

EDGEFIELD COUNTY WATER & SEWER AUTHORITY

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The June 2026 Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Edgefield County Water and Sewer Authority was held on June 22, 2026, beginning at approximately 5:30 p.m. at 100 Waterworks Rd., Edgefield, SC (ECWSA Administrative Building). Notice of the meeting was posted in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Kennamer called the meeting to order at approximately 5:30 p.m.

INVOCATION:

Invocation was given by Smith

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Kennamer, Smith, Kitchens, Johnson, Clark, Creswell, Washington

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

STAFF PRESENT:

Administrator Hare, Business Manager Carroway

AGENDA:

A motion was made by Johnson to approve the June 22, 2026 Agenda. Seconded by Creswell. Vote unanimous.

MINUTES:

A motion was made by Johnson to approve the May 18, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes. Seconded by Washington. Vote unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Julie Means was in attendance. No public comment was offered.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT:

The financial report as of May 31, 2026 was presented. Eleven months into the fiscal year, revenues were at approximately 107.79% of budget and overall expenditures were at approximately 90.51%. The water and sewer revenues continued to exceed projections. Compared with May of the prior year, monthly water billings were approximately \$100,000 higher and sewer billings were approximately \$60,000 higher.

REPORTS:

Administrator Hare provided updates on the following:

- **Customer Growth and Impact Fees:**

The Authority continued installing a substantial number of meters. Staff anticipated an especially high number during June because customers and developers were purchasing taps before water-system impact fees took effect on July 1, 2026.

- **Water Treatment Plant Improvements:**

The SCIIP-funded water treatment plant improvements continued progressing. MB Kahn's work was nearly complete, while electrical work remained somewhat behind schedule. After the new powerhouse is energized, the pumps can be set and the project should move toward completion.

- **Lanier Road Lift Station:**

The wet well was scheduled to be set on June 23, 2026. The pumps had been received and were being stored by the Authority. Site clearing had also been completed, and the project was reported to be progressing well.

BUSINESS:

2027 Budget — Final Reading:

Administrator Hare presented the final FY 2027 budget. The budget had been properly noticed and advertised, and no significant changes had been made since the draft presented in May. Projected revenues and expenditures totaled \$13,703,318, producing a balanced budget. This represented an increase of approximately \$554,558, or 4.2%, over the prior year.

The budget included conservative sewer revenue projections because Saluda County was diverting additional flow to its wastewater treatment plant, with a corresponding reduction anticipated in regional sewer-treatment expense. Major expense adjustments included higher material and supply costs, water-treatment electricity, wastewater-treatment electricity, meters, information technology, and retirement expense. The Board also discussed reduced utility-locate volumes and the uncertain effect that the proposed NextEra/Dominion transaction could have on future electric rates.

A motion was made by Clark to approve the FY 2027 budget in the amount of \$13,703,318. Seconded by Kitchens. Vote unanimous.

Capacity Purchase Agreement for Developers and Capacity Purchase Policy Resolution:

Administrator Hare presented the developer capacity purchase agreement and capacity policy resolution that had been tabled at the May meeting. The documents had undergone legal review and incorporated the revisions previously requested by the Board. A motion was made by Washington to approve the Resolution. Seconded by Smith. Vote unanimous.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA	)	RESOLUTION No. 01-2026
	)	
EDGEFIELD COUNTY	)	Approving and Adopting the Wastewater Capacity Management Policy and Standard Wastewater Capacity Purchase Agreement for Regional Sewer System Capacity

Whereas, the Edgefield County Water and Sewer Authority (the Authority) is a body Corporate and Politic and a Special Purpose District, created by Act No. 571 of the Acts and Joint Resolutions of the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina, regular session of 1967, as amended, whereby the Authority is given the function to acquire, construct and operate a waterworks and sewer system within its service area, which consists of the territory of Edgefield County, South Carolina and a small area in the Southwestern corner of Aiken County, South Carolina, exclusive of any area within an incorporated municipality which owns and operates a municipal water works system;

Whereas, the Authority operates and maintains public water and sewer facilities and is responsible for managing available wastewater collection, conveyance, and treatment capacity in a manner that protects public health, regulatory compliance, existing customers, and future orderly growth within the Authority's service area;

Whereas, certain wastewater flows generated within the Authority's service area are conveyed through the regional sewer system from the Authority to the City of North Augusta and are treated at the Aiken County Horse Creek Wastewater Treatment Facility operated by the Aiken County Public Service Authority;

