**Lake Santee Regional Waste & Water District**

**Meeting Minutes**

Meeting of March 19, 2026 - 3:30 PM

Lake Santee Community Room



Call to Order / Roll Call

President Tom DePalma called the meeting to order and requested a roll call. Members present were Tom DePalma, Joyce Eddy, Larry Kiernan, Maurie Goodwin, Bob Kasee and Steve Yost. Larry Nicks was absent. Also in attendance were Utility Administrator John Lecher, Utility Superintendent Greg Coffin.

Guest introduction and short comments

a. Michael Dora
b. Vicki & Ron Wilson. Vicki initiated a discussion about a meeting with John Lecher, Tom DePalma and Steve Knight about drainage issues on her property. It was pointed out that all parties agreed about the work that needs to be done, but that the spring weather hasn't been consistent enough yet for the work to be done. Once the weather stabilizes the work will be done. Vicki expressed her ongoing concerns for the watershed. John reviewed the steps that have been taken with various watershed experts over the last 6-years and mitigation steps taken by the RWWD and LSPOA.

Consent Items

a. Minutes of the 2/19/26 Meeting
b. Financial Report
c. Register of Claims – Water
d. Register of Claims – Sewer

A motion was made by Maurie and seconded by Bob to accept the consent items. Motion carried.

Superintendent Report

Sewer Status Report

i. Greg reported that we had a sewer plant violation, as our limit on ammonia exceeded the maximum during the really cold weather. Once the weather returned to normal, the ammonia level went back to within limits. Greg noted that in recent conversations with other sewer plant operators that they experienced the same excessive readings.
ii. Greg noted that he received a revised quote from American Pump of $155,000- for updating our oxidation ditch clarifier. Greg does not think the update is necessary at this time, as it is operating as it should. He will keep us informed as to when we need to reconsider.

Water Status Report

i. Greg reported that the water treatment plant is running well.

Plant Operational Review Report

i. Greg mentioned that the insulation and heating unit have been installed in

the garage.

Ii. Greg and Dom met with both our old and new representatives from IDEM. It was a positive meeting and everyone appears to be on the same page.

iii. Neptune is currently installing the gateway on the water tower and presented us the results of potentially moving the second location from the East Beach to lot 1372. Upon review the potential coverage increase amounted to less than 2% and would have increased our costs as electricity would have to be installed; therefore, it was the consensus of the board to proceed with the original installation plan at the East Beach.

Exam Status Report

i. Dom is all caught with his waste water requirements and is registered to start classes in May for operating training and water certification. He can't test for it until his one year of full time on the job is completed in June. IDEM is very rigid about their one year on the job requirement.

Administrator Report

Status report

i. John stated 17 leaks were reported and many more are ongoing. Continuous leak situations are being tracked more closely with more effort being made to determine where the leaks are occurring; however, some customers have decided that paying for the extra usage is cheaper than actually fixing the problem. He suggests we monitor this situation to be sure it doesn't get out of control.

ii. Six disconnect notices were sent this month. Two have been reconnected.

iii. Two leak adjustments were received.

Account 10406-02 for $38.93. The member closed on the sale before the bill was issued so we didn't get the chance to collect it before then. Bob motioned to approve the write off, Maurie seconded the motion which carried with Joyce abstaining.

Account 0148 for $131.63 had a leaky valve which was replaced. A motion was made by Steve to approve the write off. The motion was seconded by Maurie and carried with Joyce again abstaining.

iii. Account 0039 update. John informed the board that our attorney has advised us that any change to our requirement could lead to a potential revocation of our bond; therefore, the board agreed not to consider any changes to our regulations.

Treasurer Report

Larry K. stated that we are in the position to meet our current financial needs.

Old Business

i. The Wessler Engineering Asset Management Plan is being passed around to all of the board members as we only have three hard copies and the online versions are hard to work with given the volume of information.Tom suggests that once we all get a chance to review it that to decide how exactly it will be used and who will take ownership of its use.

On the GIS mapping side Greg and Dom have started using it. There are discrepancies in some of the locations, but they are being corrected as the issues come up. The system is working well, but it will take some time before all the information is correct.

ii. Excavation safety training – All online training has been completed by Greg and Dom.

iii. Neptune update. See Plant Operational Review item iii.

iv. Plant Tour date will be determined at next month's board meeting for publication in May and occurring in June.

New Business

i. A discussion was held regarding Tom putting a "Letter from the President" in the Smoke Signals and possibly other publications highlighting board activities and items the membership should be aware of, such as shutting off their water when leaving for an extended time. Tom expressed his concerns by putting such a letter on social media that responses could be considered a formal means of board communication. The topic was then tabled.

Trustees Reports and comments

Bob presented a phone operated shutoff valve recommended by Bill Chaffin and asked if the board should look into recommending it. After some discussion, it was decided that recommending any shutoff valve could potentially lead to liability on our part should it fail and with our new Neptune system the chances of leak going undetected will be greatly reduced; therefore, the board decided not to act on it.

Motion to Adjourn was made by Larry K., seconded by Bob was approved and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by

Steve Yost, Secretary

These minutes are subject to approval by the LSRWWD Board at the 4/16//26 meeting.