



LAURENS COUNTY WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION
Board of Commissioners Meeting
July 23, 2024

MINUTES

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Dime Hollingsworth (County Council District I)
Philip O'Dell (County Council District II)
Jurell Byrd, Jr. Secretary (County Council District III)
Susan Curry, Treasurer (County Council District V)
Lumus Byrd, Jr. (County Council District VI)
Ted Davenport, Chairman (County Council District VII)
Jimmy Young (Municipal)

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Bill Teague, Vice Chairman (County Council District IV)

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: Allen Wham

PRESS: The Clinton Chronicle

GUESTS: None

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.

INVOCATION

Delivered by Commissioner Curry.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Davenport asked if there were any additions or corrections to the June 25, 2024, minutes as submitted to the Commissioners. None were submitted.

Commissioner L. Byrd, Jr. **MOVED** that the June 25, 2024, minutes be approved as submitted. **MOTION SECONDED** by Commissioner J. Byrd, Jr. **MOTION CARRIED**. AYES, 6; NAYS, 0.

CHAIRMAN REMARKS

Chairman Davenport greeted everyone and welcomed Jimmy Young back expressing his continued thoughts and prayers for Jimmy and his family.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REMARKS

Mr. Field welcomed everyone and announced that Alex Boyer, EOM Associate, was married the previous weekend and expressed his congratulations to Alex and his new wife. Mr. Field also thanked Chairman Davenport and Commissioners L. Byrd, Jr., and Curry for attending the County Council's Special Called Meeting on July 18, 2024, for the Comprehensive Plan Discussion saying the Commission was well represented.

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 June 30, 2024, LCWSC had a total of \$7,628,974 in cash for operating and reserve funds as compared to \$8,864,419 this time in FY23. As of June 30, 2024, LCWSC was awaiting a CDBG reimbursement of \$94,955, a SRF reimbursement of \$36,799, a LCDC reimbursement of \$17,557, and an EDA reimbursement of \$252,158, which will be outstanding until the project is completed. This means the total cash balance would be \$8,030,443.

Mr. Field discussed the highlights for Water Distribution and Treatment, Wastewater Treatment, Wastewater Collection, 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 and the overall combined percentage for each.

Mr. Field noted that as of June 2024, LCWSC had received \$1,550,331 in contributed capital grants for Wastewater Treatment, \$3,303,152 for Wastewater Collection, and \$169,826 for Water Distribution. Thus far, in FY24, a total of \$5,023,309 has been received in contributed capital grants.

The total paid line extensions for FY24 is \$112,480 from customers, developers, or industries that are not grant-funded. Paid year-to-date line extensions include Creekfield Road, Porter Road, Egret Lane, Ben Lanford Road, Lyons Drive, Brissy Rock Road, Zig Zag Drive, Barksdale Road, Patterson Plant Road, Robin Drive, Catfish Cove Road, and Woodbine 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 noted that the average gallons per day (GPD) per active residential tap for June 2024 was 146 GPD. On average, each customer uses 134 GPD over a 12-month period.

Mr. Field shared the precipitation graph, noting that in June FY24, the rainfall was 2.75 inches, which is 4.47 inches below that of June FY23, 1.24 inches above that of June FY22, and 2.04 inches below the norm for June. This data is a county average derived from rain gauges at Brighton Meadows, Bush River Wastewater Treatment Plant, Clinton Pump Station, and Lake Rabon.

Mr. Field reviewed the work order summary, reporting that forty-one new water taps, and seventeen new sewer taps were installed in June 2024. During FY24, 457 water taps and 240 sewer taps were installed. 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, which includes revenue (sold), non-revenue (unaccounted), and non-revenue authorized consumption (audited) versus the amount purchased. The rolling 12-month average for non-revenue (unaccounted) water is 16,710,328 gallons, which is a decrease of 838,419 gallons over the previous 12-month average. The target for unaccounted water is less than 19,500,000 gallons.

In June 2024, there were fifteen main line leak work orders; twelve were repaired within two weeks, two within two to four weeks, and one later than four weeks. There were twelve lateral line leak work orders: nine were repaired within two weeks, two repaired within two to four weeks, and one later than four weeks. As of June 2024, there were three active service line leaks over two weeks old and two active main line leaks open over two weeks old.

Mr. Price provided an update on the Lake Greenwood Water Treatment Facility, stating that it continues to operate well. In June 2024, the facility pumped 81.718 MG of raw water and treated 69.512 MG. Mr. Price also reported the three water plant operators that transferred from ClearWater to our operations continue to perform well. He also reported the newest hire has learned quickly and will be put on shift in August. Mr. Price noted that the rehabilitation work on the filters was completed with Filters B and C completed in June and Filter A was completed in July. All filters have gone through at least one production cycle and backwash procedure. The filter media looked good during all backwash cycles.

Chairman Davenport asked if a high-rate study could commence soon now that the filters have had their work completed. Mr. Price indicated that the intent would be to start that study soon, but a conversation with DHEC (now called the Department of Environmental Services "DES") about the study is planned during their visit next week. Mr. Price discussed the logistical challenges the study may pose due to mimicking production levels at higher rates.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Strategic Plan Update

Mr. Field reported that the Directors met with representatives from Raftelis on July 15, 2024, to review the Strategic Plan Framework including priorities, strategies, and key performance indicators (KPIs). Mr. Field noted that the plan is a three to five year working plan and reported he is pleased with the progress and direction of the process. Mr. Field also reported that the Policy Committee will be meeting in August to review the Draft Plan in detail. LCWSC will also work closely with Raftelis to develop a one-page document that summarizes and outlines the final plan.

