

**NEUSE REGIONAL WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING DATED
Thursday, March 27, 2025**

The Neuse Regional Water and Sewer Authority held its Monthly Board Meeting on Thursday, March 27, 2025 at 5:30 P.M. at the Neuse Regional Water and Sewer Authority Water Treatment Plant.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Barry Sutton, Steve Miller, Virgil O’Neal, Bruce Parson, Rhonda Barwick, Polly Hardee, Dylan Haman, Scott Howard, Vallie Johnson, Billy Kennedy, Henry McLean, Cody Murphy, Dennis Pope, Darrell Rudisill, Barbara Seaforth, Victor Styles

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jamie Cannon

ALTERNATES PRESENT: Henry McLean

NRWASA STAFF PRESENT: Harold Herring - Executive Director
Brandie Thompson – Administrative Assistant
Kathryn Barker – Administrative Secretary
Charlie Colie - WTP Superintendent
Dustin Smith – Facilities Supervisor
Robin Blackburn – Chemist
Jamie Norment – Legal Counsel

SPECIAL GUESTS: John Boyer, PE, CDM Smith
Trent Jackson, PE, CDM Smith
Bill Dowbiggin, PE, CDM Smith
Nicholas Rogers, PE, CDM Smith
Sammy Aiken

Call to Order

Chairman Barry Sutton called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and welcomed new NRWASA Board Members and new NRWASA employees, Brandie Thompson and Kathryn Barker.

Revisions, Additions and Adoption of Agenda

Mr. Virgil O’Neal moved to adopt the Revised Agenda as presented. Seconded by Mr. Steve Miller and upon unanimous vote, the motion carried.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Swearing in New Board of Directors and Alternates.....Chairman Barry Sutton

Chairman Barry Sutton led New Director Mr. Dylan Haman in the Oath of Office to fill the vacancy as Director for the Town of Grifton.

Chairman Barry Sutton led New Alternate Director Mr. Henry McLean in the Oath of Office to fill the vacancy for the City of Kinston.

Chairman Barry Sutton led New Director Mr. Billy Kennedy in the Oath of Office to fill the vacancy for Deep Run Water.

Chairman Barry Sutton led New Director Mr. Dennis Pope in the Oath of Office to fill the vacancies for North Lenoir Water.

2. Recognition of Service.....Mr. Harold Herring

Chairman Sutton and Mr. Harold Herring presented Mr. Sammy Aiken, a Service Award for his 12 years of service to the NRWASA Board as the Director for the City of Kinston. Mr. Sammy Aiken thanked the NRWASA Board for the award and his tenure on the Board.

3. Approval of October 2024 Minutes.....Chairman Barry Sutton

Mr. Victor Styles moved to approve the October 24, 2024 Minutes as presented. Seconded by Mr. Vallie Johnson and upon unanimous vote, the motion carried.

4. Amendment #1-PFAS Engineering and Testing Study.....Mr. Harold Herring

Mr. Harold Herring informed the Board that when NRWASA first started the PFAS project, \$150,000 was allocated to do an Engineering study. He further stated that NRWASA received a \$500,000 grant from the NCDWQ NRWASA will be phasing out of the \$150,000 project, once the sales tax is received and will use \$56,189.69 of the State grant monies. Mr. Harold Herring also informed the Board that the fund balance was reduced by \$148,000 on this project and increased State grant award by \$56,189.60. Mr. Harold Herring requested that the Board make a motion to approve this Amendment. Mr. Victor Styles moved to approve the Amendment and Cody Murphy seconded the motion.

5. Amendment #1-CDM Smith PFAS Treatment Study for Water Treatment Plant.....Mr. Harold Herring

Mr. Harold Herring informed the Board that the NRWASA received a \$500,000 grant from the NCDEQ. Mr. Harold Herring further requested that the Board make a motion to approve this Amendment to approve the \$56,189.60 to be used as the Appropriated Fund Balance. Mr. Virgil O'Neal moved to approve the Amendment and Ms. Rhonda Barwick seconded the motion.

6. Approval of March 2025 Treasurer's Report.....Chairman Barry Sutton

Mr. Victor Styles moved to adopt the March 2025 Monthly Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Mr. Vallie Johnson and upon unanimous vote, the motion carried.

7. Resolution-Adoption of Unit Water Rate for FY25/26.....Mr. Harold Herring

Mr. Harold Herring informed the Board that NRWASA has been able to maintain the \$4.00 per thousand gallons water rate for quite some time. He further informed the Board that NRWASA was currently searching and obtaining health insurance quotes due to the NCLM going out of business. He also informed the Board that NRWASA was also actively searching and requesting quotes on the property insurance. Currently NRWASA is looking at a 20% increase in cost.

