Lake Santee Regional Waste & Water District

Meeting Minutes

Meeting of June 18, 2026 – 3:30 PM

Lake Santee Community Room



1. Call to Order / Roll Call
    a. President Tom DePalma called the meeting to order and requested a roll call. Members present were Tom DePalma, Maurie Goodwin, Larry Kiernan, Larry Nicks, Bob Kasee, and Joyce Eddy. Steve Yost was absent. Also in attendance were Utility Administrator, John Lecher, Utility Superintendent, Greg Coffin, Utility Operator, Dom Huber, and Attorney, Anne Poindexter.

2. Guest introduction and short comments
3. No guests were present

    Consent Items
    a. Minutes of May 21, 2026, Meeting
    b. Financial Report
    c. Register of Claims – Water
    d. Register of Claims – Sewer

    A motion was made by Maurie, second by Bob, to accept the consent items. Motion carried.
4. Superintendent Report
    a. Water Status Report – Greg reported that the north carbon was changed out and is now back online and running great. The other half of the carbons will be changed out in October.
        i. Greg reported that membrane two is failing and didn't want to restart; it did once it was reset. A new one is on order.
        ii. The opposite unit was replaced last year, they run about $7K – turnaround time is 3-4 weeks. We can review the AMP to see when these were installed. Greg will find out what the shelf life is for the membranes as well as asking Toric when the last time we ordered them.
    b. Sewer Status Report
        i. Another vendor was found for the Digester Blower Gear Box, which is Roots Blower for $5,200 – Dom reported that the install is straight forward and RWWD could handle it with no need for outside help.
        ii. CHM was contacted for the clarifier repair. When they come out next, they will quote it. Repairs should save quite a bit of money versus replacement.



iii. The sewer plant is running well.

c. Neptune System – 99.1% readings for meters are coming in since the second pole was set at the East Beach, which is better than the initial 94.8%. Two (2) meters that were replaced are not in the system yet. Six (6) antennas and three (3) meters needed replacing; one (1) was dead and one (1) was very old. Replaced up to 12 at this time. Greg is very pleased with the functioning of the new metering system. The system flags the meters that have not been read, and the system picks up readings about every three (3) days.

d. No quotes this month from Greg.

e. Dom's exam status – he did not pass the first time. An application has been filled out to retake the exam. He is just waiting for acceptance.

5. Administrator Report
   a. Status Report
      i. Leaks = 18 – six (6) ongoing, twelve (12) new. Several leaks are toilet related. Higher usages have been from cleaning and watering.
      ii. Disconnects = 0
   b. No write offs or adjustments.
6. Treasurer Report
   a. John mentioned the need to monitor the water checking account. The Water account sheet in the package is the balance at the end of May, but the current balance at the date of the meeting exceeds $100K. The office will monitor the actual balance prior to the monthly meeting to make sure there is enough to cover the claims against it. There was a discussion on past expenditures having taken the balance down.
7. Old Business
   a. Asset Management Plan (AMP)
      i. The meeting with selected Water Board members last month did not have a whole lot to add. John is not sure if the forecast can work without someone who is an expert at Excel. POA's AMP plan has 36 lines, and RWWD's AMP plan has over 500 lines, so putting in new lines may prove more difficult. They will meet again after Steve is back and will make another attempt to update the spreadsheet. These meetings are normally done on Monday following the Water Board meeting, and anyone is welcome to sit in on them.

b. The GIS System is still being edited by Dom when time allows. All Santee Drive has been completed for a total of approximately 100 having been completed.
c. Member Plant Tours – Friday, June 19, 2pm, 4pm, and 6pm.
Tom's golf cart will be available for use as needed and Tom will also provide his cooler for the plant water that will be served. Joyce will provide the cups. Many Santee customers are not aware of where their water comes from. This will be an educational tour.
d. Management Agreement
John sent an email to Lake Waynoka asking for their total number of homes, amount of water produced daily, amount of sewer treated daily, number of district employees, etc. We are close to 30% less than Lake Waynoka which equates to 1 ½ persons less than them. If we outsource taps, we will still be slightly understaffed. The Utility Superintendent has a lot of administrative time we have never considered. We are 1,000 – 1,500 man hours below their numbers. Greg is going to talk to Eric or Ben to find out if there is another utility we can benchmark with. Greg is feeling more caught up compared to when he began. Dom feels there is still not enough time to complete all the tasks due to other priorities. They will keep looking at things to outsource or improve the process. We have two options: hiring a part-time employee or hiring a certified contractor.
e. Mailing Surcharge for Water & Sewer Bills
Tom updated Anne on how we began the discussion on a surcharge for hard copy bills. Anne explained we would have to do a Rate Study and go through a Public Hearing to add a surcharge as a Rate line item and be able to justify by calculating charges, administrative time, driving, etc. Every time there is enough of a Post Office mailing increase we would have to do another Rate Study. There is a lot of administrative work to do the Study. Another option is to increase everyone's rate to include the mailing expenses. The increase in everyone's rate would include those utilizing e-billing. Discussion followed. Communicate to the Community about the expenses of mailing bills and the potential rate increases via the Smoke Signal and the internet i.e. FB pages. See what Muni-link and how they might help.

f. Update on final grading work for a property owner's lot.
John contacted Modlin stating that the culvert needs to be cleared or one put in if there isn't one before work is to be done based on the POA's rule that all driveways have a culvert. The RWWD agreed to repair the final grade and leave the repair or replacement of the culvert with the POA.
Bob made a motion, seconded by Maurie to honor the request for grading by Modlin, the homeowner's contractor, for $890, taking care of the grade and improving water flow, which is the RWWD's responsibility. RWWD has no responsibility for the County drainage. Motion carried with one nay vote.
A motion to send a letter to the homeowner that their issues be submitted in writing, to avoid taking up staff and Board members' time, also to limit time in future meetings to three minutes. Maurie made the motion, seconded by no one. Motion died.

g. Process to test and replace meters
Feedback from Anne, says to first do the due diligence, if they say "I want my meter tested," we have the obligation to test once a year, but first have the office go through the list of items that can drive usage up, then the utility technicians can go through field items prior to testing the meter. Bench testing the meter (in-house) was discussed and deemed appropriate.

8. New Business
   a. C & H/M Excavating – tapping, will be here Monday (6/22) with Dom and John F. both sewer and water. See how they do it. The timing is currently not available to share. The tap is for member, Stickford on Itawamba. They will charge us for the labor and use our supplies. They will also attend the July meeting. Any outside contracted costs fall back to the homeowner in the end. Oversite by our personnel will be additional hours and absorbed as a cost of doing business. Dom will let the Board know what time the tap will take place.
   b. Muni-Link Billing Software
   Muni-Link's presentation was very impressive. Jayhawk is antiquated and can no longer be built on. Larry N. wants to see other quotes. Anne will ask other districts who they use for billing. We will go back to Muni-Link with additional questions.



c. Assistant Lake Manger
   This position focuses on putting staff into managing the Security Team, payroll, taking John's responsibilities when he needs additional help, etc. The POA will hold the staff position and any sharing with the District would be in the Management Agreement.

9. Trustee Reports and Comments
   a. Larry N. requested what the protocol was for the water treatment plant when the weather is super bad. Greg responded that there are alarms set up to alert the Utility personnel as needed as well as back-up batteries are in place to notify them when something does not happen as required. The back-up generator kicks on when the power goes out.
10. Adjourn – Motion to adjourn made by Larry N. and seconded by Maurie. The motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by
Joyce Eddy for Secretary, Steve Yost

These minutes are subject to approval by the LSRWWD Board at the July 16, 2026, meeting.