



## MINUTES

### **LAURENS COUNTY WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION**

#### **Board of Commissioners Meeting**

3850 Highway 221S, Laurens, SC 29360

January 27, 2026

11:00 a.m.

---

#### **COMMISSIONERS PRESENT**

Dime Hollingsworth (County Council District I)

Philip O'Dell (County Council District II)

Jurell Byrd, Jr., Secretary (County Council District III)

Bill Teague, Vice Chairman (County Council District IV)

Susan Curry, Treasurer (County Council District V)

Lumus Byrd, Jr. (County Council District VI)

Ted Davenport, Chairman (County Council District VII)

Jimmy Young (Municipal)

#### **STAFF PRESENT**

Jeff Field, Executive Director

Steve Griffin, Construction Manager

Damas Mattison, Regulatory Compliance & Operations Manager

Wendy Medlock, Director of Finance

Angie Nelson, Director of Administration & Customer Service

K.C. Price, Engineering Manager

Mary-Wallace Riley, Executive Administrative Assistant

#### **ATTORNEY PRESENT**

Allen Wham

#### **PRESS**

None

#### **GUESTS**

None

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Davenport called the meeting to order at 11:04 a.m. in the Laurens County Water and Sewer Commission's training rooms. This meeting was advertised in accordance with the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act.

### **INVOCATION**

Delivered by Commissioner Curry.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chairman Davenport asked if there were any additions or corrections to the November 11, 2025, minutes as submitted to the Commissioners. None were submitted.

Commissioner L. Byrd, Jr. MOVED that the November 11, 2025, minutes be approved as submitted. MOTION SECONDED by Commissioner J. Byrd, Jr. MOTION CARRIED. AYES, 7; NAYS, 0.

### **CHAIRMAN REMARKS**

Chairman Davenport extended a welcome to all and expressed his appreciation to the LCWSC staff for their diligence during the recent winter weather to ensure the system continued to operate smoothly.

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REMARKS**

Mr. Field welcomed everyone expressing his appreciation to the LCWSC team as well.

### **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 December 31, 2025, LCWSC had a total operating and reserve cash balance of \$7,266,397, compared to \$7,772,162 at this point in FY25 and \$6,849,587 as of November 30, 2025.

Mr. Field discussed the highlights for Water Distribution and Treatment, Wastewater Treatment, Wastewater Collection, and Lake Rabon. He also reviewed the percentage breakdown for operating revenue, operating expenses, capital revenue, and capital expenses by department and the overall combined totals.

Mr. Field reported that as of December 2025, LCWSC had received a total of \$6,276,305 in contributed capital grants for FY26 broken down as follows: \$8656 for Administration, \$1,512,508 for Wastewater Treatment, and \$4,755,141 for Water Distribution. He further noted that additional grant funds remain committed for several capital improvement projects, including the WWTP Sludge CDBG Project, Metric Road Elevated Water Tank EDA Project, SCIIP Hospital Area Water System Improvements Project, RIA Milam Road Booster Pump Supply Line Improvements Project, Emerging Contaminants Study SRF Projects, WWTP EQ Basin and Clarifiers SRF Project, and the Joanna CDBG Project.

As of December 2025, customer-paid line extensions totaled \$79,641.

### **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 reported that the average gallons per day (GPD) per active residential tap for December 2025 was 123 GPD. He further reported that the twelve-month average residential usage was 134 GPD.

Mr. Field shared the precipitation graph, noting that rainfall for December FY26 totaled 2.05 inches, which was 1.25 inches below December FY25, 2.97 inches below December FY24, and 2.89 inches below the historical norm for December.

Mr. Field reported system growth and work order activity for December 2025. As of December 31, 2025, 442 water services have been installed; 121 services in non-subdivision areas and 321 services in subdivisions. Of this total, 89 services were installed in December.

With respect to wastewater services, Mr. Field reported that 294 sewer services had been installed as of December 31, 2025; 4 services in non-subdivision areas and 290 sewer services in subdivisions. Of this total, 65 new sewer services were installed in December.

Mr. Field further reported that during December 2025, four lateral line leak work orders were repaired within two weeks, and one was repaired within two to four weeks, with no lateral line leaks repaired later than four weeks. During the same period, four main line leak work orders were repaired within two weeks, three were repaired within two to four weeks, and eight were repaired later than four weeks.

As of December 2025, there were four active service line leaks over two weeks old and two active main line leaks over two weeks old.

Mr. Mattison reported on water purchases and presented the rolling average water audit. The rolling 12-month average for non-revenue (unaccounted) water was 15,134,838 gallons, which remains below the target threshold of 19,500,000 gallons.