2. LCWSC Project Update

Mr. Field and Mr. Mattison shared a power point presentation detailing the most current updates to the water and sewer projects that are either in design or construction.

Water Projects include:

Metric Road Elevated Tank and Waterline

The project consists of two main components:

- One million gallon elevated water tank
- 5.3 miles (29,500 ft) of 16-inch waterline

Estimated Construction Start:	August 2024
Estimated Completion:	August 2026
Original Estimated cost:	\$14,384,000
• GO Bond	\$5.1M
• EDA	\$5.42M
• LCARPA	\$759,000
• USDA Loan	\$3.1M (\$1.3M)

Water line base bid - McClam & Associates	\$ 6,326,945
Elevated Water Tank -Caldwell Tanks	\$ 4,823,000
Total Bid	\$11,149,945
Engineering, Legal and Misc.	\$ 864,500
Actual Total Project cost:	\$12,014,445

Hospital Zone Water Improvements

This project consists of the following:

- One million gallon elevated water tank
- Two new Booster Pump Stations (BPS)
 - 2000 GPM Cross Hill BPS
 - 1200 Milam Road BPS
- Hospital Zone Waterline Improvements
 - 5900 ft of 12" waterline on Hwy 76
 - 1600 ft of 12" waterline on Medical Ridge Rd.
 - 1400 ft of 12" waterline on Templeton Rd.

Estimated Construction Start:	August 2024
Estimated Construction Completion:	August 2026
Estimated Construction Cost	\$ 9,321,000
Engineering	\$ 738,000
SCIIP Funding	\$ 7,922,850
LCWSC Funds	\$ 2,136,150
Awarded to date:	
Elevated Water Tank Caldwell Tanks	\$ 4,437,400
Hospital Zone Waterline	\$ 1,525,498

Sewer Projects include:

ISO Parkway Sewer System Upgrade

Project consists of the following:

- Upsize existing 125 GPM lift station to 350 GPM (Expandable to 500 GPM) lift station
- 12,000 ft 8" force main.

Projected Completion:	August 2024
Project Cost:	\$4,061,250
	<i>85% funded through multiple agencies/industry</i>
LCWSC Funds:	\$ 656,354

Project is in operation, will be completed once road work is finished.

Clinton/Joanna WWTP Sewer Biosolids Upgrade

Project consists of the following:

- 750,000 Gallon Tank
- Blower and aeration system
- Big Bubble Mixing System

Projected Start Date:	December 2023
Projected Completion:	August 2024
Budget:	\$4,074,423
• SRF Grant	\$1,000,000
• CDBG	\$1,500,000
• CDBG Additional	\$ 850,000
• LCWSC Funds	\$ 724,423
	(includes local match, engineering, COG and permitting fees)

Phase 2 (Construction of second tank)

Budget:	\$1,780,000
CDBG	\$1,618,000
LCWSC Funds	\$ 162,000

Upper Laurens County Sewer Lift Station Upgrades

Project consists of the following:

- Connexial Force Main Upgrade to 6”
- Owings Lift Station Upgrade to 1300 GPM
- Reedy Creek Lift Station Upgrade to 1300 GPM
- Sullivans Road Lift Station to be taken off-line with ReWa South Durbin Project

Projected Start Date:	In Design
Estimated Construction Cost	\$1,816,800
Engineering	\$ 92,000
Total:	\$1,908,800

Funded through Laurens County Development Corporation

Clinton Area Sewer Lift Station Upgrades

Project consists of the following:

- Millers Fork - 1,400 GPM @ 145-FT TDH (pump upgrade)
- Sand Creek - 800 gpm @ 274-ft TDH (pump replacement and wet well rehabilitation)
- 11,000 LF of force main replacement with 16-inch (Millers fork)
- Replacement of Comminutor with automated screening

Projected Start Date:	January 2025
Projected Completion Date:	January 2026
Estimated Cost:	\$3,894,500
USDA Loan	\$3,900,000

NEW BUSINESS

1. Drought Status Update

Mr. Price shared a power point presentation reviewing our Drought Response Plan. Mr. Price reviewed the indicators developed to determine when and how to respond to drought conditions. Mr. Price shared slides of the current drought status across South Carolina reporting our county’s status is currently moderate; however, the South Carolina Drought Response Committee’s next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 24, 2024, and with the recent evening rain showers the status could change. Mr. Price also shared information summarizing Scenario Demands and Safe Yield levels for Lake Greenwood and reported that our water supply is very dependable. Mr. Price will continue to monitor the drought status and will report any impactful changes as needed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

1. Legal Matters related to PFAS/PFOS

Commissioner Young **MOVED** that the Board of Commissioners **enter Executive Session at 10:15 a.m.** **MOTION SECONDED** by Commissioner L. Byrd, Jr. **MOTION CARRIED.** AYES, 6; NAYS, 0.

Commissioner J. Byrd, Jr. **MOVED** that the Board of Commissioners **return to Regular Session at 10:44 a.m.** **MOTION SECONDED** by Commissioner Young **MOTION CARRIED.** AYES, 6; NAYS, 0.

OTHER BUSINESS


None

ADJOURN

Commissioner Curry **MOVED to adjourn the Board of Commissioners meeting. MOTION SECONDED** by Commissioner Young. **MOTION CARRIED.** AYES, 6; NAYS, 0.

There being no further business, the Commission meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

I certify that the above Minutes accurately reflect the business conducted at the Commission meeting on July 23, 2024, and that the minutes were approved at the August 27, 2024, meeting.


Jurell Byrd, Jr., Secretary