



Laurens County Water and Sewer Commission

Board of Commissioners Meeting

November 22, 2022

Minutes

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Dime Hollingsworth (I), 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 Jimmy Young (Municipal)

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

STAFF: Jeff Field, Executive Director
Paula Bullard, Executive Assistant
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 Wham

PRESS: Clinton Chronicle

GUESTS:

Call to Order

Invocation

Approval of October 25, 2022, Minutes

Chairman Remarks

Executive Director Remarks

LCWSC Monthly Financial Summary

LCWSC Monthly Operations Summary

New Business

1. Consideration to Reschedule December meeting

Old Business

1. Lake Greenwood Water Treatment Facility Update

Executive Session

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

1. Contractual Matter related to Laurens CPW Raw Water Agreement
2. Contractual Matter related to Town of Gray Court Utility Agreement

Other Business

Adjourn

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Davenport called the meeting to order at 8:21 am in the Training Rooms of the Laurens County Water and Sewer Commission.

INVOCATION

Delivered by Commissioner Curry.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Davenport asked if there were any additions or corrections to the October 25, 2022, minutes, as submitted to the Commissioners. None being submitted.

Commissioner Byrd MOVED *that the minutes be approved as submitted*. MOTION SECONDED by Commissioner Young. MOTION CARRIED. AYES, 7; NAYS, 0

CHAIRMAN REMARKS

Chairman Davenport thanked the press and everyone for their attendance.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REMARKS

Mr. Field also, thanked everyone in attendance and thanked Vic MacDonald of the Clinton Chronicle for the article that listed in detail an update of the LCWSC projects that are either in design or construction at this time

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, 2022, LCWSC had a total of \$9,489,633 in cash for operating and reserve funds as compared to \$9,160,939, at this time in FY22.

Mr. Field discussed the highlights for Water Distribution, Wastewater, Lake Rabon, and the Town of Gray Court. He also supplied 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 \$627,788, in contributed capital grants thus far for FY23. Year to date paid line extensions for FY23 total \$26,488, from customers, developers or industrial projects that are not grant funded. The year-to-date line extensions include Emerald Circle, Forrester Road, Catalan Court/ Pennington Farms, and Twin Branch, Ritchie Road, and Wasson Gin Road.

Mr. Mattison gave an update for the line extension projects. He stated that Emerald Circle is complete. Upcoming extensions are Ritchie Road, South Frontage Road, Twin Branch Road, Wasson Gin Road, Forrester Road, and Hwy 39.

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 per active residential tap for the month of October FY23 was 136. On average, each customer uses 134 gallons per day over a 12-month period. Mr. Field shared the precipitation graph noting that October FY23 precipitation was 1.38 inches which is 3.26 inches below that of October FY22. The precipitation data is a county average derived from rain gauges at Lake Rabon, Bush River Wastewater Treatment Plant, Bethany Tank, and the Clinton Pump Station.

Mr. Field reviewed the work order summary for the current month reporting that fifty-five water taps, and twenty-three sewer taps were installed in the month of October 2022. A total of 179 new water taps installed and a total of thirty-seven new sewer taps installed during FY23. Mr. Field presented a map indicating the distribution of all new taps installed throughout the county in FY23.

Mr. Mattison shared the water audit report. The water audit compares the water purchased to the water sold, water audited, and water unaccounted. The formula used is a rolling 12-month average for unaccounted water; the current month data is added as the one-year-old data is removed. For the month of October 2022, the unaccounted total is 17,344,287 gallons. The monthly goal for unaccounted water is *less than* 19,500,000 gallons.

In October 2022, there were seven main line leak work orders closed, all seven repairs were completed within two weeks. There were seven lateral line leak work orders closed, the seven repairs were completed within two weeks.

Ms. Nelson reported that LCWSC is expecting an order of residential meters in January 2023. Due to the difficulty of receiving orders based upon the supply chain and the number of upcoming subdivisions an additional order has been placed that should arrive in March 2023. She as mentioned that LCWSC customers really like the recurring credit card payment options; the number of customers that have signed up for the program have increased year to date.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Consideration to Reschedule December meeting

Mr. Field requested that the Board of Commissioners consider changing the next meeting date from December 27, 2022, to Tuesday, December 13, 2022.

Chairman Davenport asked if there were any concerns with changing the date. None being presented.

Commissioner Young MOVED that the Board of Commissioners *reschedule the December meeting for Tuesday, December 13, 2022*. MOTION SECONDED by Commissioner O'Dell. MOTION CARRIED. AYES, 7; NAYS, 0

OLD BUSINESS

1. Lake Greenwood Water Treatment Facility Update

Mr. Price provided an update on the Lake Greenwood Water Treatment Facility.

On Monday, November 28, 2022, Harper Construction will begin a planned modification to the piping of the filter system to create an even flow of air and water. Once, the first filter is back in production and functioning normally, the modification of the additional filters will occur individually. The goal is that all filters will have modifications complete and back in full service by the end of March 2023. Suez is very confident in the design and the build; the anticipation is that the progress will go quicker than originally expected.

Not only due to supply and demand but additionally the potential rail service strike has affected the water industry tremendously. Previously, chemicals ordered were delivered within one weeks' time, currently the lead time is three to four weeks or longer. Currently, Chlorine prices are very volatile. A recent report indicated that several chlorine manufacturing companies have recently closed, creating the increase in the prices. The cost of chlorine is currently \$2100 per ton the price is expected to increase to or above \$3500 per ton within the next two years. LCWSC has purchased chemicals in advance to have on-site as needed to avoid any potential future cause of delays in production or shipments.