Mr. Price provided an update on the Lake Greenwood Water Treatment Facility, reporting that during December 2025 the facility pumped 71.411 million gallons of raw water and treated 64.513 million gallons. Mr. Price reported on recent maintenance activities and provided staffing updates. He announced the hiring of two Water Plant Trainees and one pre-apprentice and noted that an offer has been extended to a second pre-apprentice candidate. He also reported the hiring of a Presbyterian College intern. Mr. Price stated that the trainees, pre-apprentice positions, and internship opportunities are part of LCWSC's ongoing effort to "grow our own" operators and support long-term workforce development.

also underway to refine aging infrastructure priorities using CityWorks, allowing for more strategic asset management and data-driven decision-making.

### **Financial and Organizational Resiliency**

Mr. Field reported that the 10-year cash flow model is currently being updated to support long-term financial planning, rate stability, capital forecasting, and overall organizational sustainability. This effort also includes identifying and detailing grant opportunities, evaluating a capacity fee model aligned with the Capital Improvements Plan (CIP), and projecting staffing needs for the next two years to ensure the organization remains financially and operationally prepared for anticipated growth.

### **High Quality Services**

Operational performance remains strong, with compliance rates continuing at very high levels. Staff is also pilot testing treatment options for emerging contaminants to proactively address regulatory changes and protect water quality.

Employees continue to be recognized as leaders within the industry. Recent honors include:

- SCRWA Wastewater Collections Operator of the Year – Gene Steel
- Upper Savannah WEASC Maintenance Operator of the Year – Barry Templeton
- Upper Savannah WEASC Water Distribution Operator of the Year – Justin Jennings

These recognitions reflect the Commission's commitment to excellence in service delivery and professional leadership.

Mr. Field concluded the presentation by stating that staff continue to evaluate the most effective and informative methods for tracking Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). He reported that data is currently being collected to establish baseline measurements, with a plan to present a KPI update to the Commission at the August 2026 meeting.

## **2. Meter Changeout Project Update**

Mrs. Nelson provided an update on the Meter Changeout Project. The presentation reviewed the background of the initiative, noting that approximately 8,000 meters were changed out in 2009. Many of these meters fail to report their reading electronically, forcing meter readers to read the meter manually, which is very time consuming. Due to the mass installation, the failure rate is wide scale.

In 2021, staff reported that approximately 6,000 meters remained to be replaced. As of December 2025, that number has been reduced to approximately 700 meters remaining.

LCWSC selected the Badger Ultrasonic residential meter for replacements and has been systematically changing out meters that are no longer reporting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### 1. Proposed Resolution – South Carolina Water Quality Revolving Fund Authority

Mr. Field presented a proposed resolution to approve a loan assistance agreement with the South Carolina Water Quality Revolving Fund (SRF) Authority for a Lake Greenwood Water Treatment Facility Emerging Contaminants Study. The Study is an evaluation of treatment options for emerging contaminants, specifically PFAS, as well as an operational evaluation of the existing treatment plant. Bench-scale testing of powdered activated carbon (PAC) products for PFAS removal will be conducted. This testing will provide insight on the effectiveness of PAC for PFAS treatment. In addition, rapid small scale column test (RSSCT) will be performed on one or more granular activated carbon (GAC) / ion exchange (IX)/ alternative media options and bench-scale testing will be performed on a foam fractionation / photocatalytic destruction alternative (Invicta Water). This will provide information on the preferred option for post-filtration PFAS treatment. Effects of post-filtration treatment on corrosion control will also be considered. The Loan, in the amount of \$287,000, will be forgiven if the project is completed per the requirements for the agreement.

Commissioner O’Dell MOVED that the Board of Commissioners approve the proposed resolution as presented. MOTION SECONDED by Commissioner Young. MOTION CARRIED. AYES, 7; NAYS, 0.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### 1. Strategic Plan Update

Mr. Field provided an update on the Commission’s Strategic Plan emphasizing measurable progress across the Commission’s five Strategic Priorities: Employee Development and Retention; Infrastructure Investment and Growth; Financial and Organizational Resiliency; Community Engagement and Partnerships; and High-Quality Services.

Mr. Field highlighted measurable advancements across several Strategic Priority areas.

#### **Employee Development and Retention**

Significant progress continues in workforce engagement and organizational development. A newly established Employee Committee is currently evaluating potential work schedule options to enhance employee satisfaction and operational effectiveness. A new initiative, *Monthly Birthday Chats*, has been implemented to strengthen internal communication and employee engagement. Additionally, a Workforce Development Team has been convened to promote careers in the water utility field and to support leadership development among current staff. Utilization of the Human Resources platform, Greenshades, continues to expand, improving efficiency, reporting capabilities, and internal processes.

#### **Infrastructure Investment and Growth**

Mr. Field reported completion of the updated 25-year Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) in July 2025, providing a long-term roadmap for sustainable system growth and investment. Efforts are

Mrs. Nelson highlighted several benefits of the ultrasonic meters, including:

- No moving parts to wear overtime.
- Ability to measure extremely low flow (down to 0.05 GPM), improving accuracy for household fixtures.
- Resistance to small particulates that could interfere with measurement.
- Warranty accuracy rated for up to 20 years
- Many are cellular so meter readings can be retrieved from the office.

