

**NEUSE REGIONAL WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING DATED
Thursday, January 22, 2026**

The Neuse Regional Water and Sewer Authority held its Monthly Board Meeting on Thursday, January 22, 2026 at 5:30 P.M. at the Neuse Regional Water and Sewer Authority Water Treatment Plant.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Barry Sutton, Steve Miller, Bruce Parson, Rhonda Barwick, Dylan Haman, Polly Hardee, Vallie Johnson, Billy Kennedy, Virgil O'Neal, Dennis Pope, Darrell Rudisill, Barbara Seaforth, Victor Styles

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jamie Cannon; Town of Pink Hill

ALTERNATES PRESENT: Henry McLean

NRWASA STAFF PRESENT: Harold Herring - Executive Director
Brandie Thompson – Administrative Assistant
Kathryn Barker – Administrative Secretary
Charlie Colie - WTP Superintendent
Jacob Brown – WTP Assistant Superintendent
Dustin Smith – Facilities Supervisor
Cliff Parson – Legal Counsel

SPECIAL GUESTS: Bill Dowbiggin, PE, CDM Smith
Reed Barton, PE, CDM Smith
David Jones, Town of Ayden

Call to Order

Chairman Barry Sutton called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM and welcomed special guests.

Revisions, Additions and Adoption of Agenda

Mr. Steve Miller moved to adopt the Revised Agenda as presented. Seconded by Mr. Victor Styles and upon unanimous vote, the motion carried.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Approval of October 2025.....Chairman Barry Sutton

Mr. Dylan Haman moved to approve the October 23, 2025 Minutes as presented. Seconded by Mr. Billy Kennedy and upon unanimous vote, the motion carried

2. Approval of January 2026 Treasurer's Report.....Chairman Barry Sutton

Mr. Victor Styles moved to adopt the January 2026 Monthly Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Mr. Dylan Haman and upon unanimous vote, the motion carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

4. PFAS Update.....Mr. Bill Dowbiggin,P.E., CDM Smith

Mr. Bill Dowbiggin presented to the Board a Power Point Presentation regarding the background of PFAS.

Mr. Bill Dowbiggin further discussed the PFAS Regulation updates. PFAS requirements for water systems per the 2024 PFAS rule. The 2025 EPA rules are to keep the maximum containment level of 4.0 ng/l for both PFOA and PFOS. He further advised that the current PFAS levels for the raw water are as high as 19-20 parts per trillion, which is above the limit.

Mr. Dowbiggin further discussed the Pilot Testing Update. PFAS is breaking through the GAC faster than IX. IX has a much longer life than GAC, hence desire for post filter contractors that can do any of the medias.

Mr. Bill Dowbiggin went over the Pilot Conclusions. IX is more cost effective and robust treatment, better protections. PFAS contactors are the most effective approach and allow alternative media in the future.

Lastly, Mr. Bill Dowbiggin discussed with the Board, recommended alternatives, PFAS pressure contactors, PFAS treatment facility location options, transfer pump station upgrade, hydraulic profile, proven successful PFAS building approach, NRWASA pressure contactors conceptual layout.

Mr. Reed Barton presented the Board a Power Point Presentation regarding the schedule update-Design-Bid-Build Approach. He further discussed that 2026 is the Design phase which would include, the Permitting, Bidding, and Project Financing Requirements. He further mentioned that 2027 would be the initial monitoring period. April 2029, per the EPA, NRWASA would need to be in compliance. Mr. Barton advised that to date, the EPA has not issued the 2-year extension just yet, but they should be issuing the extension at some point this year. If the EPA issues the 2-year extension, then NRWASA would then have to fully compliant by April 2031.

Mr. Barton made a recommendation to the Board to move forward with the Design phase.

Mr. Barton further advised the Board that SRF has committed to NRWASA about \$25 Million in loans at 2.04% and a little over \$7.16 Million in Grants. The award of the Grant for the project is \$32,160,000. He further advised that the next step would be the State's underwriting process.

Mr. Barton advised the Board that CDM Smith would need to start the design phase as soon as possible, to include submitting the Task Order #3 for approval. He also stated that the Board would need to pass a Resolution in support of accepting the \$7.16 Million in Grants and \$25 Million in loans from the State.

Mr. Harold Herring advised the Board to move forward with reviewing and approving the Resolution at the March 26, 2026 meeting.

Mr. Bruce Parson made a motion to move forward with reviewing and approving the Resolution at the March 26, 2026 Board meeting, seconded by Mr. Billy Kennedy upon unanimous vote, the motion carried.

5. Task Order #3-PFAS Treatment System Final Design and Bidding Mr. Bill Dowbiggin,P.E., CDM Smith

NRWASA moved to approve Task Order #3-PFAS Treatment System Final Design and Bidding contingent upon Ward and Smith's and Executive Director's review and approval.

6. Ward & Smith Mr. Jamie Norment

Mr. Cliff Parson advised the Board that 3M and Dupont settlements were approximately \$1.76 Million. He further advised that Tyco and BASF settlements were a little under a Million. NRWASA should be receiving settlement checks beginning in June.

7. Annual Conversion to Free Chlorine Mr. Charlie Colie

Mr. Charlie Colie advised the Board that the dates for the annual conversion to Free Chlorine would be March 16, 2026-April 20, 2026. The information in the Agenda packets will be sent to the contact people at each Member Entity to make sure it is published in the newspaper. Mr. Charlie Colie further stated that Mr. Dustin Smith will be working with each Member Entity as the Chlorine reaches each entity system.

8. Miscellaneous Discussion Items Chairman Barry Sutton

Mr. Steve Miller advised the Board that all Member Entities can attend the Finance Committee Meetings.

9. Public Comments Chairman Barry Sutton

No Public Comments

CLOSED SESSION

Pursuant to a motion made by Mr. Dennis Pope, seconded by Mr. Billy Kennedy, and unanimously approved, the Board entered a Closed Session at 7:21 p.m., to consult with our Legal Counsel to discuss a Real Estate Acquisition pursuant to General Statutes Section 143-318.11.

Sincerely,


Kathryn J. Barker
Administrative Secretary


Virgil O'Neal,
NRWASA Secretary