



LAURENS COUNTY WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION

MINUTES

Board of Commissioners Meeting
3850 Highway 221S, Laurens, SC 29360
November 25, 2025

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:

The Clinton Chronicle

GUESTS:

Will Walls, Love Bailey and Associates CPAs

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Davenport called the meeting to order at 8:24 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 October 28, 2025, minutes as submitted to the Commissioners. None were submitted.

Commissioner J. Byrd, Jr. **MOVED** that the October 28, 2025, minutes be approved as submitted. **MOTION SECONDED** by Commissioner Hollingsworth. **MOTION CARRIED**. AYES,7; NAYS, 0.

CHAIRMAN REMARKS

Chairman Davenport opened the meeting by expressing appreciation to Mr. Mattison for providing breakfast items and extended Thanksgiving greetings to all in attendance. He welcomed guests Vic MacDonald of the *Clinton Chronicle* and Will Walls, CPA, of Love Bailey, CPAs. Chairman Davenport also recognized Gene Steele, Collection System Manager, for his dedication to LCWSC and congratulated him on being named the South Carolina Rural Water Association's 2025 Wastewater Operator of the Year.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REMARKS

Mr. Field echoed Chairman Davenport's appreciation for Mr. Steele, expressing his gratitude for Mr. Steele's contributions to the organization. He also commented on the Town of Gray Court's recent Christmas Tree Lighting, noting it was a well-attended and meaningful event. He expressed appreciation for the individuals whose dedication made the event possible for the first time in many years and stated that LCWSC was honored to assist in sponsoring the purchase of the new tree lights.

Mr. Field then turned to the business before the Commission, noting that today's meeting would focus on financial matters, including the FY2025 Audit presentation by Will Walls, CPA, of Love Bailey CPAs. He expressed his appreciation to Mr. Walls, as well as to Mrs. Medlock, Director of Finance, and Mrs. Maddox, Staff Accountant, for their work on the audit and for their ongoing efforts in maintaining the Commission's financial stability.

Mr. Field then addressed the need to amend the agenda to include the omitted item regarding the vote to cancel the December meeting.

AMENDMENT OF AGENDA

Commissioner Young **MOVED** to Amend the November 25, 2025, Agenda to add the December Meeting. **MOTION SECONDED** by Commissioner J. Byrd, Jr. **MOTION CARRIED**. AYES,7; NAYS, 0.

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 October 31, 2025, LCWSC had a total operating and reserve cash of \$7,282,911, verses \$7,977,193 at this point in FY25 and \$7,944,938 on September 30, 2025. This decrease is primarily due to our annual meter purchase (new services and replacements) totaling \$952,786.

Mr. Field discussed the highlights for Water Distribution and Treatment, Wastewater Treatment, Wastewater Collection, and Lake Rabon. He also supplied the percentage breakdown for operating

revenue, operating expenses, capital revenue, and capital expenses by department and the overall combined percentage for each.

Mr. Field noted that as of October 2025, LCWSC had received \$8,656 in contributed capital grants for Administration, \$637,095 for Wastewater Treatment, and \$2,828,909 for Water Distribution. Thus far, in FY26, a total of \$17,822,294 has been received in contributed capital grants. Future grant funds that are committed are for the following projects: 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 Joanna CDBG project.

As of October 2025, there was \$33,160 in customer paid line extensions.

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 noted that the average gallons per day (GPD) per active residential tap for October 2025 was 145 GPD. On average, each customer uses 134 GPD over a 12-month period.

Mr. Field shared the precipitation graph, noting that in October FY26, the rainfall was 3.21 inches in October FY26, which is 3.21 inches above that of October FY25, 1.73 inches above that of October FY24, and 0.40 inches above the 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 that 103 new water taps, and forty new sewer taps were installed in October 2025. Mr. Field presented a map indicating the distribution of all new taps installed throughout the county.

Mr. Mattison discussed water purchase and shared the water audit report. The report captures the Rolling Average Water Audit in gallons for the system including the revenue (sold), the non-revenue (unaccounted), and the non-revenue authorized consumption (audited) versus the purchased. The rolling 12-month average for non-revenue (unaccounted) water is 14,829,868 gallons, which is an increase of 225,378 gallons over the previous 12-month average. The target for unaccounted water is less than 19,500,000 gallons.

In October 2025, there were twelve main line leak work orders; ten of which were repaired within two weeks, one repaired within two to four weeks, and one later than four weeks. There were fourteen lateral line leak work orders: seven were repaired within two weeks, two were repaired within two to four weeks, and five were repaired later than four weeks. As of October 2025, there were five active service line leaks over two weeks old and six active main line leaks over two weeks old.