The presentation also reviewed replacement timelines and project milestones and discussed goals for completing the remaining meter replacements.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Field thanked the Commissioners and staff for their continued service to the Commission.

**ADJOURN**

Commissioner L. Byrd, Jr., MOVED to adjourn the meeting. MOTION SECONDED by Commissioner Young. MOTION CARRIED. AYES, 7; NAYS, 0.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

I certify that the above Minutes accurately reflect the business conducted at the Commission meeting on January 27, 2026, and that the minutes were approved at the February 24, 2026, meeting.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jurell Byrd, Jr., Secretary

Resolution to approve loan assistance agreement with the South Carolina Water Quality Revolving Fund Authority for a Lake Greenwood Water Treatment Facility Emerging Contaminants Study

AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING THE ACCEPTANCE OF CERTAIN LOAN ASSISTANCE MONIES FROM THE SOUTH CAROLINA WATER QUALITY REVOLVING FUND AUTHORITY; AUTHORIZING THE CHAIRMAN TO EXECUTE THAT CERTAIN LOAN ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LAURENS COUNTY WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION AND THE SOUTH CAROLINA WATER QUALITY REVOLVING FUND AUTHORITY; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO.

WHEREAS, the Laurens County Water and Sewer Commission (the "***Project Sponsor***") is a special purpose district of the State of South Carolina;

WHEREAS, the Project Sponsor is authorized and empowered by the provisions of Title 48, Chapter 5 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, as amended, to receive financial assistance from the South Carolina Water Quality Revolving Fund Authority (the "***Authority***");

WHEREAS, on November 15, 2021, the President signed Public Law No. 117-58, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (the "***IJA***") also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which provided appropriations to address emerging contaminants in drinking water with a focus on perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances through the emerging contaminant capitalization grants under section 1452(t) of the Federal Act and under which this project is committed;

WHEREAS, funds provided under this section of the IJA requires the Fund to provide 100 percent additional subsidization (assistance which will not accrue interest and the principal of which will be forgiven) for drinking water projects that address emerging contaminants;

WHEREAS, the funds appropriated under the IJA are deposited into the South Carolina Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund (the "***Fund***");

WHEREAS, the Project Sponsor previously applied to the South Carolina Department of Environmental Services ("***DES***") for certain loan assistance monies to be made available to the Project Sponsor by the Authority in the form of a subsidization;

WHEREAS, the Project Sponsor was selected by DES to receive the Loan Assistance contingent upon compliance by the Project Sponsor with all terms, conditions and requirements set forth in the Loan Assistance Agreement, the form of which is attached hereto as Exhibit A (the "***Loan Assistance Agreement***"); and

WHEREAS, based on approvals issued by DES, the proceeds of the Loan Assistance are to be used by the Project Sponsor for a Lake Greenwood Water Treatment Facility Emerging Contaminants Compliance Study described in Appendix A to the Loan Assistance Agreement (the "***Project***").

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of the Laurens County Water and Sewer Commission (the "***Commission***"), in a meeting duly assembled:

Section 1. Acceptance of the Loan Assistance; Acknowledgment of Terms of Loan Assistance Agreement.

The Loan Assistance, under the terms, conditions and requirements set forth in the Loan Assistance Agreement, is hereby accepted. The Project Sponsor acknowledges that the receipt of proceeds of the Loan Assistance pursuant to the Loan Assistance Agreement requires the Project Sponsor to comply with all of the terms of the Loan Assistance Agreement, including requiring strict compliance with all state and federal mandates set forth therein by any contractors performing work on the Project who are subject to those mandates. The Project Sponsor further acknowledges that the forgiveness of the principal amount of the Loan Assistance by the Authority is conditional upon the Project Sponsor's complete and satisfactory compliance with the terms of the Loan Assistance Agreement, and that any failure to comply strictly with such terms could result in a requirement that the Project Sponsor repay to the Authority all or a portion of the Loan Assistance. The Project Sponsor has fully reviewed each and every term of the Loan Assistance Agreement.

Section 2. Approvals, Appropriations and Expenditures.

The Project Sponsor certifies that it has taken, or will take, all actions necessary under South Carolina law to approve, appropriate and expend the proceeds of the Loan Assistance.

Section 3. Authorization of the Loan Assistance Agreement.

The Loan Assistance Agreement is hereby approved, and the execution and delivery of the Loan Assistance Agreement on behalf of the Project Sponsor is hereby authorized and directed. The Loan Assistance Agreement shall be executed on behalf of the Project Sponsor by the Board Chairman and shall be attested to by the Secretary.

Section 4. Miscellaneous.

This Resolution shall be a contract between the Project Sponsor and the Authority and shall be enforceable as such against the Project Sponsor.

ADOPTED, this 27<sup>th</sup> day of January 2026.

LAURENS COUNTY WATER  
AND SEWER COMMISSION

SEAL

By: Thomas E. Dargatz

Its: Chairman

Attest:

By: Quinn Byrd Jr.

Its: Secretary