



MINUTES

LAURENS COUNTY WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION

Board of Commissioners Meeting

3850 Highway 221S, Laurens, SC 29360

Training Rooms 1 and 2

August 25, 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

GUEST(S)

None

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Davenport called the meeting to order at 8:20 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 July 28, 2026, minutes as submitted to the Commissioners. None were submitted.

Commissioner L. Byrd, Jr. MOVED that the July 28, 2026, minutes be approved as submitted. MOTION SECONDED by Commissioner Young. MOTION CARRIED. AYES, 7; NAYS, 0.

CHAIRMAN REMARKS

Chairman Davenport welcomed everyone including Vic McDonald and stated he looked forward to hearing the project update.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REMARKS

Mr. Field also welcomed everyone.

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 July 31, 2026, LCWSC had total operating and reserve cash of \$9,382,038, compared with \$7,060,787 at the same point in FY26 and \$8,872,334 on June 30, 2026. LCWSC was awaiting reimbursements of \$542,280 from the U.S. Economic Development Administration, \$41,741 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, \$17,220 from the State Revolving Fund, and \$4,000 from the Town of Gray Court. LCWSC also received \$310,670 in SCIIP funds for the Hospital Area Water System Improvements project on July 31, 2026; however, the related contractor payments were not disbursed until August 5, 2026. Accounting for the pending reimbursements and the timing of the SCIIP disbursements, the total cash balance would be \$9,676,609.

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. The target percentage of the annual budget for July was 8.3 percent. Combined operating revenue was 8.9 percent, operating expenses were 7.7 percent, capital revenue was 14.6 percent, and capital expenses were 10.5 percent.

Mr. Field reported that as of July 2026, LCWSC had received \$394,070 in contributed capital grants for FY27, all of which was attributed to Water Distribution. He further noted that additional grant funds remain committed for the SCIIP Hospital Area Water System Improvements project; Emerging Contaminants Study SRF projects; WWTP EQ Basin and Clarifiers SRF project; Joanna CDBG project; Lake Greenwood Water Treatment Facility Clearwell Congressional Appropriation; Bush River Gravity Sewer Rehabilitation SRF project; Lake Greenwood Water Treatment Facility Emerging Contaminants Pilot Testing SRF project; and Beards Fork Force Main Replacement CDBG project.

As of July 2026, customer-paid residential line extensions totaled \$23,100, and industrial and developer-paid line extensions totaled \$25,455.

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 July 2026 was 177 GPD. He further reported that the twelve-month average residential usage was 145 GPD.

Mr. Field shared the precipitation graph, noting that rainfall was 3.57 inches in July FY27, which was 0.58 inches above July FY26, 3.19 inches below July FY25, and 0.18 inches above the historical norm for July. 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 July 2026. As of July 31, 2026, 81 water services had been installed during FY27: seventeen services in non-subdivision areas and sixty-four services in subdivisions. All eighty-one services were installed in July.

With respect to wastewater services, Mr. Field reported that forty-seven sewer services had been installed as of July 31, 2026: two services in non-subdivision areas and forty-five services in subdivisions. All forty-seven sewer services were installed in July.

Mr. Mattison reported that during July 2026, nine lateral leak work orders were repaired within two weeks, three were repaired within two to four weeks, and none were repaired later than four weeks. During the same period, six main line leak work orders were repaired within two weeks, three were repaired within two to four weeks, and none were repaired later than four weeks.

As of July 2026, there were no active service line leaks and one active main line leak, which was over two weeks old.

Mr. Mattison further reported on water purchases and presented the rolling average water audit, including revenue from water sold, non-revenue unaccounted water, non-revenue authorized consumption, and total water purchased. The rolling twelve-month average for non-revenue unaccounted water was 14,784,993 gallons, a decrease of 324,300 gallons from the previous twelve-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 July 2026 the facility pumped 86.617 million gallons of raw water, treated 78.500 million gallons, and pumped 78.710 million gallons of treated water to the distribution system. A total of 3.900 million gallons was discharged to the lagoons for filter backwashing and sludge blanket blowdowns. He further reported that required monthly reports and samples were completed; analyzers and chemical-feed equipment were serviced; new turbidimeters were installed on Filters A and B; and coordination continued with Hargette LLC regarding PFAS planning and with GMC regarding the new clearwell project.

NEW BUSINESS

None

OLD BUSINESS

1. LCWSC Project Update

Mr. Mattison provided a comprehensive update on LCWSC's active and recently completed capital projects. For each project, he reviewed the scope, current status, projected completion, project cost, remaining balance, and funding sources.