LCWSC currently uses calcium hypochlorite at a strength of 12.5%, Mr. Price will discuss with current and additional vendors the cost to purchase chlorine at several different strength levels in case there is a need to make an adjustment based upon availability. the LCWSC process should there be an event that receiving the current chlorine strength is a major challenge. The disadvantage of using a stronger chlorine is that it creates an off gas that degrades quickly, losing the effectiveness due to escaping into the air. The disadvantage to using a weaker chlorine is that the cost increases because more is needed, and shipping is expensive.

Should an emergency need arise, The South Carolina Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (SCWARN) is a network of utilities that are available to aid other utilities if needed. Past disaster response and lessons learned have emphasized the need for such a network of utilities.

- Water and Wastewater operations are very specialized
- Water and Wastewater Utilities must be self-sufficient and fill the gap between disaster onset and arrival of other government aid
- Customers can live without power and phone interruptions, not without water
- Water restoration provides hope for long term recovery

For future needs for storing a minimum of thirty days of chlorine a third tank may need to be installed at the

water treatment facility. LCWSC must take all steps necessary to have the chemicals on hand to have the capability to disinfect and convert raw water to potable water for all customers of LCWSC. Lake Greenwood Water Treatment Facility is operating efficiently in the use of chemicals, in fact fewer chemicals are needed than initially anticipated. The LCWSC Leadership team and the team of operators are cautiously optimistic that this trend will continue. The ozone is running well and positively affects the filters and the need for alum. A better understanding occurs after one full year of being in operation.

The laboratory has received 100% approval from DHEC. A third party continues to collect and process the distribution samples. As the training progresses the third party will continue to collect samples; however, the operators will process the samples in the lab at the water treatment facility.

The staff at Lake Greenwood Water Treatment Facility are a young group of operators that are enthusiastic and are learning the processes and procedures quickly. The operators will soon begin to train in the collection and processing of the distribution samples. The water treatment facility is fully staffed. The staff consist of four full-time operators and one part-time operator.

Executive Session

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

- 1. Contractual Matter related to Laurens Commission of Public Works**
- 2. Contractual Matter related to Town of Gray Court Utility Agreement**

Commissioner Young MOVED that the Board of Commissioners *enter into Executive Session at 9:45 am*. MOTION SECONDED by Commissioner Curry. MOTION CARRIED. AYES, 7; NAYS, 0

Commissioner Byrd MOVED that the Board of Commissioners *return to Regular Session at 11:06 am*. MOTION SECONDED by Commissioner Hollingsworth. MOTION CARRIED. AYES, 7; NAYS,

BUSINESS AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

- 1. Contractual Matter related to Laurens Commission of Public Works**
 - a. Letter – Terms for the purchase of raw water from Lake Rabon on a month-to-month basis.**

Mr. Field reminded the Board that the current Raw Water Agreement had expired with the CPW. In early November, the LCWSC requested by way of letter to negotiate the one remaining item in the proposed revised Raw Water Agreement so it could be renewed. There has been no response to that letter as of this date so a “letter” agreement is required that would set terms month-to month until a more long-term Agreement can be reached. This letter will establish an interim rate based on the current budget and as defined in the expired Agreement, and a withdrawal amount based on the current withdrawal amount typically used by the CPW. Unfortunately, the rate will increase over what the CPW currently pays but only because the LCWSC is no longer paying a share of the Lake Rabon expenses as LCWSC does not use water from Lake Rabon. Mr. Field stated that he is hopeful a long-term Agreement can be reached soon so the two parties can work together to get this rate substantially lower. Chairman Davenport asked if there were any questions or concerns about the letter or the updated terms. None being presented.

Commissioner O’Dell MOVED that the Board of Commissioners vote on *updated rates for the purchase of raw water from Lake Rabon*. MOTION SECONDED by Commissioner Curry. MOTION CARRIED. AYES, 6; NAYS, 1

2. Contractual Matter related to Town of Gray Court Utility Agreement
a. Renewal of Utility Management Service Agreement

Chairman Davenport asked if there were any questions or concerns with the motion to renew the utility management service agreement with the Town of Gray Court to January 21, 2026. None being presented.

Commissioner Teague MOVED that the Board of Commissioners vote on the *Renewal of Term of Utility Management Service Agreement*. MOTION SECONDED by Commissioner Hollingsworth. MOTION CARRIED. AYES, 7; NAYS, 0

3. Contractual Matter related to Town of Gray Court
a. Consent to serve Foxbank Subdivision upon Annexation

Chairman Davenport asked if there were any questions or concerns with the consent to serve Foxbank Subdivision upon annexation by the Town of Gray Court. None being presented.

Commissioner Byrd MOVED that the Board of Commissioners vote on the *Consent to serve the Foxbank Subdivision upon Annexation*. MOTION SECONDED by Commissioner Young. MOTION CARRIED. AYES, 7; NAYS, 0

OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Bullard presented the Commissioners and Directors with the LCWSC 2023 calendar; the photos included in the calendar are received from the Laurens County Conservation District photo contest winners from prior years. The calendars will also be given to the LCWSC customers as a small token of our appreciation during the month of December.

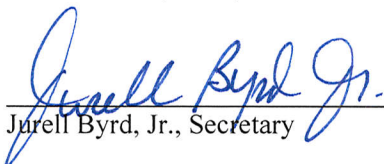
Mr. Field presented recent photos of the construction progress on the 250,000-gallon Hickory Tavern Tank.

ADJOURN

Commissioner Curry MOVED that the *Board of Commissioners meeting adjourn*. MOTION SECONDED by Commissioner Hollingsworth. MOTION CARRIED. AYES, 7; NAYS, 0

There being no further business the Commission adjourned at 11:15 am.

I certify that the above Minutes accurately reflect the business conducted at the Commission meeting on November 22, 2022, also that the minutes were approved at the meeting held on December 13, 2022.



Jurell Byrd, Jr., Secretary