

GRAND STRAND WATER & SEWER AUTHORITY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
AUGUST 24, 2026

|                                  | #MEETINGS<br>(Since 7/1/26) | #ATTENDED<br>(Since 7/1/26) | %<br>ATTENDANCE |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| MEMBERS PRESENT:                 |                             |                             |                 |
| Benjy A. Hardee, Chairman        | 2                           | 2                           | 100%            |
| Arnold T. Johnson, Vice Chairman | 2                           | 2                           | 100%            |
| Richard Singleton II, Secretary  | 2                           | 2                           | 100%            |
| Sidney F. Thompson, Member       | 2                           | 2                           | 100%            |
| Mark K. Lazarus, Member          | 2                           | 2                           | 100%            |
| Radha B. Herring, Member         | 2                           | 2                           | 100%            |
| B. Kemp Floyd, Jr., Member       | 2                           | 2                           | 100%            |

|                                       |   |   |      |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|------|
| MEMBERS ATTENDING VIA TELECONFERENCE: |   |   |      |
| J. Liston Wells, Member               | 2 | 2 | 100% |
| L. Morgan Martin, Member              | 2 | 2 | 100% |

STAFF PRESENT:

Christy Holder, Chief Executive Officer  
Chrystal Skipper, Chief of Administration  
Neeraj Patel, Chief of Plant Operations  
Matthew Minor, Chief of Engineering & Construction  
Thomas Neat, Chief of Technology  
Wade Lewis, Chief of Field Operations  
Greg Thompson, Chief of Accounting & Finance  
Mary Hunsucker, HR Manager  
Chandler Richardson, Water Plant Manager

LEGAL COUNSEL:

Bhumi Patel, Burr Forman  
Frannie Heizer, Burr Forman

Copies of the Notice of Meeting and Agenda were mailed to the local media.

Chairman Hardee called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance. The invocation was given by Vice Chairman, Arnold Johnson.

APPROVAL OF JULY 27, 2026 MINUTES: Upon motion duly made by Mr. Singleton, seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried, the minutes of the July 27, 2026, meeting were approved as presented.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT – OLD AND NEW BUSINESS (ACTION ITEMS):

DISCUSSION/ACTION: A Series Resolution Approving the Financing of the Perry Road Pump Station Upgrade Project Through Borrowing of Not Exceeding Twenty-Two Million Four Hundred Twelve Thousand Two Hundred Eighty-Nine Dollars Plus Capitalized Interest. Mrs. Holder stated this is an SRF loan for a water improvement project that we will be getting ready to construct shortly. Mr. Thompson stated the interest rate was 2.9% for \$8.8 million over twenty years and 3.2% for \$13.6 million over 30 years. Upon motion of Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Singleton, the resolution was unanimously approved by the Board as presented.

DISCUSSION/ACTION: Resolution 06-26: A Resolution to Authorize the Chief Executive Officer to Execute and Submit an Application to the South Carolina Water Quality Revolving Fund Authority or Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Financial Assistance in an Estimated Total of \$1,924,980, with the Funding Currently Anticipated to Include Approximately \$1,500,000 in Loan Proceeds and Approximately \$424,980 in Principal Forgiveness Assistance, for the Planning and Design Costs Related to the

Myrtle Beach Water Treatment Plant PFAS Upgrades and to Grant a Pledge of and Lien on Revenues for Repayment of the Loan. Mrs. Holder reiterated that we did get some principal forgiveness funding for PFAS upgrades for Myrtle Beach and Bull Creek. Upon motion of Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Singleton, the resolution was unanimously approved by the Board as presented.

DISCUSSION/ACTION: Resolution 07-26: A Resolution to Authorize the Chief Executive Officer to Execute and Submit an Application to the South Carolina Water Quality Revolving Fund Authority or Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Financial Assistance in an Estimated Total of \$7,280,020, with the Funding Currently Anticipated to Include Approximately \$4,856,371 in Loan Proceeds and Approximately \$2,423,649 in Principal Forgiveness Assistance, for the Planning and Design Costs Related to the Bull Creek Water Treatment Plant PFAS Upgrades and to Grant a Pledge of and Lien on Revenues for Repayment of the Loan. Upon motion of Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Singleton, the resolution was unanimously approved by the Board as presented.

DISCUSSION/ACTION: Capital Budget Appropriation Requests – Rural Water Projects. Mrs. Holder stated the rural water projects in the Board packet for appropriation have met the criteria for our rural program.

