



MINUTES

LAURENS COUNTY WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION

Board of Commissioners Meeting

3850 Highway 221S, Laurens, SC 29360

Training Rooms 1 and 2

June 23, 2026

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Dime Hollingsworth (County Council District I)

Philip O'Dell (County Council District II)

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

K.C. Price, Engineering Manager

Mary-Wallace Riley, Executive Administrative Assistant

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

Jurell Byrd, Jr., Secretary (County Council District III)

STAFF ABSENT

Angie Nelson, Director of Administration & Customer Service

ATTORNEY PRESENT

Allen Wham

PRESS

The Clinton Chronicle

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Davenport called the meeting to order at 8:30 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 May 26, 2026, minutes as submitted to the Commissioners. None were submitted.

Commissioner L. Byrd, Jr. MOVED that the May 26, 2026, minutes be approved as submitted. MOTION SECONDED by Commissioner Young. MOTION CARRIED. AYES, 6; NAYS, 0.

CHAIRMAN REMARKS

Chairman Davenport welcomed everyone including Vic MacDonald. He also reflected on America's 250th Birthday Celebrations and how important South Carolina was to the Revolutionary War. Chairman Davenport thanked staff for their work in preparing the FY27 Budget and commended them for their fiscally responsible management during the current fiscal year.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REMARKS

Mr. Field welcomed everyone and reminded them of Carolina Day on Sunday. He also stated that LCWSC staff were collecting donations to help with medical expenses for LCWSC Construction Inspector Bubba Cash, whose wife is preparing for a heart transplant.

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 May 31, 2026, LCWSC had a total operating and reserve cash of \$9,517,262, verses \$8,694,066 at this point in FY25 and \$8,549,245 on April 30, 2026. As of May 31, 2026, LCWSC was awaiting a SRF reimbursement of \$14,350. This means the total cash balance would be \$9,531,612.

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 May 2026, LCWSC had received a total of \$10,310,054 in contributed capital grants for FY26, broken down as follows: \$8,656 for Administration, \$1,653,747 for

Wastewater Treatment, \$205,120 for Wastewater Collections, and \$8,442,531 for Water Distribution. He further noted that additional grant funds remain committed for several capital improvement projects, including 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, Joanna CDBG project, and Lake Greenwood Water Treatment Facility Clearwell Congressional Appropriation.

As of May 2026, customer-paid line extensions totaled \$125,461.

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 May 2026 was 152 GPD. He further reported that the twelve-month average residential usage was 145 GPD.

Mr. Field shared the precipitation graph, noting that rainfall was 8.39 inches in May FY26, which is 2.26 inches above that of May FY25, 2.98 inches above that of May FY24, and 5.15 inches above the norm for May. 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 May 2026. As of May 2026, 871 water services have been installed; 242 services in non-subdivision areas and 629 services in subdivisions. Of this total, 116 services were installed in May.

With respect to wastewater services, Mr. Field reported that 551 sewer services had been installed as of May 2026: seven services in non-subdivision areas and 544 sewer services in subdivisions. Of this total, forty-four new sewer services were installed in May.

Mr. Mattison reported that during May 2026, four lateral leak work orders were repaired within two weeks and four repaired within two to four weeks. During the same period, four main line leak work orders were repaired within two weeks, two repaired withing two to four weeks, and one repaired later than four weeks.

As of May 2026, there were four active service line leaks over two weeks old and two active main line leaks over two weeks old.

Mr. Mattison further reported on water purchases and presented the rolling average water audit. 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

14,844,569 gallons, which is a decrease of 409,114 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 May 2026 the facility pumped 78.915 million gallons of raw water and treated 70.631 million gallons. Mr. Price stated that the newly installed HMI for the ozone system has restored normal operations.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Public Hearing for Proposed FY 2027 Budget

Chairman Davenport opened the meeting to the public at 9:23 a.m. and asked if there were any comments. There were no public comments brought forward.

Chairman Davenport closed the public hearing at 9:24 a.m.

2. Approval of Proposed FY 2027 Budget

Mrs. Medlock discussed in detail the budgets for Administration, Wastewater Treatment, Wastewater Collection, Lake Rabon, Water Distribution, and Water Treatment.

The budget was approved by the Budget Committee, comprised of Ted Davenport, Susan Curry, and Dime Hollingsworth, on May 28, 2026.

