

The regular meeting of the SJWD Water District Commissioners was held at 198 Watershed Way, Spartanburg, South Carolina.

Commissioners: Present – *Barry Frost, Frank Nutt, Brian Leonard, Wanda Fowler, Buddy Carlton.*

Staff: *Billy Cothran, Julie Gillespie, Josh Fulmer, Dusty Peace, Ivonne Osorno, Corey Bennett, Lisa Hart, Sierra Salters, Cam Miller, Jeff Diaz, Bobby Walden, Jake Lancaster, Paul Glover, Jamie Wofford, Bradley Norman, Jamie Jordan, Tyler Cothran, Justin Paris, Cole Jolley, Kaleb Edwards, Nolan Hammett, Aydan Henry, Jason Dale, Brandon Hamrick, Mason Fulmer, Katie Clark, and Larry Christopher.*

Guests: *Eddie Tallon and Kathryn Richardson, The Tallon Group
Lindsey McCoy, AtkinsRéalís
Brad Love, Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd
Andrew Karas, Lyman Mill Village Resident
Troye Mathews, Lyman Lake Resident*

The meeting agenda was emailed to WSPA TV and the Spartanburg Herald-Journal, posted in the lobby, and made available on SJWD’s website.

Buddy Carlton called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 18, 2025, REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Barry Frost made a motion, seconded by Brian Leonard, to approve November 18, 2025, regular meeting minutes. The motion was approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Andrew Karas, resident of 32 Crescent Street, Lyman, South Carolina, presented his concerns regarding the water quality at his residence. He provided supporting evidence, including photographs, a recently replaced whole-house water filter, and water sample dated January 19, 2026. He stated that he has communicating with Bradley Norman and Justin Thornton regarding this matter over the past several years. Mr. Karas requested that SJWD coordinate with the Town of Lyman to address issues with the water mains in the Lyman mill village.

FINAL PUBLIC HEARING FOR SPARTANBURG COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN AMENDMENT

Cam Miller introduced Lindsey McCoy, who presented on the Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) amendment process and the actions being taken to add SJWD to Spartanburg County’s HMP.

It was noted that the amendment process will enable SJWD to apply for current and future hazard mitigation grant opportunities. SJWD currently has two grant applications submitted through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP); one for backup generators and another for spillway repairs related to Hurricane Helene. The plan amendment final draft was finalized and submitted to SCEMD and Spartanburg County for review on January 5, 2026.

CEO'S REPORT

A. EMPLOYEE RECOGNITIONS

1. New Employees: Introduction of Cole Jolley (Operations), Sierra Salters (Human Resources), Bobby Walden (Chief Operations Officer), and Elijah Hernandez (Field Services).
2. Operations Department: Recognition of the department for its hard work and contributions in 2025. In 2025, SJWD water mains were struck by contractors installing fiber optic lines causing water main breaks on at least 80 occasions. These hits resulted in hundreds of extra hours of emergency repair work by Operations personnel to return water service to customers as quickly and safely as possible.
3. Water Quality: Recognition of Jamie Wofford for his outstanding customer service while responding to and successfully resolving customer water quality complaints.
4. Ivonne Orsorno: Recognition for her work related to SJWD's 2026 Budget Book, the organization's first, which received the GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award and her continued work on SJWD's annual comprehensive financial reports.
5. Paul Glover: Recognition as the recipient of the 2025 WEASC Blue Ridge Foothills Operator of the Year Award.

B. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Eddie Tallon and Kathryn Richardson updated the Commission on the South Carolina legislative calendar and current water-related and public utility topics being discussed and considered in relation to SJWD.

OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Josh Fulmer provided an update on the Hydromax Distribution System Assessment Project. Hydromax crews are currently assessing and operating all valves and fire hydrants in SJWD's distribution system. This project, which began in October 2025, is approximately 50% complete. Josh stated that repair work resulting from these assessments are being split by Hydromax and SJWD crews. Billy Cothran added that this infrastructure assessment work will serve as good a baseline for Operations personnel to continue in-house. Additionally, the updated asset information collected will be valuable as SJWD prepares for a future asset management program.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL UPDATES

- a. Monthly Financial Report:* Larry Christopher provided the monthly financial report to the Commission for December 2025.
- b. Open Capital Projects Report:* Corey Bennett and Cam Miller updated the Commission on the open capital projects.

APPROVAL OF PETITION RESOLUTION FOR GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND ORDINANCE

Barry Frost made a motion, seconded by Wanda Fowler, to approve the petition resolution for a General Obligation Bond Ordinance to be considered by Spartanburg County Council at their February 2026 meeting. The motion was approved.

APPROVAL OF PETITION RESOLUTION FOR TAXING BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT

Frank Nutt made a motion, seconded by Wanda Fowler, to approve the petition resolution for a taxing boundary adjustment to be considered by Spartanburg County Council at their February 2026 meeting. The motion was approved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- a. To Receive Legal Advice Regarding Potential Litigation (per SC Code Section Ann. 30-4-70(a)(2))**
- b. To Discuss Potential Property Transaction near Pine Ridge Road**
- c. To Discuss Chief Executive Officer's Performance Review**

At 11:54 a.m., Wanda Fowler made a motion, seconded by Barry Frost, to enter Executive Session to receive legal advice covered by the attorney-client privilege (per SC Code Section Ann. 30-4-70(a)(2)), to discuss potential property transaction near Pine Ridge Road, and to discuss Chief Executive Officer's Performance Review. The motion was approved.

At 1:44 p.m., Wanda Fowler made a motion, seconded by Brian Leonard, to exit Executive Session. The motion was approved.

ANY ACTION, IF NECESSARY, FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

Barry Frost made a motion, seconded by Brian Leonard, authorizing Billy Cothran to continue negotiations on property near Pine Ridge Road based on the discussions in Executive Session. The motion was approved.

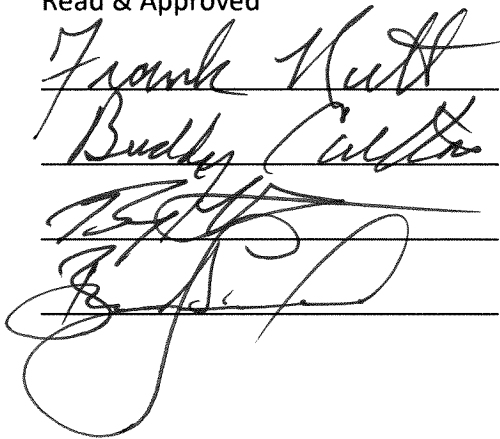
Barry Frost made a motion, seconded by Brian Leonard, to increase the Chief Executive Officer's base pay by the amount discussed in Executive Session. The motion was approved.

MISCELLANEOUS ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

At 1:53 p.m., Barry Frost made a motion, seconded by Brian Leonard, to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at 10:30 a.m.

Read & Approved



Wanda Fowler
Secretary

