



## LAURENS COUNTY WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION

## MINUTES

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

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### **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:**

Allen Wham

### **PRESS:**

None

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Davenport called the meeting to order at 9:18 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 February 25, 2025, minutes as submitted to the Commissioners. None were submitted.

Commissioner L. Byrd, Jr. **MOVED** that the February 25, 2025, minutes be approved as submitted. **MOTION SECONDED** by Commissioner Young **MOTION CARRIED**. AYES, 7; NAYS, 0.

### **CHAIRMAN REMARKS**

Chairman Davenport opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and expressing his appreciation for the Employee Recognition Breakfast stating it was a rewarding time to recognize the folks that serve us.

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REMARKS**

Mr. Field welcomed everyone and thanked Directors Medlock and Nelson and Executive Assistant Riley for their organization of the Employee Recognition Breakfast.

### **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 February 28, 2025, LCWSC had a total of \$7,259,939 in cash for operating and reserve funds as compared to \$7,076,626 this time in FY24. As of February 28, 2025, LCWSC was awaiting an LCDC reimbursement of \$9,039.40 and an RIA reimbursement of \$5,600. This means the total cash balance would be \$7,274,579.

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 February 2025, LCWSC had received \$42,376 in contributed capital grants for Administration, \$1,401,714 for Wastewater Treatment, \$50,000 for Wastewater Collection, and \$1,711,972 for Water Distribution. Thus far, in FY25, a total of \$3,206,062 has been received in contributed capital grants. Future grant funds that are committed are for the following projects: Water and Sewer Infrastructure Master Plan RIA project, WWTP Sludge CDBG / SRF project, WWTP Sludge CDBG project, Metric Road Elevated Water Tank EDA project, SCIIP Hospital Area Water System Improvements project, and RIA Milam Road Booster Pump Supply Line Improvements project.

As of February 2025, there was \$84,641 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 February 2025 was 128 GPD. On average, each customer uses 134 GPD over a 12-month period.

Mr. Field shared the precipitation graph, noting that in February FY25, the rainfall was 3.36 inches in February FY25, which is 0.35 inches above that of February FY24, 0.89 inches below that of February

FY23, and 0.62 inches above the norm for February. 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 then recognized Mr. Mattison to review the work order summary. Mr. Mattison reported that fifty-six new water taps, and thirty-five new sewer taps were installed in February 2025. Mr. Mattison 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 16,988,829 gallons, which is a decrease of 1,103,725 gallons over the previous 12-month average. The target for unaccounted water is less than 19,500,000 gallons.

In February 2025, there were six main line leak work orders; three were repaired within two weeks, and three repaired 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 later than four weeks. As of February 2025, there were seven active service line leaks over two weeks old and nine active main line leaks open over two weeks old.

Mr. Price provided an update on the Lake Greenwood Water Treatment Facility (LGWTF), reporting that in February 2025, the facility pumped 58.212 MG of raw water and treated 51.399 MGD. Mr. Price also reported that we would be applying for a SRF Principal Forgiveness Loan related to emerging contaminants to fund a study on PFAS levels in Lake Greenwood's water and the potential costs of removal to meet the newly proposed standards. Additional updates included ongoing maintenance and repairs on the Air Scour System. He also noted that the temporary workaround measures for the filters are in place and performing well. Mr. Field added that these and other maintenance needs at LGWTF have prompted discussions about adding a full-time maintenance position. Mr. Price also discussed the ongoing proactive and coordinated sampling, as well as data sharing with Greenwood, to monitor MIB/Geosmin levels in Lake Greenwood and determine the facility's ozone dosing process. Mr. Price concluded his remarks with an update on LGWTF operators, stating that Mr. Bell, one of the trainees, has been moved to the night shift to begin acclimating to the schedule of an operator. Additionally, the pre-apprentices will begin shadowing the Field Services team to gain a broader understanding of the different focus areas within our operations.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. ReWa Easement Request**

Mr. Field provided details on ReWa's request for an easement from LCWSC to extend gravity sewer lines from the Sullivan Road Lift Station to the ReWa South Durbin sewer trunk line. He explained that the project, along with upgrades made to LCWSC's Reedy Creek and Owings sewer lift stations, would benefit LCWSC by increasing overall sewer capacity to serve ongoing growth in northern Laurens. He concluded by noting that the request will need approval at the next Commission Meeting due to an inconsistency in the documents submitted by ReWa.

### **2. Overview of Customer Survey**

Mr. Field presented a draft of the Customer Survey, developed in collaboration with Raftelis, the consulting group that assisted with the Strategic Plan adopted in August 2024. The survey was identified as a key performance indicator to help ensure continued excellence in service.

The survey is scheduled to start in early April and conclude by the end of May. Customers will be notified through a message on their utility bill and an insert. Additionally, the survey will be promoted via LCWSC's social media channels and media partners.

### **3. Lake Rabon Department of Environmental Services (DES) Study**

Mr. Price provided an update on the South Carolina Department of Environmental Services (DES) monitoring and study of Harmful Algal Blooms (HAB) in designated water sources in South Carolina, noting that Lake Rabon was identified as one of the sites with elevated levels. The study, which will be conducted at no cost to LCWSC, will include sampling, evaluation of potential triggers, potential treatment testing, and coordination of data with Laurens CPW, as they also utilize Lake Rabon as their source water supply.

Mr. Price concluded by emphasizing that the study will support adaptive management strategies based on real-time data and evolving conditions such as more frequent drought conditions.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Commissioner Hollingsworth MOVED *that the Board of Commissioners enter Executive Session at 10:44 a.m.* **MOTION SECONDED** by Commissioner Young **MOTION CARRIED**. AYES,7; NAYS, 0.

1. Legal Matters related to PFAS/PFOS
2. Contractual matter for Engineering Services related to Emergency Response

Commissioner L. Byrd, Jr. MOVED *that the Board of Commissioners return to Open Session at 11:25 a.m.* **MOTION SECONDED** by Commissioner J. Byrd, Jr. **MOTION CARRIED**. AYES,7; NAYS, 0.

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

Commissioner L. Byrd, Jr. MOVED *that the Board of Commissioners authorize LCWSC to enter into a Master Service Agreement with GMC for Emergency Management Services* **MOTION SECONDED** by Commissioner Young **MOTION CARRIED**. AYES,7; NAYS, 0.

Commissioner S. Curry MOVED *that the Board of Commissioners authorize LCWSC to enter into an Emergency Management Services Agreement for Hurricane Helene Relief Efforts not to exceed \$50,000* **MOTION SECONDED** by Commissioner L. Byrd, Jr. **MOTION CARRIED**. AYES,7; NAYS, 0.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

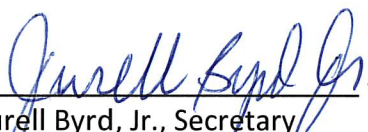
Mr. Field reported that the Laurens County Citizens Zoning Task Force will hold district meetings in each Laurens County Council district. The first meeting is scheduled for District I and will take place at the Fountain Inn Activity Center on Thursday, April 10, 2025, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. He noted that he, along with available Directors and staff plan to attend and encouraged Commissioners to participate, particularly when meetings are held in their respective districts.

#### **ADJOURN**

Commissioner L. Byrd, Jr. MOVED *to adjourn the Board of Commissioners meeting* at 11:31 a.m. **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 March 25, 2025, and that the minutes were approved at the April 22, 2025, meeting.

  
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Jurell Byrd, Jr., Secretary