

The Lowcountry Regional Water System Commission held its regular monthly meeting at 4:00 pm on Tuesday, April 25, 2023 in the large conference room at the Hampton County Adminstrative Center in the Town of Hampton, 200 Jackson Avenue East, Hampton South Carolina. All meetings are open to the public (except for information, if any, to be discussed in Executive Sessions) and all interested parties are invited to attend.

**Commission Present:** Mayor Robert Brown, Hampton

Mayor Nat Shaffer, Varnville

Mayor Horney Mitchell, Gifford

Ms. Peggy O’Banner, Yemassee

Darrin Williams, Hampton County

**Officers Present:** Mr. Brian Burgess, General Manager

 Ms. Sara Craven, Secretary

 Ms. Marlene Marchyshyn, Treasurer

Ms. Kari Foy, Engineer

Mr. Blake Hodge, Field Operations Manager

Mr. Alec Sterling, Treatment Operations Manager

**Visitors Present:** Noah Alexander, Hampton County Council Chairman

 **Quorum Met:** Yes

1. **Call to Order**

Vice Chairman Robert Brown called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

2. **Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

The invocation was given by Horney Mitchell.

Pledge of Allegiance - Conducted by all.

3. **FOIA Compliance Report**

As required by Code of Laws of South Carolina, notice of this LRWS Commission meeting was posted prominently in the offices of the Commission at least twenty-four hours in advance. In addition, the local news media and all persons requesting notifications of meetings of the LRWS Commission were notified of the time, date, and place of such meeting, and were provided with a copy of the agenda at least twenty-four hours prior to this meeting.

4. **Adoption of the Agenda**

Moved by Horney Mitchell, seconded by Nat Shaffer to adopt the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

5. **Approval of Minutes**

Moved by Horney Mitchell, seconded by Peggy O’Banner to approve the minutes for the April 6, 2023, meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

6. **Reports:**

A. Financial Report- The financial report for March was presented by Marlene. Marlene provided the Commissioners with a printout of the revenue report. We are halfway into our fiscal year. This report shows revenues at 51% and expenses at 53%.

B. General Managers Report- We received the paperwork from Varnville declaring Nat Shaffer the representative for Varnville and Faye Gooding as the alternate.

Brian proudly announced that LRWS received ten million dollars from SCIIP for infrastructure developments. There were over 300 applications submitted for this award and two billion dollars requested. A little over 200 applicants were approved. The work for this money must be completed by December of 2026. These funds will allow LRWS to provide the water needed as the county continues to grow. A new elevated storage tank will be placed at the Industrial Park. The funds will also pay to improve the well at the Industrial Park and an interconnection line between that system and the town of Yemassee. A plan of action will be provided to the Board at a later date for action to be taken. We would also need 7 million dollars from the EDA and a RD loan/grant of 6.4 million dollars to complete this project. Unfortunately, funds for improving our wastewater treatment plants were not approved.

 (Staff Reports)

1. Deputy General Managers Report
2. Human Resource Managers Report
	1. Marlene provided the work hours for the month of March and noted that there were no injuries.
3. Billing Managers Report
	1. Sara provided the billing numbers on the operations report for the month of March. A report was also given which showed payment trends for the month of March.
4. Engineers Report
	1. Kari informed the Commissioners that construction is underway for the Gifford Lift Station Rehab. This project should be completed by July.
	2. All the connections have been completed for the Gifford Waterline Extension Project.
	3. We are awaiting EDA and RIA concurrence to award the Sewer Service Extension Project.
	4. The pretreatment program development is underway for the Yemassee WWTP Aeration Upgrade & Flow Splitting Project. We submitted funding requests to upgrade to SRF.
	5. We are upgrading the LRIP lift station and the Jackson Ave elevated tank. We received SRS grant money for this last year.
5. Field Operations Managers Report
	1. Blake stated that while he was on vacation his crew performed very well. The pump was installed at Sanders Branch.
6. Treatment Operations Managers Report
	1. Alec informed the Board that DHEC inspected the Yemassee WWTP. The inspection went very well. He also stated that some things were replaced at the chlorine stations.
		1. Brian went over the gallons of water produced and sold on the operations report for March. He also went over the amount of wastewater received and treated.

7. **System Member Commissioners Reports**

A. Town of Brunson- Not in attendance.

B. Town of Gifford- The town is busy preparing for the June Festival.

C. Town of Hampton- Nothing to report at this time.

D. Town of Varnville- Nat Shaffer congratulated the LRWS staff for receiving the SCIIP award.

E. Town of Yemassee- The town is currently planning the Shrimp Festival. The demo project is 75% complete. The town is pleased with how clean the sites are being left. The town has had an increase in contractors applying for business licenses. There is a lot of new development going on in Yemassee.

F. Hampton County- Mr. Williams informed everyone that County Government Day is Friday. This event will be from 2:00pm to 5:30pm in front of the courthouse. Hot dogs will be served, and each department will be outside to display what they do.

8**. Old Business**

9**. New Business**

* 1. Resolution 2023-03 Acceptance of the Retainer Agreement with Napoli Shkolinik PPLC Related to PER-and Polyfluoralkyl (PFAS) Substances, and Other Matters Related Therto

A retainer agreement with Napoli Shkolnik PLLC was presented to the Board. The agreement may give LRWS the opportunity to recover current and future expenses related to PFAS contamination.

* + 1. Moved by Peggy O’Banner to approve Resolution 2023-03. The motion was not seconded and did not carry.
	1. Resolution 2023-04 Contract Award for Demolition of the Sycamore Street Tank in Varnville SC and Other Matters Related Thereto

LRWS received bids for the demolition of the Sycamore Street Tank on April 21, 2023. The lowest responsible bid was in the amount of $53,700 from R.E. McLean Tank Company from Gastonia N.C.

* + 1. Moved by Nat Shaffer, seconded by Horney Mitchell to approve Resolution 2023-04 Contract Award for Demolition of the Sycamore Street Tank in Varnville SC and Other Matters Related Thereto. Motion carried unanimously.

**10. Public Comments**

**11. Adjournment**

Moved by Nat Shaffer, seconded by Peggy O’Banner to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting then adjourned at 4:46 pm.

*Respectfully submitted by Sara Craven.*