Lake Santee Regional Waste & Water District
Meeting Minutes
Meeting of April 16, 2026 -3:30 pm
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, Joyce Eddy and Steve Yost Also in attendance were Utility Administrator John Lecher, Utility Superintendent Greg Coffin and Utility Operator Dom Huber.

2. Guest introduction and short comments
    a. Guests included Michael Dora (Lot 164).
    b. Anne Hayes – Wessler Engineering

3. Consent Items
    a. Minutes of 3/19/26 Meeting
    b. Financial Report
    c. Register of Claims – Water
    d. Register of Claims – Sewer

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

4. Superintendent Report
    a. Sewer Status Report
        i. Greg reported that the sewer plant is running well. The flow meter and UV bulbs have been replaced and are running well.

    b. Water Status Report
        i. Greg reported that the plant is running well. They have begun flashing hydrants and are about halfway done. While doing so, 87 of 202 main valves have been located and updated on the GIS system.
        ii. The Neptune system is up and running from the water tower location. That unit is consistently reporting 78.8% coverage, with another 11% reading every few days and 9.7% not reading at all. Those numbers will improve once the pole and the second unit is installed at the East Beach.

    c. Plant Operational Review Report
        i. Based on our roller bearing part number, they have a life expectancy of 25 years, yet ours are 26 years old. Greg is working with Dean Sizemore to get a quote on replacements.
        ii. A water pump that was replaced in 2015 was leaking coolent. A better hose and clamp was found to fix the leak, but better records would have helped with this problem.
        iii. After one of the meetings Greg recently attended with other plant operators, he got into a discussion about generator back up systems and one of the other operators brought up installing a back up connection in case our generator quit during a time of need. Greg thinks that would be a good idea. He's received an initial quote of $17,995- from BTS, but is doing further investigation on that.
        iv. Greg received a good quote of $21,700 for two carbon replacements. We



currently run them in parallel and replace both at the same time; however, Greg thinks it may be better to run them in sequence and replace one in the spring and the other in the fall that way we always have a new one working during the time that farmers spread chemicals in the spring and fall. Therefore, Greg is looking into staggering their deliveries to see if it would increase our delivery costs. We need to replace one before next months meeting regardless, so he asked for board approval. Larry K motioned to approve up to $22,000 for such delivery. Bob seconded the motion and it carried.

d. Exam status – Dom is scheduled for class the week of May fourth with the written exam to occur immediately following the class. Dom will still need to wait until after his one year on the job in July to take the distribution exam.

5. Administrator Report
   a. Status report
      i. 8 leak new notices sent out, with 27 ongoing leaks being worked on.
      ii. 1 Disconnect notice delivered. It was sent to a property being rented and the tenant did not pay the bill, so it was resent to the property owner per our ordinance and all future bills will be sent to the owner. It has since been paid.

   b. Write-offs / adjustments
      i. Account 0039 which has been discussed before has, paid the $2,040.45 and repaired in a manner suitable to the board. Steve motioned to approve the write off and it was seconded by Larry K. The motioned carried with Joyce abstaining.
      ii. Account 0435 for $953.71 due to frozen pipes has been repaired and paid. Maurie motioned to approve the write off. It was seconded by Bob and carried with Joyce abstaining.
      iii. Account 0597 for $371.05 again due to frozen pipes has been repaired and paid. Larry N motioned to approve with Maurie seconding. The motion passed with Joyce abstaining.
      iv. Account 0056 requested a refund of the turn on/turn off fee of $55.00. The water was turned off at the meter based on a request from REMC during a storm emergency. The lake's repair crew was unable to reach the property owners as they were on vacation; however, the owner had already shut the water off inside the house before they left. Even though this may set a precedent going against our ordinance, it was felt that given the emergency situation and the owner's attempt to do the right thing by shutting off their water before they left a refund would be appropriate. Larry N made the motion to refund the charge. It was seconded by Bob and the motion carried with Joyce abstaining.

6. Treasurer Report – no issues to report.

7. Old Business

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a. Wessler projects status update
    i. Asset management plan – John presented the Amp Spreadsheet to the board with Anne Hayes helping to answer any questions. They expressed the importance of taking ownership of it and keeping it up to date to make all the time, effort and money put into it worthwhile. It was agreed that Greg would take primary responsibility for it. In addition, John, Larry K. and Steve will meet monthly to review the AMP until it is determined how often it needs to reviewed to make sure it is up to date. Anne, also made the point, that the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission has approved an act requiring such a report in the future, so we are ahead of the rule as this should meet their requirements, although reports to them will still need to be made.

b. IDEM water plant inspection 7/9/25 – All the requirements from that inspection have now been satisfied.
c. Member Sewer and Water Plant tours have been scheduled for Friday June 19th at 2, 4 and 6 pm. Deb Yost has agreed to prepare a notification to be put into this month's Smoke Signals.

8. New Business –
    a. Management Agreement – After the final year end review by John we owe the POA $58,000 to "true up" our reimbursement to them. The majority of that is $47,000- for Dom's employment package. Given that we have now addressed that going forward, John is pretty sure that the POA will owe us a substantial amount after next year's "true up"; therefore, he recommends we that only pay a portion of that instead of trading money back and forth. John has already discussed this plan with Steve Knight. Steve Yost made a motion to pay $43,500- (75%) to the POA at this time. The motion was seconded by Larry K. and was approved.
    b. Employee Bench Marking – Based on a visit to Lake Waynoka by John, Greg and Steve, along with others, during the POA's Long Range Planning Study, it was determined that a study of other lake communities employees number would be a good idea to see how we compare staffing wise. The board agreed to that idea, so John, Greg and Steve will work together to contact Lake Waynoka and possibly other lake communities to do this comparison. Lake Waynoka is the most similar to our community based on visits to several lake communities by the POA Long Range Planning Study.
    c. Dom brought up some issues that he is finding while looking at outsourcing water taps. It was agreed that he would present the issues he is finding to board next month so we can have a more thorough discussions about what ways may work best if we decide to proceed with allowing those.
    d. How members receive and pay their monthly sewer and water bill and what that costs the District was brought up for discussion. There are still many customers, including a couple of board members who receive their bills by mail. Given the increase in postage rates and the extra employee processing time this method takes, it is felt that a processing fee for that type of billing may make sense. The board that it is worth looking into at next months meeting.

9. Trustee Reports and Comments
    a. Bob asked if it is possible for members to replace or otherwise clean up the

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electrical boxes, as some of those have become unsightly on their property. It was determined that this is a legitimate question, so it will be discussed further at next months meeting.

b. Larry N. asked if the data center that looks likely to be developed in Decatur County would affect our operation. John noted that the proposed location is downstream from our watershed, so any pollution that the data center may create would affect us.

10. Adjourn – motion was made to adjourn by Steve and was seconded by Larry N and meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by
Steve Yost, Secretary

These minutes are subject to approval by the LSRWWD Board at the 5/21/26 meeting.