



LAURENS COUNTY WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION

Board of Commissioners Meeting

3850 Highway 221S, Laurens, SC 29360

September 23, 2025

MINUTES

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
Cindy Sanders, Field Services Manager

ATTORNEY PRESENT:

Allen Wham

PRESS:

The Clinton Chronicle

GUESTS:

Arthur Lee Philson, Jr., County Council District VI

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 August 26, 2025, minutes as submitted to the Commissioners. None were submitted.

Commissioner L. Byrd, Jr. **MOVED** *that the August 26, 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 including Vic MacDonald from the Clinton Chronicle and District Six County Council Member Arthur Lee Philson, Jr. He also welcomed Ms. Sanders to the meeting and expressed his appreciation for what she does for the Commission. Chairman Davenport then recognized Councilman Philson for his special presentation.

RECOGNITION OF COUNCILMAN ARTHUR LEE PHILSON, JR., COUNTY COUNCIL DISTRICT 6 FOR A SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Councilman Philson requested that Ms. Sanders join him at the podium and expressed his sincere and deepest appreciation for the research and tireless hours she committed to ensure the remains of her great-uncle, Technical Sergeant Clarence E. Gibbs were located and returned to the United States for a proper burial. Councilman Philson then presented Ms. Sanders with a Certificate of Appreciation noting that because of her work a hero's legacy has been preserved. Councilman Philson then expressed his appreciation to the entire Commission for the work that LCWSC does and the services we provide to the community.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REMARKS

Mr. Field welcomed everyone and thanked Councilman Philson for attending and recognizing Ms. Sanders efforts. He also expressed his own appreciation to Ms. Sanders for her diligence and work.

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 August 31, 2025, LCWSC had a total of \$7,892,501 in cash for operating and reserve funds as compared to \$8,505,765 this time in FY25. As of August 31, 2025, LCWSC was awaiting a FEMA reimbursement of \$126,150, an LCDC reimbursement of \$795, and an RIA reimbursement of \$15,299. This means the total cash balance would be \$8,034,746.

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 August 2025, LCWSC had received \$6,656 in contributed capital grants for Administration, \$372,500 for Wastewater Treatment, and \$1,854,410 for Water Distribution. Thus far, in FY26, a total of \$2,233,566 has been received in contributed capital grants. Future grant funds that are committed are for the following projects: 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 August 2025, there was \$20,040 in customer paid line extensions. Mr. Field then shared that at the close of each fiscal year the value of Developer Donated lines is determined and reported. In FY25 the total of Developer Donated Lines was \$17,304,488. Developer Donated Lines include Bridgeway I, Canterbrook Farms I, Durbin Meadows V, Durbin Meadows VI, Reedy Creek, Wells Creek, and Wren Woods / Cardinal Ridge.

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 August 2025 was 176 GPD. On average, each customer uses 134 GPD over a 12-month period.

Mr. Field shared the precipitation graph, noting that in August FY26, the rainfall was 9.74 inches which is 6.50 inches above that of August FY25, 6.24 inches above that of August FY24, and 5.56 inches above the norm for August. 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 fifty-eight new water taps, and forty-eight new sewer taps were installed in August 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 13,996,878 gallons, which is an increase of 664,425 gallons over the previous 12-month average. The target for unaccounted water is less than 19,500,000 gallons.

In August 2025, there were twelve main line leak work orders all repaired within two weeks. There were eight lateral line leak work orders: four were repaired within two weeks and four repaired withing two to four weeks. As of August 2025, there were thirteen active service line leaks over two weeks old and six active main line leaks over two weeks old.

Mr. Price provided an update on the Lake Greenwood Water Treatment Facility (LGWTF), reporting that in August 2025, the facility pumped 75.787 MG of raw water and treated 68.995 MG. Mr. Price provided an update on the power issues related to the ozone system reporting Garver has identified the problem to be with the programing and Pinnacle has been contacted to review the programming. He also reported the part for the chiller is still backordered; however, the WTF continues to operate smoothly.

NEW BUSINESS

None

OLD BUSINESS

1. Capital Projects Updates

Mr. Mattison provided an update on LCWSC Capital Projects currently underway or in development. These projects span water and sewer infrastructure upgrades across the county, with funding support from federal, state, and local sources. A summary of the projects is below:

Metric Rd Elevated Tank and Waterline Project

- **Scope:** Construction of a 1-million-gallon elevated water tank and 5.3 miles of 16" waterline
- **Status:**
 - Waterline: 85% of schedule elapsed; awaiting DES approval for final section
 - Tank: 91% of schedule elapsed; final inspection pending, power and disinfection in progress
- **Estimated Completion:** December 2025
- **Total Cost:** \$12,014,445
- **Funding Breakdown:**
 - USDA GO Bond: \$4,940,000
 - EDA Grant: \$5,420,000
 - LCARPA: \$357,621
 - USDA Revenue Bond: \$1,300,000