DISCUSSION/ACTION: Capital Budget Appropriation Requests – Rural Sewer Projects. Mrs. Holder stated the rural sewer projects in the Board packet for appropriation have met the criteria for our rural program.

Upon motion of Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Singleton, the capital budget appropriation requests for rural water and sewer projects were unanimously approved by the Board as presented.

#### DIVISION REPORTS:

##### GREG THOMPSON, CHIEF OF ACCOUNTING & FINANCE

UPDATE/STATUS: July 2026 Financial Statements. Mr. Thompson stated he made several modifications to the detailed information provided in the Board Packet monthly. Anything that is leftover from our operations goes to our safe water treatment account or wastewater improvement fund. This is budgeted and we plan for it. This is the portion of our operating budget that funds capital. The second change was a change to our investment income. This is made up of investment income and unrealized gains and losses which were previously rolled up together in the statement. Mr. Thompson stated that this would now be itemized. The unrealized gains and losses go up and down depending on interest rates and other items. These are unrealized unless we sell, which we typically do not do.

Mr. Thompson reviewed the total sources and uses of funds through July with the Board and shared a comparison from the same time period last year. In regard to revenues, for fiscal year 2027 to date, we have brought in \$12.3 million in revenue which is up \$1.1 million or 9% compared to the same time period last year. This is due to a combination of growth and rate increases. For fiscal year 2027, to date our total operating expenses are \$12.1 million compared to \$10.9 million for the same time period last year. What stands out in our expenses is outside services. The increase in outside services is due to the annual subscription for our new ERP being paid in the first month of the fiscal year. Our operating surplus is \$216,265, which is down compared to last year but largely due to the increase in outside services. In regard to non-operating revenues, the biggest change is in impact fees which increased in fiscal year 2027. Mr. Thompson stated that together the operating surplus and non-operating revenues provided approximately \$4.4 million in funding for capital for the month of July.

Mr. Thompson also called the Board's attention to a WMBF News article which was published recently. The headline read, "Conway residents say they've seen triple increase in water bills." Mr. Thompson shared what WMBF reported, the City's explanation and a quote from a city council member. Mr. Thompson, Mrs. Holder and the Board briefly discussed the article further.

Mr. Thompson stated he looked at our Purchasing Policy which has not been updated since 2022. He shared several recommendations with the Board. Mr. Thompson shared our current policy with the Board: purchases less than \$3,500 only require one quote, purchases over \$25,000 require sealed bids and everything in between requires multiple quotes. Mr. Thompson performed an analysis and proposed increasing the one quote threshold to \$5,000 and the sealed bids threshold to \$50,000. Over the last three years, this change would have changed the requirement for 797 transactions to only require one quote instead of multiple and 632 transactions would have required multiple quotes instead of a sealed bid. These changes would save the Purchasing staff time and 1,429 procurements over a three-year period could have been completed a week earlier. For comparison, Mr. Thompson also shared the thresholds for several other water and sewer companies in South Carolina.

Chairman Hardee asked if all the transactions were included in the Board packet. Currently, only purchase orders over \$25,000 are provided to the Board monthly.

After a brief discussion between Mr. Thompson, Mrs. Holder and the Board, the Board agreed to increase the threshold for purchases requiring multiple quotes to \$5,000 and increase the threshold for sealed bids to \$50,000. In addition, the Board requested for all purchase orders requiring multiple quotes to be included in the monthly Board Packet. They also requested that the Accounting Department perform an audit/analysis of our vendors and especially those consistently getting jobs less than the multiple quote threshold. This information will be presented back to the Board next month for Board action.

Mr. Thompson also discussed our current local vendor preference policy with the Board. Our current policy allows local vendors who come in with a bid up to 5% over the low bidder to have the option to match the low bidder's bid. Mr. Thompson recommended adding a maximum preference window of \$50,000 over the low bid. The Board was not in favor of making a change so our local vendor preference policy will remain as is.

#### NEERAJ PATEL, CHIEF OF PLANT OPERATIONS

UPDATE/STATUS: Surface Water Treatment Report. In July, we treated and produced an average of 34.1 million gallons a day at Bull Creek and 30.4 million gallons a day at Myrtle Beach for a combined total of 64.5 million gallons a day. This is an increase of 5.8 million gallons per day compared to July of 2025. Regarding the alum dosage this month, at Bull Creek we had an average alum dosage of 50 mg/l and at Myrtle Beach the average alum dosage was 66 mg/l. The running annual averages are 59 mg/l at Bull Creek and 60 mg/l at Myrtle Beach.