Mr. Price provided an update on the Lake Greenwood Water Treatment Facility (LGWTF), reporting that in October 2025, the facility pumped 74.619 MG of raw water and treated 67.705 MG. Mr. Price reported that October had been a good month at the Water Treatment Facility. He noted that Pinnacle and Aqua Aerobic were on-site working on the ozone system yesterday and today. He further stated that securing one additional water treatment operator would greatly benefit the facility.

NEW BUSINESS

1. FY2025 Audit

Ms. Medlock introduced Mr. Will Walls, Audit Manager with Love Bailey & Associates, to present the FY2025 Audit. They noted that the FY2025 Audit was being presented in draft format due to 2025 OMB Compliance Supplement was significantly delayed from its usual schedule due to the recent federal government shutdown. The 2025 Supplement identifies the compliance requirements for auditors to consider when performing single audits under the OMB's *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance). Therefore, Love Bailey & Associates was unable to finalize and issue the final audit report until it was officially released. Mr. Walls stated that he did not expect any significant changes before the audit report was finalized.

Mr. Walls reported that Laurens County Water and Sewer Commission received an unmodified opinion, indicating the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Commission in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. An unmodified opinion is the highest level of assurance LCWSC can receive.

The Commission's financial condition is stable with a 12% increase in operating revenue and a 40% increase in net position. This stability can be contributed primarily to continued increases in water sales, water tap fees and wastewater revenues.

The following are key financial highlights:

- Total assets increased by \$40.5 million or 28% from the previous fiscal year, primarily from an increase in capital assets. At year-end total assets were \$185.5 million which exceeded total liabilities by \$119.3 million. The Commission's Net Position is strong at \$120.1 million, an increase of \$34.1 million or 40% from the previous fiscal year.
- Unrestricted cash and cash equivalents to support short-term operations were \$5.0 million compared to \$6.2 million the prior year.
- Operating revenues for fiscal year 2025 increased 12% or \$1.7 million, compared to the previous fiscal year.
- Operating expenses for fiscal year 2025, before depreciation, increased 11% or \$1.0 million, compared to fiscal year 2024.

- Total operating income for the year was \$17 thousand compared to operating loss of \$226 thousand in the prior year.
- Operating margin or ratios of operating income to total operating revenues are at 0% for 2025 compared to -2% for 2024.
- Long-term debt increased from \$51.2 million in 2024 to \$56.1 million in 2025, an increase of 10% due to bond proceeds and principal payments made during the year.

Commissioner L. Byrd, Jr. **MOVED** that the Board of Commissioners approve the Draft Audit for FY25 as presented. **MOTION SECONDED** by Commissioner Young. **MOTION CARRIED**. AYES, 7; NAYS, 0.

2. December Meeting

Commissioner Hollingsworth **MOVED** to cancel the December meeting of the Commission. **MOTION SECONDED** by Commissioner L. Byrd, Jr. **MOTION CARRIED**. AYES, 7; NAYS, 0.

OLD BUSINESS

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner L. Byrd, Jr. **MOVED** that the Board of Commissioners enter Executive Session at 9:25 a.m. **MOTION SECONDED** by Commissioner Young. **MOTION CARRIED**. AYES, 7; NAYS, 0.

1. Contractual Matter related to Lake Rabon Water Withdrawal Agreement with Laurens CPW

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

Commissioner O'Dell **MOVED** that the Board of Commissioners return to the Open Session at 10:10 a.m. **MOTION SECONDED** by Commissioner Young. **MOTION CARRIED**. AYES, 7; NAYS, 0.

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

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Field thanked everyone for their attendance, time, and dedication to the Commission. He reminded the group of upcoming community and Commission holiday events. He concluded by wishing everyone a safe and happy holiday season and expressing his gratitude for their continued service to the community we serve.

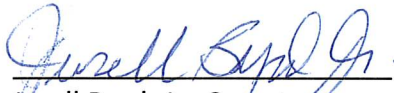
Chairman Davenport echoed Mr. Field's sentiments and, with no further business to discuss, called for a motion to adjourn.

ADJOURN

Commissioner L. Byrd, Jr. **MOVED** to adjourn the Board of Commissioners meeting at 10:27 a.m. **MOTION SECONDED** by Commissioner O'Dell. **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 November 28, 2025, and that the minutes were approved at the January 27, 2026, meeting.



Jurell Byrd, Jr., Secretary