

67

Augusta Water
Regular Board Meeting, Thursday, July 18, 2024, at 1:30 p.m.
Field Operations Training Room

PRESENT: Andrew C. Middleton, Chairman, North River District
Garry R. Gordon, Vice Chairman, Middle River
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 Temporary 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.

Mr. Gordon moved to recommend appointments be filled as presented.

Vote was as follows:

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

Motion approved.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Mr. Shull moved, seconded by Mr. Egeli to adopt the Agenda of the regular Board meeting as presented.

Vote was as follows:

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

Motion approved.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Gordon moved, seconded by Mr. Almarode, to approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of June 20, 2024, which were sent to the members prior to this meeting.

Vote was as follows:

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

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.

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S HIGHLIGHTS

Mr. Martin informed the Board members of a correction to the Highlights, which were sent to the Board members prior to this meeting, regarding the Airport Road waterline project. The Highlights state the Airport Commission would consider the agreement of the waterline project at the July 27, 2024 meeting; however, the meeting was held yesterday, July 17, 2024. The Airport Commission did approve the agreement and the Commissioner is scheduled to sign it this afternoon.

PROGRESS REPORT

The June Progress Report was included in the Board packet and reviewed with the Board members. There were no questions or comments.

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COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Dr. Middleton stated the Committee appointments for FY-2025 are as follows:

Executive Committee: Andrew C. Middleton, Chairman
Garry R. Gordon, Vice Chairman

Finance and Audit Committee: Garry R. Gordon, Chairman
Harvey Almarode
Andrew C. Middleton, Ex-Officio

Personnel Committee: Timothy Simmons, Chairman
Matthew Egeli
Andrew C. Middleton, Ex-Officio

Land and Water Committee: Michael S. Shull, Chairman
Allen Dahl
Andrew C. Middleton, Ex-Officio

Legal Committee: Matthew Egeli, Chairman
Harvey Almarode
Andrew C. Middleton, Ex-Officio

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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 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 2024 we received multiple nominations in three separate categories.

Innovation: Nick King was nominated by Faun Runkle for his work in designing and constructing Treatment displays for public outreach events. Faun stated: “I had an idea to create “tanks” to display the wastewater treatment process. I shared my idea with Nick and he made it come to life in a week! We were able to take the new display to Riverfest and we received a lot of feedback of how good the display was. Nick made a screen to setup on the “Screening” tank so the kids could pour water/rocks/q-tips/etc. into the tank and see the items being screened. He then made an aeration tank comprised of fish tank bubblers to show how

we add air to the process. He also made a clarifier out of some scrap, where you can spin the beam to skim off the clear water into another basin. Lastly, he made a UV tank by attaching LED strips to the bottom of one tank. I am so appreciative of the time and efforts Nick took to make this display. He volunteered to help and did an excellent job putting it together.”

Outstanding Customer Service: Laura Lowry was nominated by Sharon Simmons for consistently going above and beyond, but also for a specific instance where she worked with one particular customer for over an hour. Sharon stated: “Laura has been a great addition to our office and she goes above what is expected for customer service. I have had people in this office comment on her skills (Lisa is one of them). Laura listened to one of our customers at the counter for over 1 hour and showed patience and self-control. She is such an asset to Augusta Water.

Outstanding Effort: Roy Harper, Bobby Armstrong, Gabe Butler, Shawn Swisher and Austin Marshall were nominated by Faun Runkle for their work on the Seawright Springs Road Water Line Relocation Project. Faun stated: “We received a phone call from Ms. Hickman who lives at 77 Seawright Springs Road. Ms. Hickman wanted to let us know that when she found out we were installing a new water line along her road, she was a nervous wreck and very upset. Roy Harper was outstanding, answered all of her questions and put her totally at ease. She was very pleased. She wanted to give a special thank-you to Roy, along with Bobby Armstrong, Gabe Butler and Shawn Swisher for their wonderful work ethic and the work they did. She also noted that they worked straight through and didn’t even take breaks. We received a second response, via email, from Eddie and Shelia Marion, complimenting Roy Harper, Bobby Armstrong, and Austin Marshall. The Marion’s complimented the work they did and the courtesy they had to them and their property. Each of them greeted the Marions as they walked by them and kept them informed of what they were doing. The Marions could tell they cared about the work they were doing. “Professionals, that’s the best way to put it. But with a personal touch too.””

At the July 9th Staff Meeting, Augusta Water’s Department Directors agreed that Nick King, Laura Lowry, Roy Harper, Bobby Armstrong, Gabe Butler, Shawn Swisher and Austin Marshall should receive the July 2024 Augusta Water Excellence Awards.

Dr. Middleton stated he appreciates the efforts Augusta Water employees make to be kind and courteous when dealing with Augusta Water customers.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no reports given by the Board Committees.

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BOARD COMMENTS

Board members expressed their gratitude to the Excellence Award recipients for their service to Augusta Water.

Regular Board Meeting, Thursday, July 18, 2024, at 1:30 p.m.

Mr. Shull said he had been contacted by a resident of Kaolin Springs concerning the difficulty of getting water delivered to the many residents who have cisterns within the subdivision, due to the lack of water haulers. Some of the residents have talked with well drillers about having wells put in; however, due to the depth a well would need to be, it would not be an economically feasible option. To install water lines from Greenville to the development would be very costly. Mr. Shull suggested, if there are not enough private water haulers to provide water delivery services, and since it is Augusta Water's mission and goal to provide water and sewer services to Augusta County residents, maybe Augusta Water should consider hauling water to these residents.

Board members and Staff discussed the possibility of Augusta Water purchasing water trucks and delivering water to the residents who have cisterns at Kaolin Springs, the possibility of a self-contained well system, the cost of extending a main line from Greenville, and contacting the Virginia Department of Emergency Management to see how they may assist with this issue. Mr. Martin informed the Board Staff had explored the possibility of installing a water main line to Kaolin Springs most recently in 2007, at which time there were 97 residents. It was determined 40,000 feet of pipe would be needed for the extension. With the present cost of materials, it would cost approximately \$13M - \$15M to install this amount of pipe. Mr. Martin stated a letter may need to be sent to the residents asking them to provide their source of water in order to quantify the needs. Concerns were expressed regarding accountability to the quality of the water once it is deposited into the cisterns, should Augusta Water decide to haul water to the residents.

After further discussion by the Board members and Staff, Dr. Middleton suggested Staff come up with three to five different ways Augusta Water could cost effectively deliver water to the Kaolin Springs residents. Mr. Martin stated Staff will explore alternative ways of providing water to the development.

Mr. Martin recommended for a short-term solution, Patrick Lam at Augusta County Emergency Services be contacted to determine what can be done immediately for the residents at Kaolin Springs. Mr. Shull stated he would contact Mr. Lam.

Mr. Simmons stated Augusta Water should consider purchasing a water truck due to the frequent droughts Augusta County has experienced.

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Mr. Shull asked if the monthly Board meetings will continue to be held at the new Field Operations facility. He is concerned about liability issues should anyone from the public attending the meetings and get hurt on site. He is also concerned anyone from the public wishing to attend the meetings will not know where the meetings are being held. Mr. Shull stated the public expects to conduct governmental type business at the Government Center.

Staff reminded Mr. Shull the meeting dates and location of each meeting are published on the Augusta Water website, as well as posted inside the Government Center.

After discussion by the Board members, Dr. Middleton stated he will take all comments and concerns into consideration.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Shull moved, seconded by Mr. Egeli to adjourn the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

Vote was as follows:

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

Motion approved.

Board Secretary

Chairman