Whereas, available wastewater capacity in the regional sewer system is limited, and such capacity is a valuable public utility resource that must be allocated only upon documented need, full payment of required capacity fees, and compliance with the Authority's policies, rules, regulations, and service requirements;

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Whereas, the Authority is required to pass through regional wastewater capacity charges assessed by downstream providers, including the City of North Augusta and the Aiken County Public Service Authority, and the Board finds that the Authority should not advance, finance, absorb, refund, or otherwise bear such downstream capacity charges on behalf of developers, industries, applicants, or other future connectors;

Whereas, the Board has been advised that the current Aiken County Public Service Authority regional wastewater treatment capacity charge is Ten Dollars and Eighty-Nine Cents (\$10.89) per gallon of reserved daily capacity, and that the City of North Augusta capacity fee or formula remains subject to written confirmation by the City of North Augusta;

Whereas, the Board has reviewed the proposed Wastewater Capacity Management Policy and the proposed standard Wastewater Capacity Purchase Agreement, each of which establishes a uniform process for the purchase, reservation, administration, expiration, reversion, and reallocation of wastewater capacity;

Whereas, the proposed Wastewater Capacity Purchase Agreement provides that all wastewater capacity fees must be paid in full within thirty (30) calendar days of receipt of the agreement, that the wastewater capacity fee is a strictly non-refundable capacity fee and pass-through charge, that no capacity shall be recognized or reserved until full payment has been received by the Authority, and that the purchaser shall have three (3) years to initiate the approved project or the reserved capacity shall revert to the Authority;

Whereas, the Board finds that the adoption of the Wastewater Capacity Management Policy and the standard Wastewater Capacity Purchase Agreement is necessary and appropriate to prevent speculative capacity banking, protect existing and future customers, preserve limited regional wastewater capacity, and provide a consistent and legally defensible process for the allocation of wastewater capacity;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, by the Board of Directors of the Edgefield County Water and Sewer Authority, that the following actions are hereby approved and adopted:

1. The Wastewater Capacity Management Policy presented to the Board is hereby approved and adopted in substantially the form presented, and shall govern the reservation, purchase, administration, expiration, reversion, and reallocation of wastewater capacity within the Authority's system and within any regional wastewater system in which the Authority holds or obtains capacity.

2. The standard Wastewater Capacity Purchase Agreement presented to the Board is hereby approved in substantially the form presented, and the Administrator, Manager, or other duly authorized officer of the Authority is authorized to use and execute such agreement for future connectors, developments, industrial users, commercial customers, and other applicants requesting wastewater capacity, subject to review by legal counsel as needed.
3. All wastewater capacity fees required under the standard Wastewater Capacity Purchase Agreement shall be paid in full within thirty (30) calendar days of receipt of the agreement. No wastewater capacity shall be deemed purchased, reserved, vested, assigned, or otherwise committed by the Authority until the full required capacity fee has been received by the Authority in cleared funds.
4. The wastewater capacity fee shall be classified and administered strictly as a non-refundable wastewater capacity fee and regional pass-through charge, and not as a refundable deposit, escrow, tax, penalty, monthly service charge, tap fee, connection fee, or guarantee of future permitting. The Authority shall not be required to refund capacity fees that have been paid or are payable by the Authority to the City of North Augusta, the Aiken County Public Service Authority, or any other downstream regional wastewater capacity provider.
5. For regional wastewater capacity conveyed through the City of North Augusta and treated at the Aiken County Horse Creek Wastewater Treatment Facility, the capacity fee shall include all applicable downstream regional capacity charges, including the Aiken County Public Service Authority charge currently identified as Ten Dollars and Eighty-Nine Cents (\$10.89) per gallon of reserved daily capacity, together with the City of North Augusta capacity fee or formula when confirmed in writing by the City of North Augusta. If any downstream capacity charge is changed, increased, modified, corrected, or assessed on a project-specific basis before payment is received, the purchaser shall be responsible for the updated or corrected amount.
6. Any wastewater capacity purchased under the standard Wastewater Capacity Purchase Agreement shall be reserved for a period of three (3) years from the effective date of the agreement. If the purchaser fails to initiate the approved project within that three (3) year period, as determined under the agreement and the Wastewater Capacity Management Policy, the reserved capacity shall automatically expire and revert to the Authority for reallocation without refund.
7. The Administrator, Manager, or other duly authorized officer of the Authority is authorized to administer the Wastewater Capacity Management Policy, maintain capacity records and ledgers, request and document downstream capacity fee confirmations, collect and remit regional capacity

fees, determine project initiation status, declare expiration and reversion of unused capacity, and take such other administrative action as may be necessary to implement this Resolution.

