

Augusta Water
Regular Board Meeting, Thursday, July 16, 2026, at 1:30 p.m.
Field Operations Training Room

PRESENT: Andrew C. Middleton, Chairman, North River District
Harvey Almarode, South 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: Garry R. Gordon, Vice Chairman, Middle 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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BOARD ELECTIONS

The Nominating Committee presented the following slate of officers for Board approval to take effect immediately:

Chairman	Dr. Andrew Middleton
Vice Chairman	Mr. Garry Gordon
Treasurer	Mr. Brent Canterbury
Secretary	Mrs. Jean Marshall

There being no nominations from the floor, the Board unanimously approved Dr. Middleton as Chairman, Mr. Gordon as Vice Chairman, Mr. Canterbury as Treasurer, and Mrs. Marshall as Secretary.

Vote was as follows:

Yeas:	Middleton, Almarode, Egeli, and Simmons
Nays:	None
Absent:	Dahl

Motion approved.

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ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Dr. Middleton reminded the Board members as of July 1, 2026, no items can be added to the Agenda once the meeting has commenced.

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Mr. Egeli moved, seconded by Mr. Dahl to approve the Agenda as presented.

Vote was as follows:

Yeas:	Middleton, Almarode, Dahl, Egeli, Simmons
Nays:	None

Motion approved.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Egeli requested the Legal Committee Reports – Ben Cash Property section of the June 18, 2026 Minutes, paragraph 11, be amended to read as follows: This Legal Committee report constitutes a motion and a second to the full Board to adopt the changes to the Augusta Water policy to include: 1. Adding conditions to the Special Use Permit process, which is handled by Augusta County, regarding the division or ownership of property; 2. adding restrictive covenants to properties with more than one dwelling being serviced by one water meter; 3. all legal documents associated with the restrictive covenants will be prepared by Augusta Water’s legal counsel and the property owner will pay a \$1,000 document preparation fee, and; 4. any water service that will serve more than one dwelling will be upgraded to a 3/4” meter, with the property owner paying all associated fees.

Mr. Simmons moved, seconded by Mr. Almarode to approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of June 18, 2026, as amended.

Vote was as follows:

Yeas:	Middleton, Almarode, Dahl, Egeli, Simmons
Nays:	None

Motion approved.

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MATTERS PRESENTED BY THE PUBLIC

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

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S HIGHLIGHTS

Mr. Martin informed the Board members the June Consumer Price Index was down by 0.4% resulting in a 3.5% increase year to year. The Producer Price Index was down as well by 0.3% resulting in a 5.5% increase year to year.

Mr. Martin also informed the Board members while there are several counties in the southern part of Virginia currently declared by DEQ as being in an Emergency Drought status, Augusta

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County remains in a Severe Drought status on the National Weather Service's monitor. With the current rainfall, some of the water supplies show a slight improvement, but remain stable overall.

Mr. Simmons asked whether any Deerfield residents had indicated a need for assistance with their current water supply, as they did last year. Mr. Martin stated no requests for assistance have been received from Deerfield residents this year.

Mr. Egeli asked for an update on the efforts to hire a Communications Manager. Mr. Martin stated more than 20 applications have been received for this position and interviews have been scheduled. He also noted interviews for the Safety Manager position are ongoing.

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PROGRESS REPORT

The June 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 APPOINTMENTS

Dr. Middleton stated the Committee appointments for FY-2027 are as follows:

<u>Executive Committee:</u>	Andrew C. Middleton, Chairman Garry R. Gordon, Vice-Chairman
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<u>Finance and Audit Committee:</u>	Garry R. Gordon, Chairman Harvey Almarode Andrew C. Middleton, Ex-Officio
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<u>Personnel Committee:</u>	Timothy Simmons, Chairman Matthew Egeli Andrew C. Middleton, Ex-Officio
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<u>Land and Water Committee:</u>	Michael L. Shull, Chairman Allen Dahl Andrew C. Middleton, Ex-Officio
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<u>Legal Committee:</u>	Matthew Egeli, Chairman Harvey Almarode Andrew C. Middleton, Ex-Officio
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<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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REVISION TO AUGUSTA WATER OPPM SECTION 5.6 – WATER KIOSK

Mr. Martin explained, historically in Augusta County, there are a number of customers who get bulk water through the use of Hydrant Meters. Augusta Water has been working to move away from utilizing hydrant meters and working towards installing water kiosks at multiple locations within the county. The kiosks will allow both customers wanting large quantities (several thousand gallons, typically in a tanker) and those wanting smaller quantities (usually 100-200 gallons, typically a tank on a pickup truck) to purchase bulk water in a safe and trackable manner.

When originally put into service, water kiosks required a customer to set up an account and acquire a dedicated water kiosk card to use at the site. As another kiosk site has been added and new technology has become available, each customer will be assigned a code to use on the kiosk keypad, eliminating the need for physical cards. Augusta Water OPPM Section 5.6 details the old kiosk card procedure.

