



MINUTES

LAURENS COUNTY WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION

Board of Commissioners Meeting

3850 Highway 221S, Laurens, SC 29360

Training Rooms 1 and 2

April 28, 2026

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

None

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Davenport called the meeting to order at 8:21 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 March 24, 2026, minutes as submitted to the Commissioners. None were submitted.

Commissioner L. Byrd, Jr. MOVED that the March 24, 2026, minutes be approved as submitted. MOTION SECONDED by Commissioner Young. MOTION CARRIED. AYES, 7; NAYS, 0.

CHAIRMAN REMARKS

Chairman Davenport thanked everyone for their attendance and welcomed Vic MacDonald. He also expressed his appreciation for the rain.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REMARKS

Mr. Field welcomed everyone and expressed his appreciation for the rain as well.

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 March 31, 2026, LCWSC had a total operating and reserve cash of \$8,964,139, verses \$7,532,116 at this point in FY25 and \$7,996,596 on February 28, 2026. As of March 31, 2026, LCWSC was awaiting a Town of Gray Court reimbursement of \$15,000, a Carolina Power reimbursement for Andrews Road of \$178,712, and a FEMA reimbursement of \$277,070. In addition, LCWSC received \$481,612 in SCIP funds for the Hospital Area Water System Improvements project on March 27, 2026, but the contractor payments were not disbursed until April 1, 2026. This means the total cash balance would be \$8,953,310.

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.

Mr. Field reported that as of March 2026, LCWSC had received a total of \$8,722,477 in contributed capital grants for FY26, broken down as follows: \$8,656 for Administration, \$1,653,747 for Wastewater Treatment, \$175,120 for Wastewater Collections, and \$6,884,953 for Water Distribution. He further noted that additional grant funds remain committed for several capital improvement projects, including the 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 March 2026, customer-paid line extensions totaled \$95,541.

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 March 2026 was 117 GPD. He further reported that the twelve-month average residential usage was 134 GPD.

Mr. Field shared the precipitation graph, noting that rainfall was 1.69 inches in March FY26, which is 0.84 inches below that of March FY25, 4.71 inches below that of March FY24, and 2.63 inches below the norm for March. 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 March 2026. As of March 2026, 666 water services have been installed; 198 services in non-subdivision areas and 468 services in subdivisions. Of this total, eighty services were installed in March.

With respect to wastewater services, Mr. Field reported that 437 sewer services had been installed as of March 2026: five services in non-subdivision areas and 432 sewer services in subdivisions. Of this total, fifty-seven new sewer services were installed in March.

Mr. Field further reported that during March 2026, three lateral leak work orders were repaired within two weeks, one repaired within two to four weeks, and five repaired later than four weeks. During the same period, fourteen main line leak work orders were repaired within two weeks, two repaired withing two to four weeks, and three repaired later than four weeks.

As of March 2026, there were three active service line leaks over two weeks old and seven active main line leaks over two weeks old.

Mr. Mattison reported on water purchases and presented the rolling average water audit. The rolling 12-month average for non-revenue (unaccounted) water is 15,383,376 gallons, which is a decrease of 78,975 gallons over the previous 12-month average. The target for unaccounted water is less than 19,500,000 gallons.

Mr. Price provided an update on the Lake Greenwood Water Treatment Facility, reporting that during March 2026 the facility pumped 69.964 million gallons of raw water and treated 62.171 million gallons. Mr. Price presented an update on South Carolina's current drought status,

noting that all 46 counties are classified as being in moderate drought by the State Drought Response Committee. He stated that the current, as well as forecasted rainfall is expected to influence conditions reviewed at the next Drought Response Committee meeting, scheduled for Thursday, April 30, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Resolution – Affirming Legacy Sewer Taps

Mr. Field provided a history and summary of the proposed resolution ratifying LCWSC's long-standing policy regarding responsibility for legacy sewer taps, including those associated with the former Joanna and Lydia Mill sewer systems. He explained that while LCWSC and its predecessor accepted ownership of certain sewer mains and related public collection infrastructure, individual service taps, laterals, and other customer-specific connections installed prior to LCWSC standards were not accepted as LCWSC's responsibility. The resolution clarifies that property owners are responsible for failed or noncompliant legacy taps and service connections, establishes conditions for replacement and reconnection, and provides that once a connection is repaired or replaced to LCWSC specifications and approved by LCWSC, it will thereafter be maintained in accordance with the Commission's standard practices.

