

# 98

Augusta Water

Regular Board Meeting, Thursday, January 16, 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  
Phil Martin, Executive Director  
Brent Canterbury, Treasurer  
Jean Marshall, Board Secretary

ABSENT: Allen Dahl, Beverley Manor District  
Matthew Egeli, Wayne District  
Michael L. Shull, Riverheads District  
Timothy Simmons, Pastures 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

As there was not a quorum present, voting to adopt the Agenda of this meeting was omitted.

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## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

As there was not a quorum present, voting on approval of the Minutes of the December 19, 2024 meeting was tabled until the February meeting.

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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.

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## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S HIGHLIGHTS

Mr. Martin stated, the Consumer Price Index increased by 0.4% in December resulting in a 3.2% increase year to year. The Producer Price Index increased by 0.2% in December resulting in a 3.3% increase year to year.

Mr. Martin informed the Board, Augusta Water staff met with Augusta County staff regarding the request by Mrs. Tammy Johnston at the December meeting to expand public water service

Regular Board Meeting, Thursday, January 16, 2025, at 1:30 p.m.

to residents on Mullins Lane. While no final decisions have been made, Augusta County representatives are considering the possibility of changing the Augusta County Comp Plan to allow public water to be extended in the area of Mullins Lane. Augusta Water staff is also considering the cost of a petition project for this area.

Mr. Martin brought to the attention of the Board members several articles he provided to them to review at their leisure. The articles pertained to the recent water crisis in the City of Richmond, PFAS, and fluoride in drinking water.

PROGRESS REPORT

The December 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 REPORTS

There were no committee reports given.

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AUGUSTA WATER EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Mr. Martin reminded the Board, in 2018, as part of an effort to recognize and reward ACSA employees for exceptional work that goes above and beyond their normal duties, the ACSA (now Augusta Water) Excellence Award 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 bi-monthly newsletter. For the second half of 2024 several nominations were received and the departmental Directors have selected the most worthy as the winner for each category.

**Outstanding Customer Service:** Matt Morris was nominated by Phil Martin. On July 22nd Garry Gordon sent in an email which relayed how pleased the people at North Point Dairy were with their interaction with Matt when they needed to set up getting water for their cows. After the interaction, North Point contacted Gerald Garber (Middle River Member of the Augusta County Board of Supervisors) and Mr. Garber passed along that they had “nothing but good things to say about him (Matt) and the service Augusta Water Provided”.

**Outstanding Effort:** Chad Hammer, Lynn Shaver and David Coffey were nominated by Phil Martin. On September 28th Andrea Collins sent in an email in which she relayed how these three men, during the severe flooding from remnants of Hurricane Helene, cleared a blocked culvert and averted much more significant flooding damage. Ms. Collins included a link to WHSV footage showing Chad, Lynn and David and their actions. This link was included in an email I sent to the Board on September 30th.

**Innovation/Cost Savings:** Gabe Butler, Aaron Lucas, Seth McCullough and Adam Meek were nominated by Casey McCracken. They were nominated for their work in investigating and compiling data for our Lead Service Line Inventory as required by US EPA. By working

Regular Board Meeting, Thursday, January 16, 2025 at 1:30 p.m.

together to identify the materials in both public-side and private-side laterals, in the least invasive manner possible, we were able to avoiding digging (or contracting out the digging of) hundreds of holes. They worked inside of meter boxes on the public side, and met with customers to determine the materials on the private side of the laterals. We had originally looked to contract out potholing all of the services, but the initial quote we received was for a total of \$574,425. Overall, Gabe, Aaron, Seth and Adam completed their work at a total cost of approximately \$34,400. We did contract out an additional \$39,050 worth of potholing for services that could not otherwise be identified.

**Can-Do Attitude:** Jason Wills was nominated by Faun Runkle. Jason was nominated for his enthusiasm and willingness to take up the roll of conducting Water and Erosion Presentations for Augusta County third-graders, which assist in preparing them for their Standards of Learning exams. Jason has developed his own presentation that provides new visual aids for the students. Jason has also incorporated our Enviroscape display into his presentation and is consistently a volunteer at other outreach events.

**Interdepartmental Cooperation:** Laura Lowry, Jason Cook, Evan Mathis and Payton Snell were nominated by Phil Martin. On October 17th, Master Gunnery Sergeant (retired) Paul Garcia sent in a letter in which he recounted his interaction with Laura in Customer Service and how she coordinated the work with Jason’s crew while he was on hold. MGySgt Garcia stated “From beginning to end, everyone, from customer service to maintenance have been very helpful, prompt, courteous, friendly and professional.” He also added “What a great team.”

The Board members congratulated the Excellence Award recipients and thanked them for the work they do for Augusta Water.

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UPDATE ON 2025 VIRGINIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Mr. Martin reviewed bills being proposed during the 2025 Virginia General Assembly Legislative Session, as presented on PowerPoint, and which the Board members received a copy of. Bills of concern are HB2407 – Mandatory Reporting of Anomalies and SB1319 – PFAS in Industrial Wastewater. Mr. Martin will keep the Board updated on the status of the proposed bills.

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BOARD COMMENTS

There were no comments given by the Board members.

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 1:57 p.m.

Regular Board Meeting, Thursday, January 16, 2025, at 1:30 p.m.

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Board Secretary

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Chairman