



The Lowcountry Regional Water System Commission held its monthly meeting at 4:00 pm on Tuesday, March 4, 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
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: Bill Hancock
Michelle Knight
Mayor Colin Moore
G.Z. Alexander

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 David Paul Murray to approve February 4, 2025 minutes. The motion carried.

5. **Reports:**

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

B. Manager's Report- Brian informed the Board that the Palmetto State Bank Bond is due on March 26th. We are in the process of reissuing this bond. It was a part of the \$10 million SCIIP Grant. The town of

Fairfax has increased the rates. The concern is an issue with the meter. LRWS installed a new meter at the Gifford Pump Station which shows a different amount than the town's meter. We are working with FEMA to address some debris from Hurricane Helene.

(Staff Reports)

- (1) Human Resource Manager's Report
 - a. Marlene provided the work hours for January.
- (2) Billing Manager's Report
 - a. Sara provided the billing numbers for January in the operations report.
- (3) Engineer's Report
 - a. Kari went over the progress of ongoing projects.
 - i. Construction is underway and progressing ahead of schedule for the Brunson WWTP Project.
 - ii. The pump station has been started up. We are working on SCADA integration for the LRIP Lift Station Project.
 - iii. We had a preconstruction meeting for the New Elevated Tank project. They should be starting in March or April.
 - iv. Hampton County High School has passed inspections for permits to operate.
 - v. Construction has begun for Project Truck water and sewer extensions.
- (4) Field Operations Manager's Report
 - a. Blake provided a report to show the work done by his crew since the last meeting.
- (5) Treatment Operations Manager's Report
 - a. Sam provided a report of lab tests that were done.
 - b. We have started providing samples to the Department of Health. Sam provided a chart that showed what illnesses have been tracked at the treatment plants.

6. System Member Commissioners Reports

A. Town of Brunson- There is new playground equipment and solar lights in the Terry Wright Park. The basketball court will soon be resurfaced. The town will be getting a covered bus stop soon. They have received an 80% grant for this project. The town is working with the Sheriff's office to get cameras. The town will also be getting solar-powered street lights to help the cameras capture more.

B. Town of Gifford- Phase 1 of the Rosenwald School is almost complete and phase 2 will begin soon. Phase 1 was the exterior and phase 2 is the interior of the building. The town also received a Demolition Grant to tear down some old buildings.

C. Town of Hampton- The town received a \$270,000 grant for new playground equipment in the David Daniel's Park. This project should begin in the next couple of months. The town is working with a vendor to get cameras placed around town.

D. Town of Varnville- International Women's Day is this Saturday. It starts at 10:00 am. There will be food vendors in town. The town has received two grants. One grant is for the HJ Brooks on Ginn St and one is for a feasibility study on the Old Gin.

E. Town of Yemassee- The town is happy to see new development which includes a new police department. The town has a bridge out due to an accident with a tractor. The town is waiting on a report from SCDOT to see if the overpass can be repaired.

F. Hampton County- The County is working on getting a new industry into Hampton County. Nupi and LeCresuet have done an expansion. Nupi will be hiring 39 more employees. Susan Peeples would like for everyone who uses hazardous chemicals to report them to her by the end of this month. The county does not have a hazmat team, but they would like to be prepared in the event of an incident.

7. Old Business

8. New Business

A) Chief Alexander of the Town of Yemassee Requests to Waive Certain Water and Wastewater Tap and Impact Fees Associated with the Construction of the Proposed Police Station
Moved by Robert Brown, seconded by Nat Shaffer to table this issue until the next meeting. The motion carried.

B) Presentation of the LRWS Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Audited Financial Statement by Mr. William “Bill” Hancock of The Brittingham Group, LLP
Mr. Hancock gave the Commissioners a report on the 2023-2024 Audit.

C) Resolution 2025-03 Transfer of Funds from the Alpha Genesis Construction Account to the Brunson Sewer Rehab Construction Account and Other Matters Related Thereto
Moved by Robert Brown, seconded by David Paul Murray to approve Resolution 2025-03 Transfer of Funds from the Alpha Genesis Construction Account to the Brunson Sewer Rehab Construction Account and Other Matters Related Thereto. The motion carried.

D) Resolution 2025-04 Acceptance of the Preliminary Engineering Report and Approval of the Yemassee Wastewater Treatment Facility Project and Other Matters Related Thereto
Moved by Nat Shaffer, seconded by David Paul Murray to approve Resolution 2025-04 Acceptance of the Preliminary Engineering Report and Approval of the Yemassee Wastewater Treatment Facility Project and Other Matters Related Thereto. The motion carried.

E) Resolution 2025-05 Establish a Construction Account for the Yemassee Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvement Project and Transfer Funds from the Depreciation & Contingent Fund for Engineering Services and Other Matters Related Thereto
Moved by Horney Mitchell, seconded by David Paul Murray to approve Resolution 2025-05 Establish a Construction Account for the Yemassee Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvement Project and Transfer Funds from the Depreciation & Contingent Fund for Engineering Services and Other Matters Related Thereto. The motion carried.

F) Resolution 2025-06 Acceptance of the Report for Railroad Avenue Emergency Sewer System Upgrade Yemassee SC and Approval of the Alternative 1 Project and Other Matters Related Thereto
Moved by Nat Shaffer, seconded by Robert Brown to approve Resolution 2025-06 Acceptance of the Report for Railroad Avenue Emergency Sewer System Upgrade Yemassee SC and Approval of the Alternative 1 Project and Other Matters Related Thereto. The motion carried.

9. **Public Comments**

10. **Adjournment**

Moved by Nat Shaffer, seconded by Robert Brown to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting then adjourned at 5:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Sara Craven.