

**EDGEFIELD COUNTY WATER & SEWER AUTHORITY
BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

The April 2025 Regular Board of Directors Meeting of Edgefield County Water and Sewer Authority was held on April 28, 2025, starting at 5:30 p.m. at 100 Waterworks Rd., Edgefield, SC (ECWSA Administrative Building). No individual or organization requested a copy of the Agenda. Notice of this Board of Directors Meeting was posted in the Administration Office 4 weeks prior to meeting and the Agenda was posted April 24, 2025.

CALL TO ORDER: Kennamer, 5:30 p.m.

INVOCATION: Smith

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kennamer, Smith, Kitchens, Johnson, Clark, Creswell

MEMBERS ABSENT: Washington

STAFF PRESENT: Administrator Hare, Business Manager Hope Carroway

GUEST PRESENT: Jennifer Sumner, ECWSA Legal Counsel

AGENDA: A motion was made by Johnson to approve the April 28, 2025 Agenda. Second by Smith. Vote unanimous to approve the agenda.

MINUTES: A motion was made by Johnson to approve the March 24, 2025 Minutes. Second by Creswell. Vote unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: A motion was made by Johnson to enter Executive Session to discuss a legal matter with Counsel. Second by Kitchens. The board exited Executive Session with no action taken.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT: After reading the bank balances, Administrator Hare discussed the Financial Statement ending March 31, 2025. Budget should be at 75%, Revenues were at 88.02% and Expenses were at 76.29%. Hare also brought up the fact that the North Augusta sewer bill has not been received due to their transition to a new billing system. Usage and billing is in-line with the previous year.

REPORTS:

John Hare, Administrator covered the following items during the report section:

- Hare discussed the permitting of the Federal Prison Force main.
- A brief update was given regarding sewer capacity.
- Administrator Hare gave a brief update on the WTP SCIIP Project. A shutdown of the plant will be executed on the night of May 2 to install a 24" x 30" cross. Notices will be sent to customers to conserve water during this time.
- Work on FEMA reimbursement continues.

BUSINESS

A. UPDATE TO ECWSA EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK

Administrator Hare presented an addendum to the Employee Handbook that would change the current Annual Leave earned and accrued. Hare this as an additional incentive to recruit and retain employees. A motion was made by Kitchens to approve the changes. Second by Clark. No discussion. Vote unanimous.

B. LANIER RD LIFT STATION BIDS-RIA GRANT PROJECT

Hare presented the bids that were opened on April 22, 2025 at the ECWSA Administrative office. This project is a complete replacement of the 40-year-old Lanier Rd. sewer lift station in Johnston and is partially funded by a SC RIA grant of \$1,000,000.

The bids were as follows:

Tri-Star Contractors	\$1,896,250
J.S. Haren	\$2,492,000
Republic Contracting	\$2,591,720

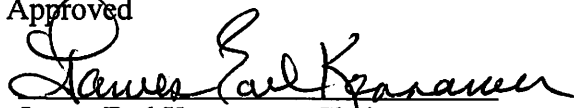
Hare recommended to the Board to accept the low bid from Tri-Star Contracting. Although bids were higher than the original cost estimate and funding commitment to match SC RIA funds, Hare recommended to move forward with the project with additional Authority funding. A motion was made by Kitchens to accept the bids and commit the additional funds to the project. Second by Clark. No discussion. Vote unanimous.

C. FIRST DRAFT OF FY 2026 BUDGET

Administrator Hare presented the first draft of the FY 2026 Budget for the Board's consideration. Notable adjustments to this year's budget over last were sewer rate increases driven by higher rates from ACPSA via City of North Augusta, and the need to fund a few additional personnel. This current draft reflected revenues and expenses of \$12,923,760 and an increase of \$671,560 over FY2025. Hare also stated that there would most likely be some additional line-item changes as more information on expenses is collected over the next month. No action was taken on this draft.

Motion was made by Clark to adjourn.
Second by Smith
Time: 6:13 p.m., April 28, 2025
Vote Unanimous

Approved


James Earl Kennamer, Chairman