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Augusta Water

Regular Board Meeting, Thursday, July 17, 2025, at 1:30 p.m.

Field Operations Training Room

PRESENT: Andrew C. Middleton, Chairman, North River District
Garry R. Gordon, Vice Chairman, Middle River District
Harvey Almarode, South River District
Allen Dahl, Beverley Manor District
Matthew Egeli, Wayne District
Michael L. Shull, Riverheads District
Timothy Simmons, Pastures District
Phil Martin, Executive Director
Brent Canterbury, Treasurer
Jean Marshall, Board Secretary

ABSENT: None

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CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Gordon, serving as the Temporary Chairman, called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

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FY-2026 BOARD ELECTIONS

Chairman

The Nominating Committee recommends Andrew Middleton as Chairman of the Augusta Water Board for FY-2026. There being no additional nominations from the floor, Mr. Shull moved, seconded by Mr. Egeli to close the nominations.

The Nominating Committee recommendation constitutes a motion and a second to the full Board for the appointment of Dr. Middleton as Chairman of the Augusta Water Board for FY-2026.

Vote was as follows:

Yeas:	Gordon, Almarode, Dahl, Egeli, Shull, and Simmons
Nays:	None
Abstained:	Middleton

Motion approved.

Vice-chairman

The Nominating Committee recommends Garry Gordon as Vice-chairman of the Augusta Water Board for FY-2026. There being no additional nominations from the floor, Mr. Almarode moved, seconded by Mr. Simmons to close the nominations.

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The Nominating Committee recommendation constitutes a motion and a second to the full Board for the appointment of Garry Gordon as Vice-chairman of the Augusta Water Board for FY-2026.

Vote was as follows:

Yeas:	Middleton, Almarode, Dahl, Egeli, Shull, and Simmons
Nays:	None
Abstained:	Gordon

Motion approved.

Treasurer

The Nominating Committee recommends Brent Canterbury as Treasurer of the Augusta Water Board for FY-2026. There being no additional nominations from the floor, Mr. Shull moved, seconded by Mr. Egeli to close the nominations.

The Nominating Committee recommendation constitutes a motion and a second to the full Board for the appointment of Brent Canterbury as Treasurer of the Augusta Water Board for FY-2026.

Vote was as follows:

Yeas:	Middleton, Gordon, Almarode, Dahl, Egeli, Shull, and Simmons
Nays:	None

Motion approved.

Secretary

The Nominating Committee recommends Jean Marshall as Secretary of the Augusta Water Board for FY-2026. There being no additional nominations from the floor, Mr. Shull moved, seconded by Mr. Simmons to close the nominations.

The Nominating Committee recommendation constitutes a motion and a second to the full Board for the appointment of Jean Marshall as Secretary of the Augusta Water Board for FY-2026.

Vote was as follows:

Yeas:	Middleton, Gordon, Almarode, Dahl, Egeli, Shull, and Simmons
Nays:	None

Motion approved.

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ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Mr. Shull moved, seconded by Mr. Gordon to adopt the Agenda as presented.

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Vote was as follows:

Yeas:	Middleton, Gordon, Almarode, Dahl, Egeli, Shull, and Simmons
Nays:	None

Motion approved.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Gordon moved, seconded by Mr. Shull, to approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of June 19, 2025, which were sent to the members prior to this meeting.

Vote was as follows:

Yeas:	Middleton, Gordon, Almarode, Dahl, Egeli, Shull, and Simmons
Nays:	None

Motion approved.

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MATTERS PRESENTED BY THE PUBLIC

Mr. Martin stated Staff met with Mr. and Mrs. Ryan Johnston and representatives of Augusta County regarding the previous request by Mr. Johnston to extend public water service to Mullins Lane. A potential petition project has been put together by Staff and letters regarding the petition have been sent to neighboring properties informing them of the request by Mr. Johnston. There will need to be enough interest by the neighboring property owners to move forward with the request. Augusta County representatives indicated considerations are being made to rezone areas around Mullins Lane from General Agriculture to a Community Development Area, which would allow for public water service.

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S HIGHLIGHTS

Mr. Martin informed the Board members the June Consumer Price Index was 0.3% resulting in a 2.7% increase year to year. The Producer Price Index was unchanged resulting in a 2.7% increase year to year.

Mr. Martin informed the Board members precipitation is currently above average for the month of July. He referred to the report and pictures he previously sent to the Board members of damage at the Berry Farm plant caused by this month's flooding events. As a result, the plant had to be taken offline for a while. Mr. Martin explained the Verona pump station also experienced flooding, causing it to shut down. Staff did an excellent job in getting the plant and pump station cleaned up and back online. An email was sent to the City of Staunton

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thanking them for their help during the time Augusta Water had to pull water from Staunton's system while Berry Farm was down.

Mr. Egeli stated he read all of the communication concerning these events and commended the staff at the plants for stepping up and working together to get the issues resolved.

PROGRESS REPORT

The June Progress Report was included in the Board packets and was reviewed with the Board.

There were no questions or comments by the Board members.

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COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Dr. Middleton stated the Committee appointments for FY-2026 are as follows:

<u>Executive Committee:</u>	Andrew C. Middleton, Chairman Garry R. Gordon, Vice-chairman
<u>Finance and Audit Committee:</u>	Garry R. Gordon, Chairman Harvey Almarode Andrew C. Middleton, Ex-Officio
<u>Personnel Committee:</u>	Timothy Simmons, Chairman Matthew Egeli Andrew C. Middleton, Ex-Officio
<u>Land and Water Committee:</u>	Michael S. Shull, Chairman Allen Dahl Andrew C. Middleton, Ex-Officio
<u>Legal Committee:</u>	Matthew Egeli, Chairman Harvey Almarode Andrew C. Middleton, Ex-Officio
<u>Technology Committee:</u>	Andrew C. Middleton, Chairman Harvey Almarode

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no committee reports given.

