

Augusta Water
Regular Board Meeting, Thursday, January 15, 2026, 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
Allen Dahl, Beverley Manor District
Matthew Egeli, Wayne District
Timothy Simmons, Pastures District
Phil Martin, Executive Director
Brent Canterbury, Treasurer
Jean Marshall, Board Secretary

ABSENT: Harvey Almarode, South River District
Michael L. Shull, Riverheads District

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CALL TO ORDER

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

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ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

Vote was as follows:

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

Motion approved.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Gordon moved, seconded by Mr. Egeli to approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of December 18, 2025, which were sent to the members prior to this meeting.

Vote was as follows:

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

Motion approved.

MATTERS PRESENTED BY THE PUBLIC

No members of the public were in attendance to make comments and no public comments were brought forth by Staff.

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S HIGHLIGHTS

Mr. Martin stated, the December Consumer Price Index increased 0.3%, resulting in a 2.7% increase year to year. The November Producer Price Index increased by 0.2% resulting in a 3.0% increase year to year. The December Producer Price Index will be released later in January.

Mr. Martin noted Augusta Water’s customer base is increasing on a regular basis, as indicated in the Highlights. Based on the current growth in FY-26, new connections should exceed the growth in FY-25.

Mr. Egeli asked about the Water Truck Operator position, which has been vacant since March of 2025. Cole Seldomridge, Director of Solid Waste Management, explained the lack of applications and qualified applicants has caused the hiring delay. Faun Runkle, Director of Human Resources, explained the job posting has been boosted on advertising platforms to attract attention. The next step may be to consider increasing the pay scale for the position.

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PROGRESS REPORT

The December Progress Report was included in the Board packets and was reviewed with the Board. There were no questions by the Board members.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

Dr. Middleton stated the Executive Committee met with Mr. Martin on January 5, 2026. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss future potential water supply sources for Augusta Water. The discussion included the current water supply available across Augusta County. It was noted the eastern area has the most plentiful sources, and the northern and western areas have the least. The Executive Committee requested Staff to study the water resources of Augusta County, searching for new supplies, along with an analysis of the piping infrastructure needed to connect them to the existing distribution system.

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APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION ADOPTING VIRGINIA PUBLIC PROCUREMENT ACT §2.2-4311.3 INTO AUGUSTA WATER PURCHASING POLICIES

Mr. Martin stated, a provision to the Virginia Public Procurement Act (VPPA) §2.2-4311.3 went into effect in July, 2025, and states if there are terms or provisions in an Information Technology contract which would be averse to Virginia law, the said terms or provisions would become void. The new provision requires each entity to adopt a resolution stating the above referenced section has been included into the purchasing policy of the entity. The resolution below is required to show Augusta Water complies with the above mentioned VPPA. Item 10 of the Agenda will reflect the change to the purchasing policy.

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Augusta County Service Authority, d/b/a/ Augusta Water (“the Board”) is committed to procuring high quality goods and services in the most prudent manner and at a reasonable cost;

WHEREAS, the Board is also committed to procure those goods and services with the maximum feasible degree of competition, in accordance with the Virginia Public Procurement Act (VPPA, Chapter 43 of Title 2.2 of the Code of Virginia, as amended);

WHEREAS, the VPPA enunciated the public policies pertaining to governmental procurement from non-governmental sources by public bodies which may or may not result in monetary consideration for either party;

WHEREAS, the purpose of this Resolution is to ensure that the Augusta County Service Authority, d/b/a Augusta Water, through its employees, exercises sound business judgment in its purchases and contractual transactions, hereby adopts this Resolution, to incorporate the recently enacted provision of the VPPA, §2.2-4311.3 Compliance with state law; contract terms inconsistent with state law; and,

WHEREAS, in accordance with VPPA, §2.2-4311.3, any contract for information technology goods and/or services that has a term or provision that conflicts with Virginia law, that has a choice of law provision or requires or permits litigation/dispute resolution in another state or country will be void and the contract will be deemed to provide for the application of Virginia law and to provide for jurisdiction in the courts of Virginia; **NOW**,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Augusta County Service Authority, d/b/a Augusta Water hereby approves of this Resolution, and the incorporation of VPPA, §2.2-4311.3 into its Purchasing Policies, effective January 15, 2026.

