



The Lowcountry Regional Water System Commission held its monthly meeting at 4:00 pm on Tuesday, March 25, 2025, in the large conference room at the Hampton County Administrative 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: Rocky Hudson, Brunson
Mayor Horney Mitchell, Gifford
Mayor Robert Brown, Hampton
Mayor Nat Shaffer, Varnville
Dennis Thompson Jr, Hampton County

Officers Present: Brian Burgess, General Manager
Sara Craven, Secretary
Marlene Marchyshyn, Treasurer
Kari Foy, Engineer
Sam Baker, Wastewater Treatment

Visitors Present: None

Quorum Met: Yes

1. Call to Order

Chairman Rocky Hudson called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Nat Shaffer gave the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance - Conducted by all.

3. FOIA Compliance Report

As required by the Code of Laws of South Carolina, notice of this LRWS Commission meeting was posted prominently in the Commission's offices 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 meeting's time, date, and place. They received a copy of the agenda at least twenty-four hours before this meeting.

4. Approval of Minutes

Moved by Robert Brown and seconded by Horney Mitchell to approve the March 4, 2025 minutes. The motion carried.

5. Reports:

A. Financial Report—Marlene provided the financial report for February.

B. Manager's Report- Brian noted that the tariffs will impact the water and sewer industry. The supply and demand could cause an increase in the price of materials. Brian met with the staff at Beaufort Jasper Water and Sewer Authority last week. The meeting was enlightening. Brian informed everyone that the water and sewer rates are increasing an average of 5% per year. This puts LRWS average cost of water under the national average and the wastewater around the national average. The industrial pretreatment program is in the process of being finalized and submitted to SCDES. Brian also noted that the cost for

treatment facilities has increased to over \$20 a gallon. Mayor Shaffer will be representing LRWS at the National Rural Water Policy Fund Event.

(Staff Reports)

- (1) Human Resource Manager's Report
 - a. Marlene provided the work hours for February.
- (2) Billing Manager's Report
 - a. Sara provided the billing numbers for February in the operations report.
- (3) Engineer's Report
 - a. Kari went over the progress of ongoing projects.
 - i. The Brunson WWTP Project is about 75% complete.
 - ii. We have submitted a grant application for additional funding to RIA for the Yemassee WWTP Upgrade Project.
 - iii. The LRIP Lift Station Project is substantially complete. We are requesting permits to operate.
 - iv. The Industrial Area Elevated Tank Project should begin soon.
 - v. The Railroad Ave Emergency Project has been submitted to FEMA. We are developing task orders for engineering design services.
- (4) Field Operations Manager's Report
 - a. Not in attendance.
- (5) Treatment Operations Manager's Report
 - a. Sam provided a report that shows water production, wastewater treated and lab tests that were done.

6. System Member Commissioners Reports

A. Town of Brunson- The town will be hosting a Spring Festival on April 5th from 1:00pm to 4:00pm in the Terry Wright Park. You can expect food, crafts, and music.

B. Town of Gifford- The town has an election on April 8th. The election is for Mayor and 2 council seats.

C. Town of Hampton- The town is working on the Nix St Park. They are also cleaning up and preparing for the Watermelon Festival.

D. Town of Varnville- The town was awarded a CDBG grant to upgrade the HR Brooks Memorial Park on Ginn St. There is 1 councilman who is pushing for an amendment to the grant therefore, the town may be in jeopardy of losing the grant.

E. Town of Yemassee- Not in attendance.

F. Hampton County- The county will host, in conjunction with Clemson an Economic Development event called Ag Art on May 3rd. There will be four locations. The county hopes that everyone will see the role that agriculture plays on the economy. There will be food trucks at this event. The county is also working on a new symbol and slogan. The county has heard the concerns about the R.V. ordinance and is working on that. They understand the hardship of these people. They are making sure that these R.V.s are up to code. The county's main concern is safety. There will be a meeting with the planning committee on April 22nd.

7. Old Business

- A. Chief Alexander of the Town of Yemassee Request to Waive Certain Water and Wastewater Tap and Impact Fees Associated with the Construction of the Proposed Police Station
 - a. LRWS is unable to waive fees. Brian suggested that the Commissioners provide an offer to the town to purchase 3 acres of land for the same cost.
Moved by Nat Shaffer, seconded by Robert Brown, to allow Brian to present an offer to the town to cover the costs of the fees. Motion carried unanimously.

8. New Business

- A. Request by the Town of Hampton to Add Garbage Container Replacement Charge to Customer Billing
 - a. Robert Brown stated that the town would like LRWS to add the cost of a garbage can to a customer's account if the garbage can is lost or stolen. The matter was discussed, and it was agreed that the matter be tabled until legal counsel gave input.
- B. Discussion of Cash Fund Investments
 - a. Brian discussed the possibility of LRWS using IntraFi. This would allow bank's to reduce the deposit risk by moving money to another institution to make sure all of LRWS's money is fully insured.

9. **Executive Session**

- A. Discussion of matters related to contract negotiations and receipt of legal advice as allowed by Section 30-4-70 (a) (2)Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements and proposed sale or purchase of property, the receipt of legal advice relates to a pending, threatened, or potential claim or other matters covered by the attorney-client privilege, settlement of legal claims, or the position of the public agency in adversary situations involving the assertion against the agency of a claim.
 - a. Gifford Wastewater Treatment Agreement
 - b. LRWS Membership Expansion

Moved by Robert Brown, seconded by Nat Shaffer to enter executive session. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Robert Brown, seconded by Horney Mitchell to exit executive session. Motion carried unanimously.

10. **Action on Items Discussed in Executive Session**

None

11. **Public Comments**

None

12. **Adjournment**

Moved by Robert Brown, seconded by Nat Shaffer to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting then adjourned at 5:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Sara Craven.