Chairman Sutton commended Mr. Harold Herring and the NRWASA staff for their efforts in continuing to maintain the water rate at the current price.

Mr. Harold Herring proposed to keep the water rate at the current \$4.00 per thousand with the hopes of continuing to remain at this rate to the Member Entities. Mr. Virgil O'Neal moved to approve the Resolution and Mr. Cody Murphy seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Ward & Smith.....Mr. Jamie Norment

Mr. Jamie Norment updated the Board and stated there were no legal matters to bring to the Board's attention at this time.

Mr. Jamie Norment further stated that the General Assembly was currently in session and they have fled over 200 bills in the last 10 days. He further stated that there are two current bills involving PFAS, PFAS Mitigation Bill and PFAS Liability. He stated the General Assembly will be meeting most likely until the Summer, so therefore it may be June-August before we hear anything. He also advised the lawsuits involving Dupont and 3-M have been settled, but it could be 60 days before we know the settlement amounts. The lawsuits involving Tyco and BASF have been filed, but could be 6 months before we know anything further involving the claims.

2. Neuse River Sedimentation & Modeling Analysis Update.....Mr. John Boyer, CDM Smith

Mr. John Boyer, PE with CDM Smith presented a power point regarding Sedimentation and Modeling. Mr. Boyer updated the Board on the permit and dredging and that the individual 101 water quality certificate was issued in August. The Nationwide 404 permit was issued in September. The maintenance dredging is allowed through March 14, 2026. In river work is allowed from October 1 through January 31 each year. He further stated that the design documents to bid out dredging are largely complete, but dredging has been put on hold because of the conditions around Intake #1 observed in May of 2024. A new survey and/or diver inspection is recommended for May of 2025.

Mr. Boyer further discussed Project#2, Sedimentation Study. He explained that most of the sediment that accumulates is not from flood events. He further stated that the most of the sediment that accumulates is from bank erosion.

Mr. Boyer explained the findings with the Board, which is to extend the rip rap armoring down stream of Intake#2 if possible. Also, a vane constructed from the point bar appears to increase flow velocity and shear stress at Intake #1.

Mr. Boyer further explained to the Board his recommended next steps, to purchase land to allow for extension of the rip rap armoring on the outside bank. Once land is purchased, proceed with permitting, design, bidding and construction of the armoring extension. To continue flow modeling, develop cost estimate for permitting, design, bidding and construction of vane.

3. PFAS Update.....Mr. Bill Dowbiggin, CDM Smith

Mr. Bill Dowbiggan, PE with CDM Smith gave the Board an update on PFAS. He began with a power point to familiarize the new NRWASA Board members regarding NRWASA operations.

Mr. Dowbiggan further informed the Board regarding PFAS Regulation updated. The current PFOS and PFOA levels are above the MCL limits if .4 ppt each. He explained that compliance will be required by April of 2029 and withing 3 years of rule (2027) initial monitoring must be complete.

Mr. Dowbiggan stated the potential for NC specific PFAS limits not covered by EPA. Mr. Bill Dowbiggan also explained the Pilot testing findings may need to be updated if the new Administration changes the PFOS and PFOA limits.

Mr. Dowbiggan further explained the Implementation, which he stated would be to pump the water throughout the UV to the clearwell, upgrade the pump station.

Mr. Dowbiggan also informed the Board that SRF has committed to NRWASA about \$25 million in loans at 2.04% interest rate and a little over \$7 million in grants. NRWASA was the first to get a SRF PFAS grant. NRWASA is currently pursuing State Appropriations.

Mr. Bill Dowbiggan informed the Board lastly the next steps, which would be, begin design, submit a final SRF application by June 1, 2025, decide on D-B-B or D-B and once the rule, potential revision is resolved, finalize schedule with SRF for moving forward.

4. Annual Conversion to Free Chlorine Update.....Mr. Jacob Brown

Mr. Jacob Brown familiarized the new NRWASA Board Members regarding the process of the annual chlorine conversion and further advised the Board that the Annual Conversion to Free Chlorine was in progress and going well. The conversion will end April 21, 2025.

5. Miscellaneous & Informational Discussion Items.....Chairman Barry Sutton

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned without objection at approximately 8:19 p.m. Motion to adjourn by Mr. Virgil O'Neal Seconded by Mr. Billy Kennedy, and after unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Sincerely,


Kathryn J. Barker
Administrative Secretary


Virgil O'Neal,
NRWASA Secretary