Mr. Patel also shared information regarding the water quality parameters for the month of July. The average color for raw water at Bull Creek was 28 color units and at Myrtle Beach it was 111 color units. The max color on any given day during the month of July was 52 at Bull Creek and 137 at Myrtle Beach.

UPDATE/STATUS: Wastewater Treatment Report. For the month of July, we treated an average daily flow of 43.2 million gallons at all facilities combined. Mr. Patel shared the flow trends for all wastewater treatment plants for the last 10 fiscal years. We have completed the first month of fiscal year 2027 and have treated an average of 43.2 million gallons a day fiscal year-to-date.

UPDATE/STATUS: Compliance with SCDES Water/Wastewater Requirements & Project Status Update. Mr. Patel stated all monitoring was reported and all system operations were conducted in compliance with SCDES requirements for the month of July.

On the wastewater project status side, we are coordinating with our consultant and potential vendor on conducting the pilot study for the Central WWTP. The pilot study is situated at our Schwartz WWTP in Socastee. This will allow our operators to understand how the new technology will work in preparation for the Central WWTP.

In regard to water projects, on August 3<sup>rd</sup>, we placed the four new filters from the Bull Creek SWTP expansion online. This was done after satisfactory bacteriological samples and low turbidity values met the regulations. This was all completed with approvals from GSWSA, Goodwyn Mills Cawood (GMC) and SCDES. The other items that have been placed online include upgrading the 200 HP raw water pumps with three 300 HP pumps, adding a third 36" raw water main from the pump station to the plant, a 60" manifold, upflow clarifiers and a 2.5 MGD clearwell. Mrs. Holder stated Bull Creek is now officially rated as a 60 MGD plant. We are still working on starting up the lime feed systems and we hope to finish the site restoration, clean up and punch list items soon. When we placed plant #4 online, we filled 60 jars with water from the first draw of water from the expansion. We canned them to preserve them. Mr. Patel offered each of the Board members a jar of water. In regard to the Bull Creek and Myrtle Beach Phase 1 PFAS upgrades, the selection for CMAR is complete and a kick-off meeting was held on August 18<sup>th</sup>.

#### WADE LEWIS, CHIEF OF FIELD OPERATIONS

UPDATE/STATUS: Compliance with SCDES Water/Wastewater Requirements: Mr. Lewis stated all monitoring was reported and all system operations were conducted in compliance with SCDES requirements for the month of July. However, we had two sewer spills in August.

On August 2<sup>nd</sup>, a sewer spill occurred on Southern Trail in the Southcreek Subdivision off Gardner Lacy Road. It appears the force main was previously compromised from the installation of a corrugated storm drain and eventually developed a small leak. We estimated approximately 3,200 gallons of sewer spilled from the break into two adjacent stormwater ponds. Based on our observations, the sewer spill was contained in the ponds, and we estimate that approximately 95% was recovered/reclaimed from the affected area.

On August 12<sup>th</sup>, a sewer spill occurred from a pipeline failure on Forestbrook Road. This was caused by a broken ball check valve on a residential grinder pump station service tap. The sewer spilled into the roadside ditch that drained into a nearby stormwater detention pond. Due to the volume of sewer spilled (an estimated 6,000 gallons), SCDES was notified immediately and a public notice was issued to local media outlets. Based on our observations, the sewer spill was contained in the pond, and we estimate approximately 95% of the sewer was recovered/reclaimed from the affected area.

UPDATE/STATUS: Aquifer Storage Recovery Well Program: In regard to the Jackson Bluff and River Oaks wells, cycle testing for these wells is currently on hold. We hope to be able to use these in late Spring. In regard to the International well, we issued a Notice to Proceed for the well building contract and the building permit application has been submitted. In regard to the Cool Springs well, the final inspection with Horry County Code Enforcement has been completed and the final inspection with SCDES will be done in September. In regard to the new Highway 501 well, a request for bids went out on August 13<sup>th</sup> with a bid opening set for August 27<sup>th</sup>.

In the ASR program for the month of July, we had a net recovery of approximately 141.8 million gallons for an average daily recovery of 4.6 million gallons.

UPDATE/STATUS: Field Operations Activities: In regard to other field operations activities, in July, the Wastewater Collection Department smoke tested 290,232 feet of gravity sewer lines and responded to 178 sewer back-ups. The Water Department responded to 78 water quality/quantity inquiries, collected 539 water samples, responded to 19 emergency shutdowns and completed approximately 4,577 work orders.

