Customer Account
2. Contractual Matter related to Laurens CPW

Other Business

Adjourn

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Davenport called the meeting to order at 8:20am in the Training Rooms of the Laurens County Water and Sewer Commission.

Invocation was given by Commissioner Hendrick.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Davenport asked if there were any additions or corrections to the February 23, 2021 minutes, as submitted to the Commissioners.

Commissioner Hendrick MOVED *that the minutes be accepted as submitted*. MOTION SECONDED by Commissioner Byrd. MOTION CARRIED. AYES, 6; NAYS, 0

CHAIRMAN REMARKS

Chairman Davenport welcomed the Commissioners and the press to the meeting.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REMARKS

Mr. Field also welcomed everyone to the meeting.

LCWSC MONTHLY FINANCIAL SUMMARY

The monthly financial summary was presented to the Commissioners. A copy of the summary can be found in the Commissioner Board Packet.

As of February 28, 2021, LCWSC had a total of \$8,810,967 in cash for operating and reserve funds as compared to \$6,461,139 this time in FY20 and was awaiting reimbursements totaling \$702,665 from EDA.

Mr. Field discussed the highlights for Water Distribution, Wastewater, Lake Rabon, and the Town of Gray Court. He also provided the percentage breakdown for operating revenue, operating expenses, capital revenue, and capital expenses by department as well as the overall combined percentage for each.

Mr. Field noted that LCWSC has received \$1,890,233 in contributed capital grants and \$41,875 for customer paid line extensions for FY21.

LCWSC MONTHLY OPERATIONS SUMMARY

The monthly operations summary was presented to the Commissioners. A copy of the summary can be found in the Commissioner Board Packet.

Mr. Field stated that the gallons per day per active residential tap for the month of February was 117. The target is 134. He shared the precipitation graph for FY21 and noted that February precipitation was above the historical norm. Mr. Field discussed the work order summary for the current month and for FY21 and reported 18 new taps were installed in the month of February. He also presented a map of the distribution of the new taps installed in FY21.

Mr. Mattison discussed water purchased and water loss for the system, which includes the percent unaccounted and the percent audited. For the month of February, the total water loss was 22.8% of which only 12.7% was unaccounted for through background leaks in the system. The rolling 12-month average for unaccounted water loss is 14.9%. The target is 18.00%.

There were 14 active service line leaks and 6 active main line leaks.

Line extensions, including completed, in progress, and upcoming, were also discussed. Mr. Griffin noted that they are finishing up Bucks Point and then they will jump back to Boyds Mill Pond Road to complete it. He noted that the Old Plantation Road line extension will be next.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Resolution regarding Property Transfer associated with Lake Greenwood Raw Water Intake

Mr. Field presented the plat for the proposed property transfer at the Lake Greenwood Raw Water Intake site. Tract 1 (0.08 acres) and Tract 3 (0.88 acres) are currently owned by Robert M. Cooley and Tract 2 (1.03 acres) is currently owned by LCWSC. The Tract 1 and Tract 3 transfer to LCWSC and the Tract 2 transfer to Mr. Cooley would be beneficial to both parties and it would straighten out the existing property line. Attorney Wham presented the Resolution to approve the property transfer between Robert M. Cooley and LCWSC.

Commissioner Hendrick MOVED *that the Board approve the Resolution regarding the Property Transfer.* MOTION SECONDED by Commissioner Byrd. MOTION CARRIED. AYES, 6; NAYS, 0

OLD BUSINESS

1. Bush River Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant Land Application Project

Mr. Field informed the Board that the Capital Improvements Committee met March 11, 2021 to discuss the Bio Solids land application project. Representatives from Synagro attended that meeting and discussed in detail the land application process and answered questions related to safety and regulatory requirements. Mr. Field stated that after that discussion the committee unanimously approved the project. Mr. Field then asked Mr. Mattison to recap highlights of that discussion for the full Board.