Hospital Zone Water Improvements (SCIIP Projects)

- **Scope:** New elevated tank, two booster pump stations, and waterline improvements in the hospital zone
- **Status:**
 - Waterlines: Installation ongoing along Hwy 76 and Professional Park Rd
 - Tank: Ground construction complete; painting and bowl raising underway
 - Booster Stations: Buildings and piping complete; electrical and controls in progress
- **Estimated Completion:** August 2026
- **Total Cost:** \$11,336,301
- **Funding Breakdown:**
 - SCIIP (RIA) Grant: \$7,922,850
 - SCIIP Amendment Grant: \$1,660,609
 - LCWSC Funds: \$1,752,842 (Remaining: \$677,748)

Milam Rd BPS Supply Water Main

- **Scope:** Installation of 8,900 ft of 16" DIP suction side water main
- **Status:** Project advertisement scheduled for September 24, 2025; bids open October 28, 2025
- **Timeline:** August 2025 – August 2026
- **Estimated Cost:** \$2,556,600
- **Funding Breakdown:**
 - SCRIA Grant: \$1,500,000
 - LCWSC Funds: \$1,056,600

Upper Laurens County Sewer Lift Station Upgrades

- **Scope:** Upgrades to Connexial, Owings, and Reedy Creek lift stations; Sullivan Rd station to be decommissioned
- **Status:** In design phase
- **Total Cost:** \$3,357,150
- **Funding Breakdown:**
 - 100% SC Dept of Commerce Grant

C/J WWTP Sewer Biosolids Upgrade – Phase 3

- **Scope:** Installation of a 750,000-gallon tank, aeration system, and mixing system
- **Status:** 70% of schedule elapsed; piping and grading complete, tank slab pouring and assembly next
- **Timeline:** June 2025 – June 2026
- **Total Cost:** \$1,776,000
- **Funding Breakdown:**
 - CDBG Grant: \$1,714,000
 - LCWSC Funds: \$192,000

Clinton Area Sewer Lift Station Upgrades

- **Scope:** Upgrades to Millers Fork and Sand Creek lift stations; 11,000 LF force main replacement
- **Status:**
 - Lift stations: Parts ordered; work expected to begin in October
 - Force main: 52% of schedule elapsed; 1,200 ft installed, highway bore and Springdale Dr. installation next
- **Timeline:** January 2025 – January 2026
- **Total Cost:** \$4,033,530
- **Funding Breakdown:**
 - USDA GO Bond: \$3,900,000
 - LCWSC Funds: \$133,530

Joanna 2025 CDBG Project

- **Scope:** Replacement of 2,000 ft of 8" VCP, railroad and road crossings, and rehab of 10 manholes
- **Status:** Scheduled to begin January 2026
- **Timeline:** January 2026 – December 2026
- **Estimated Cost:** \$1,688,330
- **Funding Breakdown:**
 - CDBG Grant: \$1,321,050
 - LCWSC Funds: \$367,280

Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade

- **Scope:** Installation of aerators, VFD controls, clarifier upgrades, and preliminary PAA disinfection system design
- **Status:** Preliminary design complete; project planning underway
- **Total Estimated Project Cost:** \$2,250,000

- **Funding Breakdown:**
 - SRF Principal Forgiveness Grant: \$1,750,000
 - LCWSC Funds: \$500,000

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

Commissioner O'Dell **MOVED** that the Board of Commissioners enter Executive Session at 10:09 a.m. **MOTION SECONDED** by Commissioner Young **MOTION CARRIED**. AYES,7; NAYS, 0.

1. Contractual Matter related to Lake Rabon Water Withdrawal Agreement with Laurens CPW

Commissioner Young **MOVED** that the Board of Commissioners return to Open Session at 11:31 a.m. **MOTION SECONDED** by Commissioner Hollingsworth **MOTION CARRIED**. AYES,7; NAYS, 0.

BUSINESS AFTER RETURNING TO REGULAR SESSION

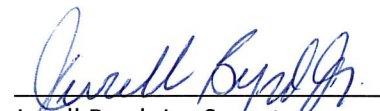
Commissioner O'Dell **MOVED** to allow Mr. Field to begin the process of developing **a Long-Term Water Withdrawal Agreement** with Laurens CPW. **MOTION SECONDED** by Commissioner Young **MOTION CARRIED**. AYES,6; NAYS, 0.

ADJOURN

Commissioner L. Byrd, Jr. **MOVED** to adjourn the Board of Commissioners meeting at 11:33 a.m. **MOTION SECONDED** by Commissioner Young **MOTION CARRIED**. AYES,6; 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 September 23, 2025, and that the minutes were approved at the October 28, 2025, meeting.


 Jurell Byrd, Jr., Secretary