#### MATT MINOR, CHIEF OF ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION

UPDATE/STATUS: Rural Water and Sewer Projects: Mr. Minor called the Board's attention to the rural water and sewer projects in the Board packet. In the FY 2026/2027 budget, the Board has approved over \$6.7 million in the rural water program. Since the last Board meeting, we authorized 3 projects for design for 7,880 linear feet of pipeline and 6 new REUs. Seven projects moved from the design phase to construction for 14,245

linear feet of pipeline and 40 REUs. We issued service authorization to 5 projects for 12,763 linear feet of pipeline and 29 new REUs.

On the sewer side, in the fiscal year 2026/2027 budget, the Board has approved over \$11.5 million in the rural sewer program. Since the last Board meeting, we authorized 4 new projects for design that will add 19,200 linear feet of pipeline and 15 new REUs. Five projects moved from the design phase to construction for 3,285 linear feet of pipeline and 13 REUs. We issued service authorization to 6 projects for 6,950 linear feet of pipeline and 8 new REUs.

Mr. Minor called the Board's attention to the chart in the Board packet showing the cumulative miles of pipeline installed since the beginning of the rural program. To date, in calendar year 2026, we have installed 18 miles of pipeline.

UPDATE/STATUS: Developer Projects: Mr. Minor shared a map with the Board showing the locations of the developer projects that were reviewed in the month of July. In July, we received 23 new letters of intent. Five projects were developer extension projects totaling 168 REUs. The other 18 projects were single-service commercial projects totaling 96 REUs. We issued service authorization to 13 projects for 878 REUs which accounted for \$8.7 million in developer contributions. We held 7 preconstruction meetings in July.

Overall, we have a total of 97 active developer projects in the construction or close-out phase. Mr. Minor called the Board's attention to the list of projects and trend charts in the Board packet.

UPDATE/STATUS: Capital Projects: In regard to the Conway Parallel 24" Water Transmission Upgrade, we held a preconstruction meeting with R.H. Moore Company, Inc. on August 18<sup>th</sup>. A Notice to Proceed is being issued for September 1<sup>st</sup> with a 390-day contract period. The project consists of 60,000 linear feet of 24" waterline from the Bull Creek SWTP to the Conway Reservoir at Pitch Landing Road.

In regard to the Forestbrook Road Widening project, we have completed 100% design drawings and our consultant has submitted all permitting packages to the appropriate agencies for review. We are currently awaiting comments.

In regard to the Highway 905 Developer Extension project for sewer in Columbus County, we issued a Notice to Proceed to RCB Contractors LLC with a start date of July 27<sup>th</sup>. This is a 270-day contract.

In regard to the Little River Booster Pump Station Upgrade, we held a preconstruction meeting with PAGE Power Systems, Inc. on August 7<sup>th</sup>. A Notice to Proceed has been issued for August 31<sup>st</sup>. The project includes electrical upgrades and is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

In regard to the Perry Road Water Pump Station Upgrade, we have awarded the contract to Harper General Contractors in the amount of \$19,839,898. A preconstruction meeting has been scheduled for August 20<sup>th</sup>. This project includes a new pump station, 5 MG ground storage reservoir and upgrades to the existing pump station. Once a start date is

customer base has increased by 3.6%. During the month of July, our active accounts increased by 570, inactive accounts increased by 23 and our suspended accounts decreased by 9.

In regard to REUs, during the month of July, our REUs increased by 698, which brings our REU total to 224,147. Over the last consecutive twelve months, our total REUs have increased by 3.1%. During the month of July, our active REUs increased by 696, inactive REUs increased by 35 and our suspended REUs decreased by 33.

#### OTHER BUSINESS:

Chairman Hardee called the Board's attention to the Employee Recognition, Sod Donation Report and South Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority Letter.

Upon motion duly made, seconded and carried the Board went into executive session for the discussion of contractual matters. Following executive session, the Board returned to regular session.

There being no further business, upon motion duly made, seconded and carried, the meeting was adjourned.

*Approved via teleconference*

Benjy A. Hardee, Chairman

*Arnold T. Johnson*  
Arnold T. Johnson, Vice Chairman

*Approved via teleconference*

Richard G. Singleton II, Secretary

*Sidney F. Thompson*  
Sidney F. Thompson, Member

*J. Liston Wells*  
J. Liston Wells, Member

*Mark K. Lazarus*  
Mark K. Lazarus, Member

*L. Morgan Martin*  
L. Morgan Martin, Member

*Radha B. Herring*  
Radha B. Herring, Member

*B. Kemp Floyd, Jr.*  
B. Kemp Floyd, Jr., Member