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AUGUSTA WATER EXCELLENCE AWARDS

In 2018, as part of an effort to recognize and reward Augusta Water employees for exceptional work that goes above and beyond their normal duties, the Augusta Water Excellence Awards were developed. These honors are awarded twice a year covering multiple categories and include a \$200 monetary award, recognition to this Board, and inclusion in the Augusta Water bi-monthly newsletter.

For the first half of 2025 we received nominations in four separate categories.

Interdepartmental Cooperation: Laura Lowry, Chad Hammer, Chris McCray and Bobby Armstrong were nominated for their work addressing water hammer and pressure issues at Mr. Paul Rutner's residence. It took more than one attempt, but Laura, Chad, Chris and Bobby kept at it until the issue was resolved. In an email dated June 27th, Mr. Rutner stated, "I wanted to let you know how pleased we are with the entire process and hope that you can post our experience somewhere in social media to let the public know of our deep appreciation as to how this all was handled. Your treatment of the matter was exemplary and very unique in this day and age."

Outstanding Customer Service: Laura Lowry and Tommy Frazier were nominated for their work in helping Ms. Nicole Doyle locate the cause of the increase of her water bills (in this case a leaky toilet) and to set her up with Eye-on-Water to monitor future usage. In an email dated March 4th, Ms. Doyle stated, "I hope you recognize what gems you have working for ACSA! Thank you all so much I truly appreciate your help."

Can-Do Attitude: Clayton Breeden, Bobby Armstrong, Cody Armstrong, Austin Marshall and Evan Mathis were nominated for their work on an all-night water main repair in the rain and cold this past February. This repair was necessary due to a split section of pipe on Lyndhurst Road. During a telephone call on February 13th, Jean Marshall noted that Ms. Rosie Campbell stated:

"She was without water last night and she really appreciates them 'leaving their warm homes and beds to stay out and work all night in the cold to get the line repaired'." Ms. Campbell also was impressed that they "stayed with it all night".

Outstanding Effort: Conor Lehan and Jeff Price were nominated for their work covering multiple long-term absences in the North End Wastewater Treatment section. These absences left Conor (a relatively new employee) as the sole staff member on that crew. Ron Elkins, Director of Treatment Operations, noted of Conor: "His efforts and abilities were crucial during a difficult period. His willingness to take on what needed to still be done even with his whole crew out shows outstanding effort on his part." Jeff Price volunteered to help out on North End while still keeping up his normal assigned tasks at the Fishersville WWTP. Ron also said of Jeff: "His efforts helped ensure the successful operation and compliance of these facilities. His willingness to take on these extra duties shows his outstanding character and work ethic."

At the July 8th Staff Meeting, Augusta Water's Department Directors agreed that Laura Lowry, Chad Hammer, Chris McCray, Bobby Armstrong, Tommy Frazier, Clayton Breeden, Cody

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Armstrong, Austin Marshall, Evan Mathis, Conor Lehan and Jeff Price should receive the July, 2025 Augusta Water Excellence Awards.

Mr. Martin informed the Board members Doug Holroyd called in to report Ron Elkins, on his way home from work one evening, saw Mr. Holroyd's barn was on fire and stopped to assist him in extinguishing the fire. As part of the process for the Excellence Awards, Directors are not eligible for compensation, but Mr. Martin wanted to recognize Ron for his gallant efforts.

Mr. Almarode thanked the Excellence Award recipients for going above and beyond their duties and for the hard work they do on behalf of Augusta Water.

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CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Gordon moved, seconded by Mr. Shull to convene in Closed Session pursuant to Virginia Code §2.2-3711(A)(3), to discuss or consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body related to relocation of the Brookmill Pump Station.

Vote was as follows:

Yeas:	Middleton, Gordon, Almarode, Dahl, Egeli, Shull, and Simmons
Nays:	None

Motion approved.

Mr. Shull moved, seconded by Mr. Dahl to come out of Closed Session.

Vote was as follows:

Yeas:	Middleton, Gordon, Almarode, Dahl, Egeli, Shull, and Simmons
Nays:	None

Motion approved.

Board members were requested to certify only matters pursuant to Virginia Code §2.2-3711(A)(3) were discussed. Members certifying were Middleton, Gordon, Almarode, Dahl, Egeli, Shull, and Simmons.

Mr. Egeli moved, seconded by Mr. Simmons to authorize Augusta Water staff to engage Augusta Water's legal counsel to begin eminent domain proceedings against Homer Bosserman III for a 0.26-acre pump station lot and the necessary easements, to allow construction for a relocated Brookmill pump station and the gravity lines to convey sewer to it.

Vote was as follows:

Yeas:	Middleton, Gordon, Almarode, Dahl, Egeli, Shull, and Simmons
Nays:	None

Motion approved.

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BOARD COMMENTS

There were no comments from the Board members.

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Shull moved, seconded by Mr. Simmons to adjourn the meeting at 3:04 p.m.

Vote was as follows:

Yeas:	Middleton, Gordon, Almarode, Dahl, Egeli, Shull and Simmons
Nays:	None

Motion approved.

Board Secretary

Chairman