MINUTES

LAURENS COUNTY WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION
Board of Commissioners Meeting
3850 Highway 221S, Laurens, SC 29360
Training Rooms 1 and 2
October 27, 2026

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT
Dime Hollingsworth (County Council District I)
Philip O'Dell (County Council District II)
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)

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

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

GUEST(S)
Wanda Woody, Milam Road resident
Renita Barksdale, System Director/Branch Manager, Laurens County Public Library

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Davenport called the meeting to order at 8:19 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 September 22, 2026, minutes as submitted to the Commissioners. None were submitted.

Commissioner L. Byrd, Jr. MOVED that the September 22, 2026, minutes be approved as submitted. MOTION SECONDED by Commissioner O'Dell. MOTION CARRIED. AYES, 6; NAYS, 0.

CHAIRMAN REMARKS

Chairman Davenport welcomed everyone and commented on the pleasant weather. He asked Commissioner L. Byrd, Jr. to introduce Mrs. Wanda Woody, a retired educator, current GED teacher, library board chairperson, and concerned citizen.

Mrs. Woody, a Milam Road resident and LCWSC customer, shared concerns regarding a leak and meter reading that she thought was potentially influenced by the replacement of the hydrant in front of her home. She reviewed the steps she and LCWSC had taken to address her concerns and stated that she wanted the Commission to be aware of her experience. She concluded by commending the crews that installed the new water lines did a good job with clean-up.

Commissioner L. Byrd, Jr. also introduced Ms. Renita Barksdale, System Director/Branch Manager of the Laurens County Public Library. Ms. Barksdale thanked the Commission for welcoming her and explained that she had decided to attend after learning that Mrs. Woody planned to come to the meeting.

Ms. Barksdale provided an overview of the services available through the library branches and highlighted a $50,000 grant for book vending machines in Joanna. She also discussed her involvement with THRIVE Laurens County and its commitment to FoodShare, improving access to food, and supporting local communities. She encouraged the Commissioners to visit the library's website, www.lcpl.org, to learn more about available services and programs.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REMARKS

Mr. Field welcomed everyone and thanked Commissioner L. Byrd, Jr. for taking the time to listen to Mrs. Woody's concerns. Mr. Field also thanked Ms. Barksdale for sharing the information and expressed his appreciation for the services provided by the library and the work THRIVE Laurens County was doing to address "food deserts" in our local communities.

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 September 30, 2026, LCWSC had total operating and reserve cash of $7,204,777, compared with $7,944,938 at the same point in FY26 and $8,121,856 on August 31, 2026. LCWSC was awaiting reimbursements of $41,741 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, $5,290 from the Laurens County Development Corporation, and $14,350 from the State Revolving Fund.

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. The target percentage of the annual budget for September was 25.0 percent. Combined operating revenue was 27.2 percent, operating expenses were 26.4 percent, capital revenue was 31.5 percent, and capital expenses were 49.6 percent.

Mr. Field reported that as of September 2026, LCWSC had received $703,532 in contributed capital grants for FY27, including $104,245 for Wastewater Collection and $599,287 for Water Distribution. He further noted that additional grant funds remain committed for the Emerging Contaminants Study SRF projects; WWTP EQ Basin and Clarifiers SRF project; Joanna CDBG project; Lake Greenwood Water Treatment Facility Clearwell Congressional Appropriation; Bush River Gravity Sewer Rehabilitation SRF project; Lake Greenwood Water Treatment Facility Emerging Contaminants Pilot Testing SRF project; Beards Fork Force Main Replacement CDBG project; and Gray Court Sewer State Appropriation.

As of September 2026, customer-paid residential line extensions totaled $90,100, and industrial and developer-paid line extensions totaled $25,455. The total developer donated line extensions for FY26 was $6,698,591 and included Canterbrook II, Canterbrook IV, Wren Woods/Cardinal Ridge II, Foxbank I, and Webb Road.

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 September 2026 was 159 GPD. He further reported that the twelve-month average residential usage was 145 GPD.

Mr. Field shared the precipitation graph, noting that rainfall was 3.43 inches in September FY27, which was 1.66 inches above September FY26, 5.21 inches below September FY25, and 0.26 inches above the historical norm for September. This data is a county average derived from rain gauges at Brighton Meadows Lift Station, Bush River Wastewater Treatment Plant, North Creek Lift Station, and Lake Rabon.

Mr. Field reported system growth and work order activity for September 2026. As of September 30, 2026, 204 water services had been installed during FY27: sixty-eight services in non-subdivision areas and 136 services in subdivisions. Sixty-eight water services were installed in September: thirty in non-subdivision areas and thirty-eight in subdivisions.

With respect to wastewater services, Mr. Field reported that ninety-eight sewer services had been installed as of September 30, 2026: three services in non-subdivision areas and ninety-five services in subdivisions. Twenty-four sewer services were installed in September, all in subdivisions; none were installed in non-subdivision areas.

Mr. Mattison reported that during September 2026, seven lateral leak work orders were repaired within two weeks, four were repaired within two to four weeks, and none were repaired later than four weeks. During the same period, eight main line leak work orders were repaired within two weeks, one was repaired within two to four weeks, and one was repaired later than four weeks.

As of September 2026, there were two active service line leaks and three active main line leaks. All five were over two weeks old.

Mr. Mattison further reported on water purchases and presented the rolling average water audit, including revenue from water sold, non-revenue unaccounted water, non-revenue authorized consumption, and total water purchased. The rolling twelve-month average for non-revenue unaccounted water was 14,753,140 gallons, an increase of 185,268 gallons from the previous twelve-month average. The target for unaccounted water is less than 19,500,000 gallons.