Commissioner L. Byrd, Jr. MOVED that the Board of Commissioners approve the proposed resolution as presented. MOTION SECONDED by Commissioner Young. MOTION CARRIED. AYES, 7; NAYS, 0.

NEW BUSINESS

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner O'Dell MOVED to enter Executive Session at 9:29 a.m. to discuss contractual matters related to the Lake Rabon Water Withdrawal Agreement with Laurens CPW. MOTION SECONDED by Commissioner L. Byrd, Jr. MOTION CARRIED. AYES, 7; NAYS, 0.

Commissioner O'Dell, Jr. MOVED to return to open session at 10:01 a.m. MOTION SECONDED by Commissioner L. Byrd, Jr. MOTION CARRIED. AYES, 7; NAYS, 0.

No action was taken upon returning to open session.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs. Riley and Mr. Field shared information regarding upcoming community events and provided updates on several current events involving LCWSC's partners.

ADJOURN

Commissioner Hollingsworth MOVED to adjourn the meeting. MOTION SECONDED by Commissioner Young. MOTION CARRIED. AYES, 7; NAYS, 0. The meeting was adjourned at 10:31 a.m.

A RESOLUTION

CODIFYING AND FORMALLY RATIFYING LONG-STANDING POLICY ESTABLISHING RESPONSIBILITY FOR LEGACY TAPS, INCLUDING TAPS WITHIN THE FORMER JOANNA AND LYDIA MILL SEWER SYSTEMS, AND PROVIDING CONDITIONS FOR SERVICE AND RECONNECTION; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO

WHEREAS, Laurens County Water and Sewer Commission (“LCWSC”) is a public body and special purpose district of the State of South Carolina, duly organized and existing under the laws of the State of South Carolina; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. §§ 6-11-410 and 6-15-60, LCWSC is authorized to acquire, construct, own, operate, and maintain water and sewer systems and to fix, charge, and collect rates, fees, and other charges, and to prescribe rules and regulations governing the use of such systems and the provision of services; and

WHEREAS, LCWSC is further authorized under S.C. Code Ann. § 6-11-420 to do all acts necessary or convenient for the exercise of its powers, including establishing reasonable terms and conditions for the provision of utility service and the protection of its system and ratepayers; and

WHEREAS, LCWSC is governed by its duly appointed Board of Commissioners, which is vested with the authority to establish policies, adopt rules and regulations, and set rates and conditions of service for the operation of the Commission; and

WHEREAS, LCWSC is charged with protecting the public health, safety, and welfare by providing reliable and properly functioning sanitary sewer service within its service area; and

WHEREAS, Certain sewer collection infrastructure presently operated by LCWSC was conveyed to its predecessor, Laurens County Water Resources Commission, by Joanna Water and Sewer Company, Inc., by deed dated July 14, 1977, and recorded July 15, 1977, in Deed Book 213, at Page 799, in the Office of the Clerk of Court for Laurens County, South Carolina, and an easement transferring rights necessary for the maintenance and operation of the system was also conveyed to the commission by instrument dated July 14, 1977, and recorded August 4, 1977, in Deed Book 214, at Page 103, in the Office of the Clerk of Court for Laurens County, South Carolina; and

WHEREAS, Additional sewer collection infrastructure presently operated by LCWSC was conveyed to its predecessor, Laurens County Water Resources Commission, by Clinton Mills, Incorporated, by Title To Sewer System, dated September 25, 1979, and recorded October 10, 1979, in Deed Book 220, at Page 739, in the Office of the Clerk of Court for Laurens County, South Carolina, which instrument conveyed a sewage collection and disposal system together with associated easements and rights-of-way for maintenance, repair, and operation; and