Metric Road Elevated Tank and Waterline Project

- **Scope:** Construction of a one-million-gallon elevated water tank and 5.3 miles (29,500 feet) of 16-inch ductile iron waterline
- **Status:** Approval to operate received April 9, 2026
- **Total Cost:** \$11,994,263
- **Funding Breakdown:**
 - USDA GO Bond: \$5,100,000
 - USDA Revenue Loan: \$1,300,000
 - EDA Grant: \$5,422,800
 - Laurens County ARPA: \$171,463

Hospital Zone Water Improvements (SCIIP Projects)

- **Scope:** Construction of a one-million-gallon elevated water tank, two new booster pump stations, and waterline improvements in the hospital zone
- **Status:**
 - Elevated Tank: Approval to operate received August 3, 2026
 - Remaining Divisions: Booster pump station and waterline work anticipated to be completed in September 2026
- **Estimated Completion:** September 2026
- **Total Cost:** \$11,933,591
- **Funding Breakdown:**
 - SCIIP Grant: \$10,000,000 (Remaining: \$66,625)
 - LCWSC Funds: \$1,933,591 (Remaining: \$439,882)

Milam Road Booster Pump Station Supply Water Main

- **Scope:** Installation of 8,900 feet of 16-inch ductile iron suction-side water main
- **Status:** Tie-ins and tap-overs remaining
- **Estimated Completion:** September 2026
- **Total Cost:** \$2,633,973
- **Funding Breakdown:**
 - RIA Grant: \$1,500,000
 - LCWSC Funds: \$1,133,973 (Remaining: \$796,519)

Clinton/Joanna WWTP Sewer Biosolids Upgrade - Phase 3

- **Scope:** Installation of a 750,000-gallon tank, aeration system, and big-bubble mixing system
- **Status:** Approval to operate received December 12, 2025
- **Total Cost:** \$1,873,996
- **Funding Breakdown:**
 - CDBG Program: \$1,664,000
 - LCWSC Funds: \$209,996

Highway 385 Force Main Replacement

- **Scope:** Replacement of approximately 5,000 feet of six-inch force main with eight-inch force main
- **Estimated Completion:** September 2026
- **Total Cost:** \$302,962
- **Funding Breakdown:**
 - LCWSC Funds: \$302,962

Woodfield Lift Station

- **Scope:** Replacement of pumps, piping, valves, electrical controls, and other station components; cleaning, coating, and structural modifications to the existing wet well; bypass-pumping connections; and reconnection of the existing generator and transfer switch
- **Estimated Completion:** March 2027
- **Estimated Cost:** \$750,000
- **Funding Breakdown:**
 - LCWSC Funds: \$750,000

2.0-Million-Gallon Clearwell

- **Scope:** Design, permitting, bid-phase services, construction, engineering, and inspection for a two-million-gallon clearwell at the Lake Greenwood Water Treatment Facility
- **Estimated Completion:** May 2028
- **Estimated Cost:** \$5,528,000
- **Funding Breakdown:**
 - EPA Community Grant Program: \$4,422,000
 - LCWSC Funds: \$1,106,000

Gray Court Sewer

- **Scope:** Construction of approximately seven hundred linear feet of eight-inch gravity sewer, six mini manholes, one grinder pump station, 480 linear feet of 1.25-inch PVC force main, roadway crossings, future service connections, and a septic system
- **Estimated Completion:** February 2027
- **Estimated Cost:** \$941,958
- **Funding Breakdown:**
 - Town of Gray Court: \$121,499
 - Utility Tax Credit Dollars: \$475,000
 - LCWSC Funds: \$345,459

Beards Fork Lift Station

- **Scope:** Installation of approximately 7,000 linear feet of new force main, rehabilitation of approximately thirty-seven manholes along the Beards Fork Creek trunk sewer line, and replacement of the existing pump controls and starters
- **Estimated Completion:** July 2027
- **Total Cost:** \$1,144,970
- **Funding Breakdown:**
 - CDBG Program: \$999,970
 - LCWSC Funds: \$145,000

Bush River Gravity Sewer Rehabilitation and Flow Monitoring

- **Scope:** Rehabilitation of 149 manholes, repair of five gravity sewer creek crossings, cleaning of approximately 47,000 linear feet of gravity sewer, rehabilitation of existing meter vaults, and installation of new flow meters
- **Estimated Completion:** March 2028
- **Total Cost:** \$1,913,200
- **Funding Breakdown:**
 - SRF Funding: \$1,700,000
 - LCWSC Funds: \$213,200

Upper Laurens County Sewer Lift Station Upgrades

- **Scope:** Upgrade of the Connexial force main to eight inches; upgrades to the Owings and Reedy Creek lift stations; and removal of the Sullivans Road Lift Station from service in conjunction with ReWa's South Durbin project
- **Estimated Completion:** June 2027
- **Total Cost:** \$3,427,150
- **Funding Breakdown:**
 - Commerce, South Carolina Power Team, and Laurens Electric Cooperative: \$3,427,150