After discussion by the Board members, Mr. Egeli moved, seconded by Mr. Simmons to approve the Resolution as presented above pursuant to VPPA, Chapter 43 of Title 2.2 of the Code of Virginia, and hereby authorize the Chairman to sign the Resolution.

Vote was as follows:

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| Yeas: | Middleton, Gordon, Dahl, Egeli, and Simmons |
| Nays: | None |

Motion approved.

REVISIONS TO OPPM POLICY NO. 11.1 – PURCHASING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Mr. Martin explained pursuant to the provision required by the VPPA as discussed during the previous Agenda item, Section 1.1.1 of the Augusta Water OPPM No. 11.1 has been updated to read as follows:

In accordance with a Resolution adopted by the Augusta Water Board of Directors on January 15, 2026, the provision of §2.2-4311.3, Code of Virginia (as amended), are incorporated into these Purchasing Policies and Procedures as if set out fully herein.

Mr. Martin also noted additional changes to the Augusta Water OPPM No. 11.1 as follows:

- The word “shall” has been changed to either “must” or “will” throughout this policy;
- In Section 2.11 Competitive Sealed Bids – Over \$200,000, the wording in point eight, *Notice of Intent to Award* has been changed to *Notice of Award*. The wording in point nine, *Following the protest period, a Notice of Award shall be posted and sent to the offerors* was removed;
- In Section 2.12 Competitive Negotiation – Professional Services Over \$80,000, the wording in point 10, *Notice of Intent to Award* has been changed to *Notice of Award*. The wording in point 11, *Following the protest period, a Notice of Award shall be posted and sent to the offerors* was removed.
- In Section 2.13 Competitive Negotiations – Goods and Non-Professional Services Over \$200,000, the wording in point eight, *Notice of Intent to Award* has been changed to *Notice of Award*. In point nine, the wording *Following the protest period, a Notice of Award shall be posted and sent to the offerors* was removed.
- In Section 2.17.4, the wording *begin legal proceedings or to debar* has been changed to *begin legal proceedings and/or to debar*.

Staff recommends approval of the revised OPPM Policy No. 11.1 as outlined above.

Mr. Egeli moved, seconded by Mr. Simmons to adopt the revisions to OPPM Policy No. 11.1 as presented.

Vote was as follows:

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| Yeas: | Middleton, Gordon, Dahl, Egeli, and Simmons |
| Nays: | None |

Motion approved.

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AUGUSTA WATER EXCELLENCE AWARDS

In 2018, as part of an effort to recognize and reward ACSA employees for exceptional work that goes above and beyond their normal duties, we developed the ACSA (now Augusta Water) Excellence Awards. 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 monthly newsletter.

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For the second half of 2025, only one nomination was received. The departmental Directors agree with this nomination.

Interdepartmental Cooperation: Rachel Cannon was nominated by Casey McCracken for the instrumental role she played in the development of the new Augusta Water and Augusta Regional Landfill websites. Casey noted in his nomination that during the initial design phase, Rachel reviewed multiple utility/vendor websites for ideas and features and collaborated with Standout Arts (our consultant) to incorporate some of those ideas into our design. Examples cited included the “Careers” page with its “Benefits” accordion, the layout of our Design and Construction Standards, and the photo icons under “Doing Business with Us” on the home page. Rachel also selected all of the images used on the website and updated large portions of the content, including the FAQs and informational tidbits available on various pages.

Finally, Rachel reviewed the numerous draft versions of both the Augusta Water and Augusta Regional Landfill websites and provided detailed notes and comments to Standout Arts for revisions and corrections.

Staff are very appreciative to Rachel for her help in bringing this project to a successful completion.

The Board members commended Rachel on a job well done.

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UPDATE ON 2026 VIRGINIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Mr. Martin reviewed three official bills being proposed during the 2026 Virginia General Assembly Legislative Session: SB 138 – PFAS in Industrial Wastewater, HB 242 – Budget Plan Payment Increases, and HB 196 – Virginia Residential Development Infrastructure Fund, as presented on PowerPoint, and which the Board members received a copy of. Mr. Martin stated SB 138 is expected to pass this year. Mr. Martin will keep the Board updated on the status of the proposed bills.

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BOARD COMMENTS

There were no comments by the Board members.

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Gordon moved, seconded by Mr. Dahl to adjourn the meeting at 2:17 p.m.

Vote was as follows:

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

Motion approved.

Board Secretary

Chairman