8. The Administrator, Manager, and legal counsel for the Authority are authorized to make clerical, formatting, conforming, and non-substantive revisions to the Wastewater Capacity Management Policy and standard Wastewater Capacity Purchase Agreement, including the insertion of the final City of North Augusta capacity fee or formula once confirmed in writing. Any material change to the non-refundable nature of the capacity fee, the thirty (30) day payment requirement, the three (3) year project initiation requirement, or the automatic reversion of unused capacity shall require further Board approval.
9. This Resolution shall be effective immediately upon adoption. All prior policies, practices, resolutions, or procedures of the Authority that are inconsistent with this Resolution are hereby superseded to the extent of such inconsistency.
10. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or provision of this Resolution is held invalid or unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity shall not affect the remaining portions of this Resolution, which shall remain in full force and effect.

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DONE THIS 22nd day of June 2026, at Edgefield, South Carolina

Approved By:

Chairman

Vice Chairman

Treasurer / Secretary

Board Member

Board Member

ATTEST:

Administrator

Board Member

Board Member

Resolution Revising ECWSA Water & Sewer User Rules and Regulations:

The revised Water & Sewer User Rules and Regulations were dated June 22, 2026. Revisions included updated water charges and water-system impact-fee provisions. Hare requested the Board approve a resolution adopting the updated Water & Sewer User Rules and Regulations. A motion was made by Kitchens to approve the resolution. Seconded by Clark. Vote unanimous.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

) RESOLUTION No. 02-2026

EDGEFIELD COUNTY

)

) Revising Water Rates and Impact Fees by Amending the
Edgefield County Water and Sewer Authority's User's
Water Rules and Regulations

Whereas, the Edgefield County Water and Sewer Authority (the Authority) is a body Corporate and Politic and a Special Purpose District, created by Act No. 571 of the Acts and Joint Resolutions of the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina, regular session of 1967, as amended, whereby the Authority is given the function to acquire, construct and operate a waterworks and sewer system within its service area, which consists of the territory of Edgefield County, South Carolina and a small area in the Southwestern corner of Aiken County, South Carolina, exclusive of any area within an incorporated municipality which owns and operates a municipal water works system;

Whereas, in order to perform its statutory function to operate and maintain the waterworks and sewer system, the Authority is authorized to adjust water and sewer rates as needed.

Whereas each residential, commercial or industrial customer of the Authority's system must pay such a customer's proportionate share of costs for operation and maintenance of the system; In addition, each customer must pay an amount to share the costs of debt service and to provide for Depreciation / Contingency funds.

Now, therefore, be it resolved, by the Board of Directors of the Edgefield County Water and Sewer Authority, that a resolution approving the revised schedules of water and sewer charges and fees is adopted.

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Effective as of July 1, 2026, the Water and Sewer User Rules and Regulations are hereby

amended and when amended shall read as follows:

1. *Water Service Charge For All Classes*

<u>Meter Size</u>	<u>Meter Size</u>
3/4" \$21.92	3" \$217.73
1" \$36.36	4" \$362.72
1-1/2" \$72.49	6" \$725.70
2" \$116.05	8" \$1161.16
	10" \$1857.88

2. *Residential Water Rates*

First 8,000 Gallons	\$3.41 Per 1,000 Gallons
8,001-16,000 Gallons	\$4.35 Per 1,000 Gallons
16,001-24,000 Gallons	\$5.03 Per 1,000 Gallons
24,001-32,000 Gallons	\$5.62 Per 1,000 Gallons
Over 32,000 Gallons	\$6.21 Per 1,000 Gallons

3. *Commercial Water Rates*

First 100,000 Gallons	\$3.41 Per 1,000 Gallons
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4. *Industrial Water Rates*

First 100,000 Gallons	\$3.41 Per 1,000 Gallons
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B. Sewer Service

There are five (5) classes of sewer service: Residential, Commercial, Industrial, Prison, and Wholesale/Saluda County. Each sewer service will fit into one of the five classes and will be billed at the rate for that class. The sewer service charge will be charged to all customers and does not include a water-use allowance. Sewer rates will be charged on 100% of the amount of water metered each month with a cap of 12,000 gallons for residential customers.

1. *Sewer Service Charge For All Classes*

<u>Meter Size</u>	<u>Meter Size</u>
3/4" \$13.52	3" \$135.04
1" \$22.55	4" \$224.97
1-1/2" \$44.98	6" \$450.12
2" \$71.98	8" \$720.20

2. *Residential Sewer Rate*

Flat Rate	\$6.30 Per 1,000 Gallons (12,000 Gallon Cap)
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3. *Commercial Sewer Rate*

Flat Rate

\$6.30 Per 1,000 Gallons

B. Edgefield/Johnston/Trenton Sewer Connection Fees

The Authority will not provide free sewer taps. The Authority will install a service connection to the property line of the user. The service connections are the property of the Authority and only duly authorized employees or agents of the Authority are to install and maintain them.

<u>Tap Size</u>	<u>Total Service</u>
4"	Actual Cost - not less than \$3,500.00
6"	Actual Cost - not less than \$4,000.00
8"	Actual Cost - not less than \$5,000.00

Sewer taps that involve special conditions such as removal of pavement, concrete sidewalks, and any other special or unique installation will be charged for the actual cost of installation. An inspection of the sewer connection by the County Inspector is required when the plumber has made his connection to the sewer service prior to backfilling.

C. Regional Sewer System Connection Fees

The Authority will not provide free sewer taps. The Authority will install a service connection (service force main) to the property line of the user. The service connections are the property of the Authority and only authorized agents of the Authority are to install and maintain them.

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|---------------|--|
| 1. Tap Fee | Actual Cost |
| 2. Other Fees | To be charged as appropriate in accordance with this schedule. |

D. Fire Protection Service Fees

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Installation of fire hydrant | Actual Cost |
|---------------------------------|-------------|

E. Impact Fees for Commercial, Industrial or Residential Customers within Service Area of Authority

Water system impact fees are established to recover a proportionate share of the cost of capital facilities constructed to provide water service to new or expanded developments. These fees are intended to ensure that growth and that existing customers are not unduly burdened by the system demands of new users.

1. Applicability and Exemptions

Impact fees shall apply to all new water connections within the service area of the Authority, including residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional users except dedicated fire service lines and temporary connections authorized under Section IV, Subsection C (e.g., hydrant use for construction)

2. Basis and Schedule of Fees

Impact fees shall be assessed based on the nominal pipe size of the installed water service. The schedule below reflects the relative system capacity associated with each meter size, scaled from the ¾-inch base rate.

<u>Meter Size</u>	<u>Impact Fee</u>
¾"	\$1,746.00
1"	\$3,104.00
1 ½"	\$6,984.00
2"	\$12,416.00
3"	\$27,936.00
4"	\$49,664.00
6"	\$111,744.00
8"	\$198,656.00
10"	\$310,400.00

Fees shall be collected at the same time as tap fees, and no service shall be connected to the system until both are paid in full. These fees may be updated by resolution of the Board.

3. Economic Development Adjustments

To promote economic growth, the Edgefield County Water and Sewer Authority Board of Directors may, upon recommendation from the Administrator, approve a partial or full waiver of impact fees for businesses or institutions proposing significant job creation, capital investment, or other strategic benefit to the community. Waivers must be formally approved by the Board and documented with supporting rationale and anticipated economic impacts. All such records shall be retained by the Authority for no less than five (5) years.

F. Delegated Review Fees

1. Sewer System

a. Charge for ECWSA	\$425.00
b. Charge for SCDHEC	<u>\$ 75.00</u>
Total	\$500.00

2. Aiken County Capacity Fee = \$564.60 per 1,000 gallons per day.

G. Security Deposits

1. Owner Deposit Water System	\$60.00
2. Owner Deposit Sewer System	\$40.00
3. Rental Deposit Water System	\$80.00

DONE THIS 22nd day of June 2026, at Edgefield, South Carolina

Approved By:

Chairman

Vice Chairman

Treasurer / Secretary

Board Member

Board Member

Board Member

Board Member

ATTEST:

Secretary

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EXECUTIVE SESSION:

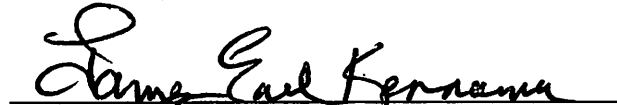
A motion was made by Kitchens to enter into Executive Session. Seconded by Washington. Vote unanimous. The Board entered executive session. Upon returning to open session, Chairman Kennamer reported that no action had been taken.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Clark to adjourn. Seconded by Kitchens. Vote unanimous.

Date: 6/22/2026

Time: 6:14pm

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James Earl Kennamer", written over a horizontal line.

James Earl Kennamer – Board Chairman

Date: July 27th, 2026