Mr. Mattison presented a background on Bio Solids Formation and noted that drying beds do not allow for a stable mixed liquor suspended solids concentration due to rainfall. He also shared the history of drying beds and noted that sand drying beds were not an option for drying sludge moving forward. For this reason, we hired Hulsey McCormick and Wallace to explore land application with Synagro as an alternative in 2019.

Mr. Mattison presented Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the Land Application project and then discussed the benefits of Bio Solids and the counties in South Carolina that are currently land applying with Synagro. He provided additional information for application frequency and limitations, monitoring requirements, and report requirements.

Next, Mr. Mattison shared the two Bio Solids application sites which both are within 5-7 miles from the Bush River Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant. In addition, he shared the site restrictions as defined by the Environment Protection Agency.

Finally, Mr. Mattison noted the current and projected costs with drying beds as compared to the projected annual cost of land application. However, he noted that the cost was not the driving issue for this change. Mr. Mattison closed with the proposed project cost for phase 1 and phase 2 and noted that we would seek grants to help cover much of the project cost.

Commissioner Teague ended the discussion by saying he would support the project but would like staff to always be looking for appropriate ways to address our sludge disposal, that are cost effective and good for the environment. He would prefer long-term that we transition away from land application if possible.

The Capital Improvements Planning Committee **MOVED *that the Board approve the Synagro contract and proceed with the Land Application Project.*** NO SECOND REQUIRED since the motion is coming from the Capital Improvements Planning Committee. MOTION CARRIED. AYES, 6; NAYS, 0

2. Lake Greenwood WTP Update

Mr. Price provided an update on the Lake Greenwood WTP. He provided photos of the intake building with the completed front porch, the water treatment plant admin building with the glass front in place, the high service pumps, and the lab area. He stated that there was some grading that needed to be completed still plus the drop ceiling in the lab area needed to be installed.

Next, Mr. Price provided photos of the Milam Road elevated tank. He stated that the elevated tank was completely erected and will be painted soon. He also noted that the Milam Road Pump Station building was on site, but it was not in its' finally resting spot. Mr. Price stated that the Waterloo Pump Station building was not as big as the Milam Road Pump Station.

Mr. Price also noted that Payne, McGinn, and Cummings expected the Highway 221 waterline to be complete by the end of May. And he stated that we are still waiting on the last pay application for the Highway 72 waterline project.

Finally, Mr. Price noted that we would bring in experts with Clearwater Solutions to get our lab certified and that we received five applications for our Water Treatment Plant Chief Operator position and planned to talk to at least two of the applicants.

Executive Session

Upon returning to open session, the Commission may take whatever action deemed appropriate on matters discussed in executive session.

1. Legal Matter Involving a Customer Account

2. Contractual Matter related to Laurens CPW

Commissioner O'Dell MOVED that the ***Board of Commissioners Go into Executive Session at 10:32am.*** MOTION SECONDED by Commissioner Curry. MOTION CARRIED. AYES, 6; NAYS, 0

Commissioner Hendrick MOVED that the ***Board of Commissioners Come Out of Executive Session at 11:30am.*** MOTION SECONDED by Commissioner O'Dell. MOTION CARRIED. AYES, 6; NAYS, 0

OTHER BUSINESS


Mrs. Medlock reminded the Board of Commissioners and officers to file the 2021 Statement of Economic Interests reports with the State of South Carolina State Ethics Commission. She noted that the filing deadline is March 30, 2021.

ADJOURN

Commissioner Hendrick MOVED that the ***Board of Commissioners meeting be adjourned.*** MOTION SECONDED by Commissioner Curry. MOTION CARRIED. AYES, 6; NAYS, 0

There being no further business the Commission adjourned at 11:35am.

I certify that the above Minutes accurately reflect the business conducted at the Commission meeting on March 23, 2021 and that the minutes were approved at the meeting held April 27, 2021.


Jurell Byrd, Jr., Secretary