Lowcountry Regional Water System

Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes

August 25, 2026 | 4:00 p.m.

The Lowcountry Regional Water System Commission ("Commission") held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, August 25, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. in the Large Conference Room of the Hampton County Administrative Center, located at 200 Jackson Avenue East, Hampton, South Carolina. All meetings of the Commission are open to the public, except for matters discussed in Executive Session as permitted by law.

Commissioners Present

- Rocky Hudson (Town of Brunson)
- Mayor Robert Brown (Town of Hampton)
- Faye Gooding (Town of Varnville)
- Dennis Thompson Jr. (Hampton County)

Officers and Staff Present

- Brian Burgess, General Manager
- Sara Craven, Secretary
- Marlene Marchyshyn, Treasurer
- Blake Hodge, Field Operations Manager
- Jake Skinner, Treatment Operations Manager

Visitors Present

- None

Quorum: A quorum was present.

Call to Order

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

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Robert Brown delivered the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Robert Brown and seconded by Dennis Thompson Jr to approve the minutes of the July 28, 2026, regular meeting as presented.
Motion carried.

Reports

A. Financial Report

Marlene presented the financial report for July 2026.

B. General Manager's Report

General Manager Brian Burgess provided an update on events happening in the area.

- LRWS is monitoring the system and does not show any issues with the wells going dry.
- The field crew has been prepped about dehydration and staying hydrated.
- Brian assisted the town of Furman last week. It seems that lightning struck their well, and they needed some troubleshooting help.

Staff Reports

1. Human Resources Manager's Report

- Work hours for all departments were reviewed.
- There were no workers' comp incidents or lost-time injuries.
- There have been 3 new hires in Blake's department since the last meeting.

2. Billing Manager's Report

- Billing activity for July was reviewed as a part of the Operations Report.

3. Engineer's Report

- The Brunson WWTP/ Force Main project has been closed out. We are waiting on some engineering services to be completed.
- The contract was executed yesterday for the Yemassee WWTP Upgrade.
- The new elevated tank is finished.
- We have taken bids for the lighting for the elevated tank.
- We are waiting on the USDA's approval for the Hampton WWTP Upgrade.
- We are finishing the designs and working on permits for the Railroad Ave Sewer Project.
- We received bids for the Palmetto tank and I95 well rehab. SRF will have to give us directions on what to do for the I-95 well project, as it was over budget.

4. Field Operations Manager's Report

- There have been a significant number of leaks in the town of Hampton.
- The field crew has 5 new taps to install.
- Two of Blake's employees have entered the apprentice program.

5. Treatment Operations Manager's Report

- Production and treatment data for July were discussed. Jake noted that the excess water was from the Hwy 68 project. The water had to be flushed once the project was complete.
- One of Jake's employees received their A license.

System Member Reports

A. Town of Brunson

Nothing new to report at this time.

B. Town of Gifford

Not in attendance.

C. Town of Hampton

The town has 2 new public works employees, and a new clerk will be starting Monday.

The grant for the playground equipment at Dave Daniel Park has been closed out.

The town is hoping to get a grant for restrooms at Lightsey Park.

D. Town of Varnville

The town is currently undergoing an audit.

The Ginn St Project amendments were approved and have funding. The next step will be finding an engineer to design the project.

The Annual Festival will be held on September 26th. There will be a car show at the festival.

The town is working on some positive police issues.

E. Town of Yemassee

Not in attendance.

F. Hampton County

The county held a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Spec Building in the industrial park.

There are a few prospects for industries at the Industrial Park.

The county is hiring a new administrator. There were 25 applicants. The council will be interviewing 6 of those applicants.

Old Business

A) Cost Estimate to Install approx. 2,000 Feet of Low-Pressure Sewer Main from Existing Gravity Sewer System on Guess Dr to 105 LeCreuset Rd (Charlotte Reeves Request for Service)

Moved by Robert Brown, seconded by Dennis Thompson Jr to table this item until the next Board Meeting. Motion carried.

New Business

A) James Vincent Request (Relocation of Sewer Main at Third St and Magnolia St. in the Town of Hampton

Mr. Vincent was not present, so Brian informed the Commissioners of the situation. Mr. Vincent's property is undeveloped due to a sewer main that runs through the property. This main runs to homes that are behind this property. It would be extremely expensive to move the main. If you move the main you would have to also move the connections. There isn't any water service fronting this property. The water would have to be extended from Maple St.

B) First Reading of FY 2026-2027 Operating Budget & Associated Rate Adjustments; Supplemental Renewal & Replacement (R&R) Budget and Extension & Expansion (E&E) Budget

Brian provided the Commissioners with a packet and went over the budget numbers.

Moved by Robert Brown, seconded by Faye Gooding to accept this as the first reading of the 2026-2027operating budget. Motion carried.

C) Resolution 2026-08 Approval of Engineering Services for Yemassee WWTP Improvements Phase II and Other Matters Related Thereto

Moved by Robert Brown, seconded by Faye Gooding to approve Resolution 2026-08 Approval of Engineering Services for Yemassee WWTP Improvements Phase II and Other Matters Related Thereto. Motion carried.

D) Resolution 2026-09 Contract Award of Tank Lighting Project and Other Matters Related Thereto

Moved by Robert Brown, seconded by Dennis Thompson Jr to approve Resolution 2026-09 Contract Award of Tank Lighting Project and Other Matters Related Thereto**.** Motion carried.

E) Resolution 2026-10 Contract Award for Water Main Improvements in the Town of Yemassee and Other Matters Related Thereto

Moved by Robert Brown, seconded by Faye Gooding to table this item until the next Board Meeting. Motion carried.

F) Resolution 2026-11 Contract Award for Palmetto St Tank Renovation in the Town of Varnville and Other Matters Related Thereto

Moved by Robert Brown, seconded by Faye Gooding to table this item until the next Board Meeting. Motion carried.

Executive Session

A) Discussion of matters related to contract negotiations and receipt of legal advice as allowed by S.C. Code 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.

I) Project Hortix XS Phase I

II) Town of Fairfax Wastewater Agreement

Moved by Robert Brown, seconded by Dennis Thompson Jr, to enter executive session.

Moved by Dennis Thompson Jr, seconded by Faye Gooding, to exit executive session.

Action on Items Discussed in Executive Session

No action taken.

Public Comments

None

Adjournment

Moved by Faye Gooding, seconded by Dennis Thompson Jr, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 5:49 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sara Craven, Secretary