NEUSE REGIONAL WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING DATED
Thursday, March 26, 2026

The Neuse Regional Water and Sewer Authority held its Monthly Board Meeting on Thursday, March 26, 2026 at 5:30 P.M. at the Neuse Regional Water and Sewer Authority Water Treatment Plant.

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Barry Sutton, Steve Miller, Virgil O'Neal, Rhonda Barwick, Polly Hardee, Dylan Haman, Mike Horne, Vallie Johnson, Billy Kennedy, Henry McLean, Dennis Pope, Darrell Rudisill, Barbara Seaforth, Victor Styles
MEMBERS ABSENT:	Jamie Cannon, Bruce Parson
ALTERNATES PRESENT:	Rusty Byrd, B.R. Jackson Henry McLean, Ivory Mewborn,
NRWASA STAFF PRESENT:	Harold Herring - Executive Director Brandie Thompson – Administrative Assistant Kathryn Barker – Administrative Secretary Charlie Colie - WTP Superintendent Dustin Smith – Facilities Supervisor Jamie Norment – Legal Counsel
SPECIAL GUESTS:	John Boyer, P.E., CDM Smith

Call to Order

Chairman Barry Sutton called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and welcomed special guests.

Swearing in New Board of Directors and Alternates .... Chairman Barry Sutton

Chairman Barry Sutton led New Director Mr. Ivory Mewborn in the Oath of Office to fill the vacancy as Alternate for the Town of Ayden.

Revisions, Additions and Adoption of Agenda

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

ACTION ITEMS

1. Approval of January 2026 Minutes .... Chairman Barry Sutton

Mr. Dennis Pope moved to approve the January 22, 2026 Minutes as presented. Seconded by Mr. Vallie Johnson and upon unanimous vote, the motion carried.

2. Amendment #1-Permitting and Bidding Support for Emergency Maintenance Dredging and Construction for Sediment Removal .... Mr. Harold Herring, NRWASA Executive Director

Mr. Harold Herring presented to the Board a PowerPoint presentation regarding Amendment #1-Permitting and Bidding Support for Emergency Maintenance Dredging and Construction for Sediment Removal. Mr. Harold Herring further advised the Board NRWASA will turn in $359,307.37 in funds at the close out of this project. Mr. Harold Herring advised the Board to approve Amendment #1. Mr. Dylan moved to approve Amendment #1-Permitting and Bidding Support for Emergency Maintenance Dredging and Construction for Sediment Removal. Seconded by Mr. Billy Kennedy and upon unanimous vote, the motion carried.

3. Amendment #2-Sedimentation Analysis .... Mr. Harold Herring, NRWASA Executive Director

Mr. Harold Herring presented to the Board Amendment #2-Sedimentation Analysis. Mr. Harold Herring further advised the Board that NRWASA worked closely with CDM Smith on this project and that NRWASA will turn in $101,333.76 at the close out of this project. Mr. Harold Herring advised the Board to approve Amendment #2. Mr. Victor Styles moved to approve Amendment #2-Sedimentation Analysis. Seconded by Mr. Dennis Pope and upon unanimous vote, the motion carried.

4. Approval of March 2026 Treasurer's Report .... Chairman Barry Sutton

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

5. Resolution-Adoption of Unit Water Rate for FY26/27 .... Mr. Harold Herring, NRWASA Executive Director

Mr. Harold Herring informed the Board that NRWASA has been able to maintain the $4.00 per thousand gallons water rate for over 10 years. Mr. Harold Herring further advised the Board that with new PFAS regulations from the EPA, Member Entities need to be prepared that rates will most likely have to increase in the next 2 years
Mr. Harold Herring proposed to keep the water rate at the current $4.00 per thousand. Mr. Virgil O'Neal moved to approve the Resolution-Adoption of Unit Water Rate for FY26/27. Seconded by Mr. Mike Horne and upon unanimous vote, the motion carried.

6. PB Mares Auditing Services .... Mr. Harold Herring, NRWASA Executive Director

Mr. Victor Styles moved to approve PBMares Three Year Audit Contract Proposal FYE 2026, 2027, 2028. Seconded by Mr. Billy Kennedy and upon unanimous vote, the motion carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Ward & Smith .... Mr. Jamie Norment

Mr. Jamie Norment updated the Board and stated there were no legal matters to bring to the Board's attention at this time.

2. CDM Smith Riverbank Stabilization Update .... Mr. John Boyer, P.E. CDM Smith

Mr. John Boyer presented to the Board the Neuse River Raw Water Intake timeline. Mr. John Boyer further explained that dredging was done in 2015, 2019 and 2020. Mr. John Boyer further stated NRWASA had Intake #2 constructed in 2021. Mr. John Boyer advised in 2024, NRWASA constructed to raise the elevation of the screen by 7 feet. He further stated that in 2025, CDM Smith thought they would have to do more dredging, but CDM Smith had a full river survey, study and flow modeling. Mr. John Boyer further explained to the Board, the timeline of the erosion of the river. He further explained to the Board the current existing conditions of the river and the causes for concern of the potential issues to the intake. Mr. John Boyer further advised that per the CFD flow modeling findings, erosion will continue to exist. Mr. John Boyer further presented to the Board the recommended next steps. Purchase land to allow extension of rip rap, once the land is purchased, then the review and design phase can begin. Mr. John Boyer further explained the Engineering and Construction Administrative Service Scope and Fee Estimate. He advised there would four Tasks. Task 1- Project Kickoff, Task 2 -Development of Design Documents, Task 3-Permitting, Task 4-Bidding and Construction. He further advised the Board the total cost of these four Tasks would be $245,800.00. Mr. John Boyer further stated that the Construction estimate for the Riverbank Stabilization would be $1 Million to $1.3 Million.

Mr. John Boyer opened the floor to the Board for any questions. Mr. Virgil O'Neal asked if NRWASA currently owns the property. Mr. Harold Herring advised the Board that NRWASA does not currently own the property at this time.

3. <u>Capital Project Budget Ordinance-Riverbank Stabilization Design, Permitting, Bidding and Construction Administration Services</u> .... <u>Mr. Harold Herring, NRWASA Executive Director</u>

Mr. Harold Herring reviewed with the Board the Capital Project Budget Ordinance-Riverbank Stabilization Design, Permitting, Bidding and Construction Administration Services. Mr. Harold Herring further advised the Board the total cost of the project would be $460,400.00. Mr. Harold Herring advised the Board to approve Capital Project Budget Ordinance-Riverbank Stabilization Design, Permitting, Bidding and Construction Administration Services. Mr. Dylan Haman moved to approve Capital Project Budget Ordinance-Riverbank Stabilization Design, Permitting, Bidding and Construction Administration Services. Seconded by Mr. Victor Styles and upon unanimous vote, the motion carried.

4. <u>CDM Smith Riverbank Stabilization Engineering Agreement</u> .... <u>Mr. John Boyer, P.E. CDM Smith & Mr. Harold Herring, NRWASA Executive Director</u>

Mr. Harold Herring advised the Board to approve the CDM Smith Riverbank Stabilization Engineering Agreement. Mr. