



LAURENS COUNTY WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION

MINUTES

Board of Commissioners Meeting

3850 Highway 221S, Laurens, SC 29360

July 29, 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:

Catherine Carter, Raftelis
Stuart Lamar, Border States
John Raiford, GMC

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 June 24, 2025, minutes as submitted to the Commissioners. None were submitted.

Commissioner Young **MOVED** *that the June 24, 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 welcoming everyone and wishing a Happy Birthday to Jurell whose birthday was the day before. He also shared remarks about the graveside service for T/Sgt. Clarence E. Gibbs, the great uncle of LCWSC employee Cindy Sanders, noting how moving and poignant the ceremony was. He expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to attend and pay his respect. Additionally, he acknowledged Vic McDonald's contributions to the community and encouraged everyone to attend the upcoming Business After Hours event honoring Vic's 50 years in the newspaper industry.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REMARKS

Mr. Field acknowledged the role LCWSC personnel played in supporting the recent services for T/Sgt. Clarence E. Gibbs, the great uncle of employee Cindy Sanders. He commended Cindy's dedication to honoring her great uncle's memory and expressed his appreciation for the respectful and meaningful support shown by staff during the service. He also recognized Vic McDonald's long-standing contributions to the community and expressed his appreciation of Mr. McDonald's coverage of LCWSC. Finally, he congratulated Mr. Price on his new role as a grandfather and welcomed the guests from Border States, GMC, and Raftelis.

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, 2025, LCWSC had a total of \$6,925,957 in cash for operating and reserve funds as compared to \$7,628,974 this time in FY24. The overall cash position dropped by \$1,768,109 from the May 2025 balance of \$8,694,066. This drop was due to the Greenville Water Capacity purchase of \$806,000 and the \$901,320 in EDA funds that elevated the May balance, which was paid out on the Metric Road project in June.

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 also noted that the wastewater treatment operating expenses are elevated due to the disaster recovery expenses related to Hurricane Helene.

Mr. Field noted that as of June 2025, LCWSC has received \$78,381 in contributed capital grants for Administration, \$1,736,983 for Wastewater Treatment, \$50,000 for Wastewater Collection, and \$7,311,262 for Water Distribution. Thus far, in FY25, a total of \$9,176,626 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 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 recently awarded Joanna CDBG project.

As of June 2025, there was \$420,471 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 June 2025 was 133 GPD. On average, each customer uses 134 GPD over a 12-month period.

Mr. Field shared the precipitation graph, noting that in June FY25, the rainfall was 3.92 inches which is 0.87 inches above that of June FY24, 3.60 inches below that of June FY23, and 1.17 inches above 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 reported that seventy-nine new water taps, and thirty-nine new sewer taps were installed in June 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 16,807,731 gallons, which is an increase of 1,635,363 gallons over the previous 12-month average. The target for unaccounted water is less than 19,500,000 gallons.

In June 2025, there were eleven main line leak work orders; eight were repaired within two weeks, one repaired within two to four weeks, and two repaired later than four weeks. There were six lateral line leak work orders: three were repaired within two weeks, two repaired withing two to four weeks, and one later than four weeks. As of June 2025, there were three active service line leaks over two weeks old and three active main line leaks over two weeks old.

Mr. Price provided an update on the Lake Greenwood Water Treatment Facility (LGWTF), reporting that in June 2025, the facility pumped 73.183 MG of raw water and treated 66.777 MG. Mr. Price reported that things are running well and that we have hired two additional operators.

NEW BUSINESS

None

OLD BUSINESS

1. LCWSC Customer Survey Results

Mr. Field introduced Catherine Carter from Raftelis to present the results of the Customer Survey, noting that conducting a Customer Survey was one of the Action Items identified during the strategic planning process to help measure the current performance of our organization as observed by customers.

Mrs. Carter then presented a Power Point presentation noting the highlights of the survey explaining that the survey consisted of multiple-choice questions with opportunities for written feedback, covering general topics such as customer service, billing and account management, water quality, field services, and overall awareness of the utility. The survey was available from April 21 to May 23, 2025, and was promoted through customer utility bill messages and inserts, social media, local advertising, and an email campaign.

A total of 257 responses were received. The average survey respondent was over the age of 55, lived in Laurens County and been an LCWSC customer for ten or more years, lived in a two-three-person household, and made less than \$100,000 per year. Results showed that approximately 70% of participants were either very satisfied or satisfied with water quality, and 65% agreed that LCWSC provides safe drinking water. Furthermore, 74% of respondents identified replacing aging infrastructure as a top priority followed by the expansion of fire protection and hydrants. Mrs. Carter also shared opportunities for improvements identified in the survey as well as current strengths.

Mrs. Carter concluded her presentation by expressing her appreciation for the opportunity to work with LCWSC staff on this project.

2. Update to LCWSC 25-Year Capital Improvements Masterplan

Mr. Field introduced John Raiford from GMC to provide details of the updated 25 Year Capital Improvements Plan. Mr. Raiford explained the plan is in an overall water and sewer masterplan, which includes planning goals and objectives based on a desired level of service, water and sewer demand projections assuming a 1.5% population growth in LCWSC service area, replacement of aging infrastructure, existing infrastructure capabilities, capital needs and associated costs to address any deficiencies, funding sources and any risks associated with regulatory or market conditions. The over 300-page plan developed includes both short-term and long-term projects with emphasis on facilities and supporting infrastructure to meet community needs in a sustainable and financially viable manner. Mr. Raiford presented a Power Point presentation providing an overview of the plan which includes the following capital improvements:

Water system improvements

- 34 Capital Projects
- 62 Miles of Pipe
- 5.5 MG of Storage
- 6 Pump Upgrades
- 5.7 MGD to 9 MGD Supply capacity

Wastewater system improvements

- 27 Sewer Projects
- 15 Pump Station Upgrades
- 39k additional acres served
- 3 pump station eliminations
- 2.75 MGD to 4.75 MGD treatment capacity

Mr. Raiford then presented the potential costs associated with the full plan, broken down by utility, and outlined grant opportunities to support funding. He emphasized that all projects, cost estimates, and potential funding sources are subject to change based on a variety of factors, including the actual pace of county growth, fluctuations in the economy, and changes in the cost of services. The study identified water system improvements with an estimated cost of \$182,402,300 and wastewater system improvements estimated at \$152,333,031 for a total cost of \$334,735,331. Based on the current analysis, potential grant funding and developer contributions is estimated at \$179,353,750, leaving approximately \$155,381,581 to be funded by the utility either through cash reserves or bonds.

Mr. Field expressed his appreciation to Mr. Raiford and GMC for their assistance in developing the plan, as well as to the members of the Capital Improvements Committee for their time and contributions. He explained that while the plan will be updated as needed, it is intended to serve as a guiding document reflecting the current state of the system and outlining necessary improvements to maintain service, support potential growth, system demands, and other influencing factors. He emphasized that the plan positions LCWSC to meet future needs while also maintaining and improving the existing system.

Mr. Field requested the Commissioners approve the plan as presented.

Commissioner L. Byrd, Jr. *MOVED to approve the LCWSC 25-Year Capital Improvements Masterplan,*
MOTION SECONDED by Commissioner Young **MOTION CARRIED.** AYES,7; NAYS, 0.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

ADJOURN

Commissioner L. Byrd, Jr. *MOVED to adjourn the Board of Commissioners meeting at 10:51 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 July 29, 2025, and that the minutes were approved at the August 26, 2025, meeting.



Bill Teague, Vice-Chairman