Lake Santee Regional Waste & Water District

Meeting Minutes

Meeting of February 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, Larry Nicks, Bob Kasee and Steve Yost. Maurie Goodwin was absent. Also in attendance were Utility Administrator John Lecher, Utility Superintendent Greg Coffin and Utility Operator Dom Huber.

Guest introduction and short comments

a. Rhonda Peetz
b. Anne Hayes - Wessler Engineering

Consent Items

a. Minutes of the 1/15/26 Meeting
b. Financial Report
c. Register of Claims – Water
d. Register of Claims – Sewer

A motion was made by Steve and seconded by Larry K. to accept the consent items. Motion carried.

Superintendent Report

Sewer Status Report

i. Greg reported that our sewer system is working pretty well; although during the almost two cold snap, we had high ammonia reading in the oxidation ditch. Although the high reading is a violation, Greg talked with Becky Ruan from IDEM, who said it was correct to report it as a violation on our monthly report, but no further action was needed. Greg also noted that as soon as the weather warmed up, the readings came back down.

ii. Greg noted that he is received a quote from American Pump of $275,000- for a complete rebuild of our oxidation ditch clarifier. Greg does not think an entire rebuild is necessary, so they are preparing a Quote for only the work that is necessary.

Water Status Report

i. Greg reported that the water treatment plant is running exceptionally well, as we have experienced no intake issues with the lake only down a little over three feet.

Plant Operational Review Report

i. Greg presented the two quotes Dom got for insulating the garage. The KCG quote of $15,500- was the lower of the two quotes and he felt it was the better of the two quotes. Larry K. motioned to proceed with that

quote and to purchase a heating unit not to exceed $3,000-. The motion was seconded by Larry N. and it carried.

Exam Status Report

i. Greg has now passed all of his exams. The news was acknowledged with a round of applause from the board. Greg also stated that new classes begin in May, so he is trying to get Dom registered. He has to be preapproved for the class, but he doesn't think that will be an issue even though Dom won't have hit his one year of full time on the job until June.

Administrator Report

Status report

i. John stated 14 leaks were reported.

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

iii. Two leak adjustments were received. Account 0123 for $267.60 had a leak between the meter and the house, which meets our ordinance for an adjustment. Bob motioned to approve the adjustment. Steve seconded the motion which carried with Joyce abstaining. The second adjustment was for account 0540 for $657.18. It was discovered that the waterline was incorrectly installed by a previous district employee, so it was not the owners fault. A motion was made by Larry N to approve the write off. The motion was seconded by Steve and carried with Joyce again abstaining. A long discussion ensued regarding a very large potential third leak adjustment. Rhonda Peetz spoke on behalf of the property owner and their particular situation. Although the situation is tragic, John explained why it did not meet the requirements of our ordinance and; therefore, could not legally be approved at this time. Tom felt the discussion was very warranted and was pleased the board had a good understanding of the situation. He recommended the board members give consideration to possible changes to the ordinance and that we revisit possible changes next month.

iv. John stated he had informed Greg and Dom of their annual raises and compensation.

v. John commented on the number of requests he gets from property owners for help paying their water and other POA bills. He stated that he informs of various third party sources that have help available for those types of thing, as it would be impossible for both the POA and District to work through all the exceptions that would need to be made in order to provide that assistance.

Treasurer Report

Larry K. stated that there are more than sufficient funds to cover our current financial needs.

Old Business

i. Anne Hayes of Wessler Engineering reported that the Asset Management Plan is ready. She reviewed the methodology used to classify everything in the report, the results of that review and the recommendations in the

report. She brought three hard copies of the report for us to distribute, but said it was also available digitally. The ball is now in our court to review the AMP and to decide how it will be used and who will take ownership of its use. On the GIS mapping she stated Greg and Dom have started using it. Greg and Dom confirmed that they have started using it and that as expected they fighting discrepancies with locations. Fortunately those get corrected as they come up.

ii. IDEM water plant inspection of 7/9/25. All items have now been corrected.

iii. Excavation safety training – Online training has been completed by Greg. Dom has had to reschedule his training.

iv. Management Agreement – Approved by POA at this month's board meeting.

v. Plant Tour - was completed last month and plans are being made to offer tours on a regular basis for any property owner who wants to see our operation.

vi. Further discussion was held on last month's presentation made by Scott Dunlap of Utility Supply Company on Neptune's advanced metering system. Although the cost benefit analysis does not show the system paying for itself completely through cost savings, the many benefits the system would offer to real time information, reduced work load to our staff and improved customer service makes the system very attractive. Larry K. confirmed that we currently have the resources to pay the $89,500- for this system. Larry N motioned for purchase of this system and Bob seconded the motion. Motion carried.

New Business - none.

Trustees Reports and comments

a. None

Motion to Adjourn was made by Larry N., 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 3/19//26 meeting.