WHEREAS, the sewer systems conveyed by the foregoing 1977 and 1979 instruments, together with similar legacy infrastructure accepted under comparable circumstances, are collectively referred to herein as the “Legacy Systems” for purposes of this Resolution; and

WHEREAS, At the time of such conveyances, LCWSC’s predecessor accepted ownership of the sewer mains, manholes, and related public collection infrastructure but did not accept ownership, responsibility, or warranty for individual service taps, laterals, or similar customer-specific connections installed as part of the prior private system; and

WHEREAS, Certain service taps installed prior to January 1, 2001, that were not installed by LCWSC and were not inspected or approved by LCWSC at the time of installation, may exist within the Legacy Systems and, in limited instances, elsewhere within LCWSC’s service area, and such taps are referred to herein as “Legacy Taps”; and

WHEREAS, Such individual service connections are appurtenant to the parcels they serve and, in many cases, were not constructed to LCWSC standards, were not inspected by LCWSC, and are subject to failure due to age, condition, or design; and

WHEREAS, LCWSC has determined, when necessary, that property owners repair or replace failed or noncompliant service connections to ensure the integrity and proper functioning of the public sewer system, prevent inflow, infiltration, and system failures, and avoid imposing the cost of private infrastructure deficiencies upon the general body of ratepayers; and

WHEREAS, LCWSC has historically and consistently applied a policy establishing that property owners are responsible for the repair or replacement of Legacy Taps and other noncompliant service connections not installed or accepted by LCWSC, after which LCWSC assumes responsibility for maintenance of newly installed connections in accordance with its standard practices; and

WHEREAS, LCWSC has determined that continuation of this policy is necessary to ensure the integrity and proper functioning of the public sewer system, prevent inflow, infiltration, and system failures, and avoid imposing the cost of private infrastructure deficiencies upon the general body of ratepayers; and

WHEREAS, LCWSC is authorized under S.C. Code Ann. § 6-15-70 to establish billing practices and enforce payment obligations related to sewer services, and under S.C. Code Ann. § 6-11-410 to establish reasonable conditions for the provision and continuation of service; and

WHEREAS, LCWSC finds that a functional and compliant service connection is a necessary condition precedent to the provision or restoration of sewer service and that payment of lawful charges associated with such service is a reasonable condition of reconnection.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE LAURENS COUNTY WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION:

Section 1. Definitions

(a) “Service Tap” or “Tap”

The physical connection point between LCWSC’s sewer main and the service lateral serving an individual parcel, including all fittings and appurtenances necessary to convey wastewater from the parcel to the public system. NOTE: Prior to 2001, all customers had to hire a private contractor and pay full price to make sewer taps. After this date LCWSC charged a tap fee and made the tap, many times at a cost greater than the tap fee.

(b) “Service Lateral”

The piping and related components extending from a structure on a parcel to the service tap at or near the public sewer main. NOTE: Service Laterals are owned by and are the responsibility of the customer.

(c) “Legacy Systems”

The sewer collection systems originally constructed and operated as private systems and conveyed to LCWSC or its predecessor, including without limitation those systems conveyed by instruments recorded in Deed Book 213, Page 799 (1977) and Deed Book 220, Page 739 (1979), together with associated infrastructure not constructed or accepted under LCWSC standards.

(d) “Compliant Connection”

A service tap made on or after 2001 and/or service lateral that has been installed, repaired, or replaced in accordance with LCWSC specifications, inspected by LCWSC, and approved for service.

(e) “Legacy Tap”

Any service tap installed prior to January 1, 2001 that was not installed by LCWSC or was not inspected or approved by LCWSC at the time of installation.

Section 2. Customer Responsibility for Legacy Connections

Property owners with Legacy Taps, including, but not limited to, those within Legacy Systems, shall be responsible for:

- (a) Legacy Taps; and
- (b) the repair or replacement of any failed or noncompliant service taps, service laterals, or related connections that were not originally installed or accepted by LCWSC, including those within the Legacy Systems.