In order to bring the published policy for the kiosks into alignment with current technology, as well as to employ a less cumbersome and costly practice, Staff has revised the pertinent policy section.

Staff recommends the Board approve the revisions to the Augusta Water OPPM Section 5.6.

Mr. Egeli moved, seconded by Mr. Almarode to approve the revision to the Augusta Water OPPM Section 5.6 - Bulk Water Kiosks, as presented.

Vote was as follows:

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

Motion approved.

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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 was 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 monthly newsletter.

For the first half of 2026 the following nominations were received:

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Interdepartmental Cooperation: Jessica Griffin was nominated by Hal McWhorter for her work aiding and instructing recently promoted Treatment Operations Superintendents. This instruction has been with procurement, specifically in the use of the FinancePlus software package. Jessica went above and beyond by creating a “visual guide” to assist in the proper procuring of materials and equipment. She has also “professionally and courteously walked us through the process to ensure that orders are placed and business can continue unabated.” Her commitment and patience have helped greatly to develop the Treatment Operations team’s workplace abilities.

Outstanding Customer Service: Lisa Morrell was nominated by Jean Marshall for helping Mr. Harmon Gray when he came to the office to inquire about water service for a property he owns. Jean began helping Mr. Gray, but found that our GIS did not show Mr. Gray as the legal owner of the property. Lisa was walking by the front office and offered to help. Lisa accompanied Mr. Gray to the County Real Estate Office to try and straighten out the issue, but was unable to make any headway there. Lisa then spent over an hour with Mr. Gray going through land records to prove he owned the property and determining exactly where he wanted a new service. Jean remarked “Mr. Gray was very frustrated at times, but Lisa remained respectful, was extremely patient, and displayed a great deal of empathy for his situation.” After getting Mr. Gray squared away here, Lisa provided the information to Augusta County so they could correct their records to show the proper ownership, allowing Mr. Gray to get his plumbing permit.

Can-Do Attitude: Hunter Zaun was nominated by James Truxell for demonstrating “an outstanding work ethic, a positive attitude, and a willingness to take on any task that is asked of him.” James went on to say Hunter approaches every challenge with a “can-do” attitude and frequently volunteers to assist wherever help is needed.

James specifically mentioned Hunter stepping up when the Public Use Site was short-staffed, learning to operate the roll-off trucks and helping out (in addition to his normal duties) on Saturdays and Mondays. James also mentioned Hunter assisting at the scales when needed, helping direct customers, answering questions, and assisting with the daily tally for reporting. James summed up his interactions with Hunter as follows: “Throughout my time working with Hunter, I have never asked him to take on a task that he was not willing to perform to the best of his ability. He consistently gives 100% effort, embraces additional responsibilities, and serves as an example of teamwork. Hunter is a tremendous asset to the Augusta Regional Landfill and is deserving of this recognition.”

Outstanding Effort: Eric Squier was nominated by Laura Righter for his work with various new technologies at the Middle River WWTP. Over the last two years new probes for Dissolved Oxygen, Ammonia/Nitrate, Total Suspended Solids and Total Organic Carbon, as well as new peristaltic pumps and actuators, have been installed. There has been a fairly steep learning curve, and Laura pointed out that Eric, on several occasions, was the first operator to notice patterns and address them to head off problems before they became severe. Laura added “The only way to navigate any new technology is through relentless observation, critical thinking, and the collective sharing of information and without his help we would have experienced tremendous equipment downtime and limited progress.”

Outstanding Effort: Beverly Dull was nominated by Teresa Ervin (customer) for Beverly’s work to assist her in several billing issues. Ms. Ervin relayed an incident where an oversight

in their office resulted in service being turned off, and Beverly resolved the issue in short manner. Ms. Ervin also stated “During our construction of this 55+ community, we have been faced with complications and “push backs”. Our residents need easy and Beverly delivers.”

Innovation/Cost Savings: Gabe Butler and Timmy Campbell were nominated by Faun Runkle for their work creating exhibits for our Outreach Program. Gabe designed and built a water main break display which will allow visitors attending an event to clearly visualize what a water main break looks like and how it is repaired. Timmy designed and built an interactive wastewater operator display that simulates plant operations, allowing visitors to activate switches representing various treatment processes, with data readouts that respond to those changes.

Mr. Martin stated, the Department Directors agreed these employees should all receive the July, 2026 Augusta Water Excellence Award at the July 7th Staff Meeting.

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BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Almarode thanked those receiving the Excellence Award for all they do for Augusta Water.

Mr. Dahl asked if Augusta Water hosts school field trips to any of the treatment plants. Mr. Martin stated, occasionally a school will bring a group of students to visit a treatment plant. The Augusta County Citizens Academy plans to visit the Middle River plant soon.

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Simmons moved, seconded by Mr. Egeli to adjourn the meeting at 2:08 p.m.

Vote was as follows:

Yeas:	Middleton, Almarode, Dahl, Egeli, Simmons
Nays:	None

Motion approved.

Board Secretary

Chairman