Clinton Area Sewer Lift Station Upgrades

- **Scope:** Upgrades to the Millers Fork and Sand Creek lift stations; replacement of approximately 11,000 linear feet of force main with 16-inch force main; and replacement of the comminutor with automated screening
- **Status:** Approval to operate received July 16, 2026
- **Total Cost:** \$4,194,457
- **Funding Breakdown:**
 - USDA Loan: \$3,900,000 (Remaining: \$109,060)
 - LCWSC Funds: \$294,457 (Remaining: \$260,198)

Joanna 2025 CDBG Water and Sewer

- **Scope:**
 - Sewer: Replace, line, or pipe burst 2,752 linear feet of eight-inch gravity sewer; install nine new manholes; rehabilitate four manholes; and replace twenty-one service connections
 - Water: Replace 1,350 linear feet of water main; install five new hydrants; and replace or tap over twenty-one service connections
- **Estimated Completion:** February 2027
- **Total Cost:** \$1,484,511
- **Funding Breakdown:**
 - CDBG Grant: \$1,321,050 (Remaining: \$1,321,050)
 - LCWSC Funds: \$163,461 (Remaining: \$81,086)

Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade

- **Scope:** Installation of four floating aerators and variable-frequency-drive controls at the equalization basin; a new control panel for the return activated sludge pump station; new equipment in Clarifiers 1 and 2; and preliminary design of a peracetic acid disinfection system
- **Estimated Completion:** April 2027
- **Total Estimated Project Cost:** \$2,253,419
- **Funding Breakdown:**
 - SRF Principal Forgiveness: \$1,750,000 (Remaining: \$1,750,000)
 - LCWSC Funds: \$503,419 (Remaining: \$411,050)

Mr. Price then provided an update on the Drinking Water SRF Emerging Contaminants studies, PFAS regulatory uncertainty, and the Lake Rabon safe-yield evaluation.

Drinking Water SRF Emerging Contaminants Study

- **Scope:** Operational evaluation, bench-scale testing, and evaluation of PFAS treatment technologies
- **Status:**
 - Study began September 2025
 - Anticipated study completion: September 2026
 - Final engineering report anticipated: March 2027
- **Total Cost:** \$287,000
- **Funding Breakdown:**
 - 100% SRF Principal Forgiveness: \$287,000 (Remaining: \$154,980)

PFAS Regulatory Uncertainty

- **April 2024 Final Rule:**
 - PFOA and PFOS: 4.0 parts per trillion
 - PFHxS, PFNA, and HFPO-DA (GenX Chemicals): ten parts per trillion
 - Mixtures containing two or more of PFHxS, PFNA, HFPO-DA, and PFBS: hazard index of less than 1
 - Compliance required by 2029
- **Proposed May 2025 Changes (Not Finalized):**
 - Retain the 4.0-parts-per-trillion limits for PFOA and PFOS
 - Remove the individual limits for PFHxS, PFNA, and HFPO-DA and omit the hazard-index requirement
 - Extend the compliance date to 2031

Drinking Water SRF Emerging Contaminants Study Number 2

- **Scope:** Evaluation of emerging-contaminant treatment alternatives, including a granular activated carbon pilot, foam-fractionation pilot, and treatment-alternatives pilot study report
- **Status:**
 - Anticipated study start: January 2027
 - Anticipated study completion: July 2028
 - Final engineering report anticipated: January 2029
- **Total Cost:** \$800,000
- **Funding Breakdown:**
 - 100% SRF Principal Forgiveness: \$800,000

Lake Rabon Safe-Yield Evaluation, Bathymetric Survey, and Water-Supply Assessment

- **Scope:** Development of a high-resolution bathymetric model; update of reservoir storage characteristics; assessment of watershed hydrology and water availability; and determination of a technically defensible long-term safe yield
- **Status:**
 - Qualifications due September 11, 2026
 - Consultant selection anticipated in October 2026
 - Notice to proceed anticipated in November 2026
- **Purpose:** Support utility planning, drought preparedness, permitting, capital improvements, reservoir operations, and future water-resource development

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

OTHER BUSINESS

None

ADJOURN

Commissioner L. Byrd, Jr. MOVED to adjourn the meeting. MOTION SECONDED by Commissioner Young. MOTION CARRIED. AYES, 7; NAYS, 0. The meeting was adjourned at 10:32 a.m.

I certify that the above Minutes accurately reflect the business conducted at the Commission meeting on August 25, 2026, and that the minutes were approved at the September 22, 2026, meeting.


Jurell Byrd, Jr., Secretary