LCWSC will charge a “new” tap fee to remake the tap, currently \$1,500. Any out-of-pocket construction cost above the tap fee will be absorbed by LCWSC. If the customer

also replaces the service lateral at or near the time the tap is remade, LCWSC will refund \$500 of the tap fee to go toward the cost of the service lateral. This refund is given regardless of the out-pocket-cost charged to LCWSC for making the new tap.

Section 3. Condition of Service

Upon failure or noncompliance of a service connection, a Compliant Connection, including replacement of any Legacy Tap where applicable, shall be a condition precedent to the provision or continuation of sewer service.

LCWSC reserves the right to disconnect water and sewer service where a service connection has failed, is noncompliant, or where its continued use results in or contributes to inflow or infiltration into the sewer system, environmental contamination, unauthorized discharge, or other conditions that threaten the integrity of the sewer system or the public health, safety, and welfare.

Requirements for reconnection are set forth in Section 6.

Section 4. Replacement and Assumption of Responsibility

Upon repair or replacement of any Legacy Tap or other noncompliant service tap or connection, such work shall be performed in accordance with all applicable LCWSC specifications, standards, and inspection requirements, and shall be subject to review and approval by LCWSC prior to the initiation or continuation of service.

Upon inspection and approval by LCWSC, the repaired or replaced service connection shall thereafter be deemed a Compliant Connection. From and after such approval, LCWSC shall assume responsibility for maintenance of the connection consistent with its standard system practices; provided, however, that LCWSC shall not be responsible for defects arising from improper installation, misuse, unauthorized modification, or conditions beyond LCWSC's control.

Nothing herein shall be construed to obligate LCWSC to repair or replace any Legacy Tap or noncompliant service connection at its expense, nor to assume responsibility for any portion of a service connection prior to its inspection and approval as a Compliant Connection

Section 5. Uniform Application

The policies and requirements set forth in this Resolution shall be applied uniformly and consistently to all similarly situated properties and customers within LCWSC's service area, including those within the Legacy Systems and those with Legacy Taps located elsewhere.

LCWSC expressly finds that uniform enforcement of these requirements is necessary to ensure equitable treatment among ratepayers, to prevent the shifting of private

infrastructure costs to the general body of customers, and to protect the financial integrity and operational reliability of the public sewer system.

No waiver, variance, or exception to these requirements shall be granted except upon a determination by the Board of Commissioners that such action is justified by unique circumstances and is consistent with the public interest, and any such action shall not be deemed to establish a precedent or impair the continued uniform application of this Resolution

Section 6. Reconnection After Discontinuance

In the event service has been discontinued for nonpayment or failure to comply with LCWSC requirements, LCWSC may require, as conditions of reconnection:

- i. Payment in full of all outstanding charges associated with the account;
- ii. Payment of any costs associated with repair or replacement of a Legacy Tap or other noncompliant service connection; and
- iii. Payment of any applicable reconnection fees, service initiation fees, or deposit requirements.

Section 7. No Assumption of Prior Infrastructure

Nothing herein shall be construed as acceptance by LCWSC of responsibility for any service connections or infrastructure not expressly installed or accepted by LCWSC.

Section 8. Ratification of Existing Practices

This Resolution is intended to codify, clarify, and formally ratify LCWSC's longstanding policy and practices establishing responsibility for Legacy Taps and other service connections within the Legacy System and elsewhere and shall be applied prospectively and to the extent consistent with prior actions.

Section 9. Severability

If any provision of this Resolution, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance, is held invalid or unenforceable, such invalidity shall not affect the other provisions or applications of this Resolution, which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application.

Section 10. Effective Date

This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption by the Board of Commissioners.

ADOPTED this 28th day of April, 2026.

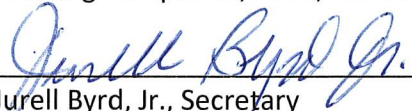
LAURENS COUNTY WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION

By: Thomas E. Day
Chairman

Attest: Annell Lynn
Secretary

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 April 28, 2026, and that the minutes were approved at the May 26, 2026, meeting.



Jurell Byrd, Jr., Secretary