The September Lake Greenwood Water Treatment Facility report showed 86.231 million gallons of raw water pumped, 79.564 million gallons of water treated, and 78.338 million gallons of treated water sent to distribution. Water wasted to lagoons from filter backwash and sludge blanket blowdowns totaled 3.816 million gallons. The report also noted completion of monthly sampling and reporting, routine maintenance of sampling and chemical feed equipment, and continued work with Pinnacle on ozone communication issues and Hargette LLC on PFAS planning. Ayden Rudder passed his A certification exam on September 29, 2026.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Public Hearing for Proposed Capacity Fees

The public hearing for the proposed capacity fees opened at 9:21 a.m. No members of the public were present for the hearing. The public hearing closed at 9:22 a.m.

2. Approval of Proposed Capacity Fees

The Commission considered the proposed capacity fees as presented, which were also discussed at the September Board meeting. The updated fees applied to 3/4-inch water meters, all the way up to 4-inch water meters. Particular focus was paid to 3/4-inch water meter size as they are typical for individual homeowners and primarily what LCWSC sales. For these type accounts, a fee of $2,000 for water and $2,000 for wastewater, or a combined capacity fee of $4,000 was proposed. The proposed fees represented increases of $200 for water and $250 for wastewater. Increases were proposed for most other meter sizes as well. The increase was recommended because of the updated 20-year Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) previously approved by the Board.

Commissioner L. Byrd, Jr. MOVED to approve the proposed capacity fee schedule as presented. MOTION SECONDED by Commissioner Young. MOTION CARRIED. AYES, 6; NAYS, 0.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Resolution for the WWTP Equalization Basin & Clarifiers Project Loan Assistance Agreement

The Commission considered a resolution accepting loan assistance from the South Carolina Water Quality Revolving Fund Authority for the Clinton-Joanna Wastewater Treatment Plant Equalization Basin and Clarifiers Project and authorizing the Chairman to execute the Loan Assistance Agreement, with attestation by the Secretary.

The project includes installation of four floating aerators in the existing equalization basin, variable frequency drive controls for the existing equalization basin pump station, a new control panel for the return activated sludge pump station, replacement equipment in Clarifiers No. 1 and No. 2, and preliminary design of a peracetic acid disinfection system. Estimated project completion is the first quarter of 2028.

The estimated total project cost is $1,986,419, funded by $1,936,900 in State Revolving Fund principal forgiveness and $49,519 from LCWSC. The loan assistance will not accrue interest, and principal forgiveness is contingent upon compliance with all terms and requirements of the Loan Assistance Agreement.

Commissioner Young MOVED to approve the resolution. MOTION SECONDED by Commissioner L. Byrd, Jr. MOTION CARRIED. AYES, 6; NAYS, 0.

2. New Merchant Services Platform

Mrs. Nelson presented an overview of InvoiceCloud, LCWSC's new merchant services platform. She reviewed customer benefits including automatic payments, paperless billing, English and Spanish pay-by-phone options, electronic bank bill payments, online ACH bank draft setup and changes, scheduled payments, payment links by text or email, email reminders, and text-to-pay options. Expanded payment methods include major credit cards, Apple Pay, Google Pay, PayPal, Venmo, and eCheck.

Mrs. Nelson also reviewed benefits to LCWSC, including automated payment and billing processes, customer reminders and receipts, electronic processing of bank bill payments, and failed-payment notifications with a link to retry. She noted that InvoiceCloud is PCI Level 1 compliant for payment security. The move to InvoiceCloud, along with these additional benefits, will not increase costs to LCWSC or the customer. The change over to this new platform started the day of the Commission meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No executive session was held.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs. Riley shared the upcoming event schedule with the Commissioners.

ADJOURN

Commissioner L. Byrd, Jr. MOVED to adjourn the meeting. MOTION SECONDED by Commissioner Young. MOTION CARRIED. AYES, 6; NAYS, 0. The meeting was adjourned at 10:21 a.m.

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



Jurell Byrd, Jr., Secretary

WWTP EQUALIZATION BASIN & CLARIFIERS PROJECT RESOLUTION

AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING THE ACCEPTANCE OF CERTAIN LOAN ASSISTANCE MONIES FROM THE SOUTH CAROLINA WATER QUALITY REVOLVING FUND AUTHORITY; AUTHORIZING THE BOARD 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 in 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 ***"IIJA"***) also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which requires the Fund to provide a certain level of additional subsidization (including subsidization which will not accrue interest and the principal of which will be forgiven) for wastewater infrastructure facilities;

WHEREAS, the funds appropriated under the IIJA are deposited into the South Carolina Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund (the "Fund");

WHEREAS, the Project Sponsor previously applied to the South Carolina Department of Environmental Services ***("SCDES")*** for certain loan assistance monies (the ***"Loan Assistance"***) to be made available to the Project Sponsor by the Authority in the form of a subsidization which will not accrue interest and the principal of which will be forgiven;

WHEREAS, the Project Sponsor was selected by SCDES 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 SCDES the proceeds of the Loan Assistance are to be used by the Project Sponsor for the Clinton-Joanna Wastewater Treatment Plant Equalization Basin and Clarifiers project 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 ***"Board"***), 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 provision 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 27th day of October 2026.

LAURENS COUNTY
WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION

SEAL

By: Thomas E. Dangerfield

Its: Chairman

Attest:

By: Jewell Lipscomb Jr

Its: Secretary