Budget Summary:

- Total Budget is \$22,179,862
 - Operating Income increased \$1,392,024 or 8.79%
 - Operating Expenses increased \$1,352,977 or 11.60%
 - Capital Income and Expenses decreased \$541,797 or 5.58%
 - Net Capital Reserve Fund decreased \$524,533 or 32.75%
- Administration Fee Allocation Change:
 - Decreased Wastewater Treatment System Administration fee from 19% to 17%
 - Increased Wastewater Collection System Administration fee from 20% to 23%
 - Decreased Water Distribution System Administration fee from 58% to 57%
- Payroll and Benefits increased \$543,419 or 9.75%:
 - New voluntary employee benefit Wellness Plan
 - Increase in employer 401(k) contribution due to increased participation
 - Load factor change from 1.016 to 1.000 for the State Health Insurance Plan starting in January 2027 due to claim history

- Four (4) additional employees, and
 - Engineering, Operations, Maintenance Administrative Assistant
 - Information Technology Manager for one-fourth of the fiscal year
 - Water Production Manager
 - Water Treatment Operator Trainee
 - Various merit increases for employees.
- Water Purchase increased by \$560,957 or 20.48%:
 - Increase of \$60,409 in water purchase from other providers
 - Slight adjustment in City of Clinton water purchase to reflect decreased monthly averages
 - Increase in monthly average purchased from Greenville Water plus small rate change in January 2027
 - Increase of \$500,548 in the water provided from the Lake Greenwood Water Treatment Facility
 - Increase of \$325,048 in total operating expenses
 - Increase of \$73,500 in short-term assets
 - Increase of \$102,000 in long-term assets
 - Overall, O&M expenses increased \$260,611 or 10.73% mainly due to the increases in the Wastewater Treatment and Water Treatment Operation and Maintenance budgets
 - Net Capital Reserve Fund usage is \$1,077,119, which is a decrease of \$524,533
 - Wastewater Treatment System: \$301,537
 - Clinton Area Sewer Improvements
 - WWTP EQ Basin & Clarifiers Improvements
 - Beard's Fork Forcemain Improvements
 - Wastewater Collection System: \$0
 - Lake Rabon: \$105,000
 - Capital expenditures not included in the LCPW rate
 - Water Distribution System: \$670,582
 - SCIP grant match for the Hospital Area Water System Improvements
 - RIA grant match for the Hospital Area Supply Line
 - Overall, Debt Service increased \$4,011 or 0.14%:
 - Slight increase in Bond Trustee fees
 - Slight increase in debt service payment for 2016 Water Distribution Bonds
 - Slight decrease in debt service payment for 2017 Water Distribution Bonds
 - Final year of 2-year Wastewater Treatment Rate Plan
 - Wastewater Treatment Volume Rate
 - Average annual rate increase is 1.9%
 - Average increase in the customer bill is \$0.32 per month

- Final year of 2-year Wastewater Collection Rate Plan
 - Wastewater Collection Volume Rate
 - Average annual rate increase is 1.6%
 - Average increase in the customer bill is \$0.41 per month
- Fourth year of 5-year Water Rate Plan
 - Residential/Small Non-Residential Volume Rate and Base Charge (Water Tier 1)
 - Average annual rate increase is 2.5%
 - Average increase in the customer bill is \$1.16 per month
 - Large Non-Residential/Fire Line Volume Rate and Base Charge (Water Tier 2)
 - Average annual rate increase is 2.2%
 - Average increase in the customer bill is \$18.80 per month

Commissioner L. Byrd, Jr. **MOVED** that the Board of Commissioners *Approve the Proposed FY 2027 Budget*. **MOTION SECONDED** by Commissioner Young. **MOTION CARRIED**. AYES, 6; NAYS, 0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

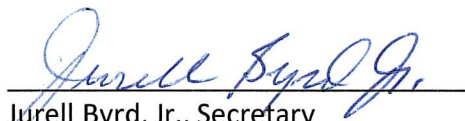
OTHER BUSINESS

None

ADJOURN

Commissioner L. Byrd, Mr. **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. **MOTION SECONDED** by Commissioner O'Dell. **MOTION CARRIED**. AYES, 6; NAYS, 0. The meeting was adjourned at 11:19 a.m.

I certify that the above Minutes accurately reflect the business conducted at the Commission meeting on June 23, 2026, and that the minutes were approved at the July 28, 2026, meeting.


 Jurell Byrd, Jr., Secretary