



The Lowcountry Regional Water System Commission held its monthly meeting at 4:00 pm on Tuesday, July 29, 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 Robert Brown, Hampton  
Mayor Nat Shaffer, Varnville  
Mayor Horney Mitchell, Gifford  
David Paul Murray, Yemassee  
Dennis Thompson Jr, Hampton County

**Officers Present:** Brian Burgess, General Manager  
Sara Craven, Secretary  
Marlene Marchyshyn, Treasurer  
Kari Foy, Engineer  
Blake Hodge, Field Operations  
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**

Robert Brown 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 June 24, 2025, minutes. The motion carried.

**5. Reports:**

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

B. Manager's Report- Brian had the opportunity to meet with the Mayor of Furman. The town is very interested in LRWS. The town recognizes the potential opportunities that could arise from joining LRWS, such as access to fire hydrants. Their system is unmetered, and they are concerned about their bills increasing. Brian has been asked to speak with some representatives from Florence County about how LRWS came to be. The county is interested in consolidating its systems. Some of our vendors and suppliers have added some fees due to the tariffs. This impacts our budget. The average water and sewer rates are increasing at a rate of 5% every year. Brian and Kari met with the Southern Carolina Industrial Campus and the LRWS Industrial customers. This meeting was designed to inform customers about the new tank. These customers would have to make some changes before the new tank goes online. We received an additional \$6.4 million grant for another water system improvement project in Yemassee.

(Staff Reports)

- (1) Human Resource Manager's Report
  - a. Marlene provided the work hours for June. She mentioned that we had an employee quit after working for 7 days. We also hired someone in Blake's department. He completed his first day of work yesterday.
- (2) Billing Manager's Report
  - a. Sara provided the billing numbers for June in the operations report.
- (3) Engineer's Report
  - a. Kari went over the progress of ongoing projects.
    - i. The force main from Brunson to Hampton is complete. We completed the walk-through today. We will need DHEC's approval before it can be put into operation.
    - ii. DES issued the permit to construct our Yemassee WWTP upgrade. We will be advertising for bids soon.
    - iii. The pedestal is underway for the new elevated tank in the Industrial Park.
    - iv. A preconstruction meeting is scheduled for next week for the New Transmission Main Project.
    - v. DHEC has approved the on-site water at the new high school.
    - vi. The County Spec building is under construction. The fees have not been paid yet.
    - vii. The Le Creuset Project is complete.
    - viii. Water and sewer services have been installed for the Pine St Project.
  - b. Brian informed the Commissioners of a clasped sewer line behind Dominion. This line needs to be replaced very soon.
- (4) Field Operations Manager's Report
  - a. Blake provided a report of the work done in the field since the last meeting. This report shows the number of repairs, taps, sewer back ups, 811 locates, training sessions, and various maintenance items.
- (5) Treatment Operations Manager's Report
  - a. Sam provided a report that shows water production, wastewater treated and lab tests that were done. We are still doing the surveillance samples for the health department. He also noted that Jarrett will be taking his C biological test on Thursday.

\*Brian went over the gals produced and sold in the operations report. He also asked the Commissioners if the next meeting could be held at 1:00 pm because a representative from the USDA would like to present the grant award. This representative would be bringing a check for 6.4 million dollars.

Moved by Robert Brown, seconded by David Paul Murray, to change the time of the next meeting to 1:00 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **6. System Member Commissioners Reports**

A. Town of Brunson- The town had a Stop the Violence Rally. This was held at the Brunson Elementary School gym.

B. Town of Gifford- The town is moving into phase 2 of the Rosenwald School Project. This includes drywall, electrical, and plumbing.

C. Town of Hampton- The town employees have been working hard to keep up with landscaping and garbage.

D. Town of Varnville- With only 3 employees, the town is struggling to maintain its landscaping. A feasibility study is being done on the old gin building. This is a \$100,000 grant. The town is currently working on the changes for the Brooks Ball Park Project. Everyone is excited about the Celebrate a Small-Town Festival. It will be held on September 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. The Southern Blend Band will be playing on Friday night. Hampton County Car Club is having an event in conjunction with the festival.

E. Town of Yemassee- The Police Department contractor has completed the waterproofing and will be working on the roof next. The town is excited to announce that there will be a new splash pad in Moore's Park. The Pine St development has made a lot of progress.

F. Hampton County- A dedication ceremony was held for the Aqua Ag Project. This project will bring 1,500 jobs to the County once it is completed. The County is considering developing the old catfish area in Estill.

#### **7. Old Business**

- A. Questions from Member Towns concerning Draft Ordinance for Consistency of Water and Sewer Ordinances across Member Towns – no questions.

#### **8. New Business**

- A. First Reading of Annual Operating Budget with Supplemental Renewal & Replacement Budget and Extension & Expansion Budget

Brian provided a report of the budget for 2025- 2026. This report showed the revenue and expense budget history. He noted the impact of inflation. This budget would impose a 3% rate increase with no adjustment to capacity fees. It would also include a 2.3% cost-of-living adjustment for employees.

Moved by Nat Shaffer, seconded by Robert Brown to approve the First Reading of Annual Operating Budget with Supplemental Renewal & Replacement Budget and Extension & Expansion Budget. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **9. Public Comments**

None

#### **10. Adjournment**

Moved by Robert Brown, seconded by David Paul Murray to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting then adjourned at 5:20 pm.

*Respectfully submitted by Sara Craven.*

