

Augusta Water
Regular Board Meeting, Thursday, February 19, 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
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

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

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ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Mr. Martin requested to revise the Agenda to add Donation of Obsolete Equipment as Item 12 with all other Items following subsequently.

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

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. Almarode moved, seconded by Mr. Simmons to approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of January 15, 2026, 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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING JANUARY 5, 2026

Mr. Simmons moved, seconded by Mr. Almarode to approve the Executive Committee meeting Minutes of January 5, 2026.

Vote was as follows:

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

Motion approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING JANUARY 15, 2026

Mr. Simmons moved, seconded by Mr. Almarode to approve the Executive Committee meeting Minutes of January 15, 2026.

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

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

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S HIGHLIGHTS

The Highlights were included in the Board packets. There were no questions from the Board members regarding the Highlights.

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PROGRESS REPORT

The January 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

There were no reports given by any Committees.

UPDATE ON 2026 VIRGINIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Mr. Martin gave an overview of the 2026 Virginia General Assembly.

SB 138 – PFAS in Industrial Wastewater - This bill will require the Landfill to perform quarterly monitoring for one year for PFAS. If quarterly monitoring reveals PFAS in any amount, the Landfill will be required to continue to monitor on a quarterly basis. This bill passed in the Senate.

SB 386 - PFAS in Sewage Sludge – This bill originally prohibited land application of sewage sludge in Virginia, if it contains any trace of PFAS. The bill was modified to adjust the limits, however, it still effectively bans any land application in Virginia, so the only remaining options are to dispose of it at a landfill or to incinerate it. The bill passed the Senate, but an agreement was reached to conform this bill to HB 1443.

HB 1443 – PFAS in Sewage Sludge – This bill mandates testing of sewage sludge for PFAS and sets limits for land application. VAMWA has offered a municipal alternative bill, which has been accepted as a substitute in the Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources Committee. The limits are for PFOS and PFOA individually until July 1, 2029. After July 1, 2029, the limits are for PFOS and PFOA combined. This bill passed in the House.

HB 1263/SB378 – Collective Bargaining by Public Employees

This bill allows public employees to organize and negotiate through representatives of their choosing. This bill amends the current law which permits local governments and school boards to “opt-in” to authorizing collective bargaining, and it would do away with the “local option”. The Local Fiscal Impact Statement of SB 378 includes increases in payroll, benefits, human resources, and legal costs across the Commonwealth. Augusta County estimates a cost of \$36M annually to their budget. This bill passed in the House.

HB 1207/SB2 – Paid Family Medical Leave

This bill requires the VEC to establish and administer a paid family medical leave insurance program. The program pays 80% of employee’s average weekly wage (not exceeding 100% of statewide average weekly wage). Employees will pay 50% and the employer will fund 50% of the program premiums. This bill has passed in both the House and the Senate.

HB 850 Rolled into HB 1046 – Apprenticeship

This bill requires at least one apprentice be hired for projects over \$5M in cost. There is a delayed effective date of July 1, 2027. This bill passed in the House.

HB 569/SB 518 – Prevailing Wage

This bill requires all public contracts for public works must ensure workers are compensated at the prevailing wage rate. It requires employers to maintain detailed records of wages and hours worked, conduct mandatory orientations for employees regarding their rights, and ensure workers have appropriate qualifications through registered apprenticeship programs or verified work experience. This bill passed in both the House and the Senate.

HB 242 – Budget Plan Pay Increase

This bill was discussed at the January meeting. It passed the House but applies only to Public Utilities.

HB 196 – Virginia Residential Development Infrastructure Fund

This bill was discussed at the January meeting. It passed the House and requires a budget amendment to fund it. This bill may make money available to localities for infrastructure needs.

Mr. Martin stated a bill was passed to allow localities to go on to private property to test for lead service lines, without being charged with trespassing by the property owner.

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DONATION OF OBSOLETE EQUIPMENT

Mr. Martin explained the Town of Buena Vista (Town) contacted Augusta Water last year about obtaining the old rotating biological contactors currently at the Middle River Treatment Plant facility. The contactors are past their life span and have been out of service since the enhanced nutrient removal (ENR) plant upgrade. The Town also had a consultant inspect the contactors and found them to be in good condition. Staff heard nothing from the Town after the initial contact. Staff has recently been contacted by Maury Service Authority, acting on behalf of the Town, expressing interest once again in obtaining the contactors.

Due to the costs to remove the contractors, Staff recommends the Board authorize the donation of the existing contactors to the Town of Buena Vista with the provision the Town take the entire units and provide labor and equipment to remove them. At the discretion of the Executive Director, Augusta Water Staff may provide some minor labor and tool assistance if necessary.

Mr. Dahl moved, seconded by Mr. Shull to donate the existing rotating biological contactors to the Town of Buena Vista as presented above.

Vote was as follows:

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

Motion approved.

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BOARD COMMENTS

Dr. Middleton stated raw sewage has been pouring out of Washington D.C.’s sewer system into Potomac River for several weeks. Aside from the public health threat this discharge presents the large quantity of nutrients going into the Chesapeake Bay is a setback to the nutrient reduction efforts, which a lot of people in Virginia have paid a significant amount of money achieve. He asked Mr. Martin if Staff could do some brainstorming to determine if there are any vulnerabilities in Augusta Water’s systems. Mr. Martin stated due to the smaller

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size of the sewer lines in the Augusta Water systems, there shouldn't be any issues with by-pass pumping.

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ADJOURNMENT

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

Vote was as follows:

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

Motion approved.

Board Secretary

Chairman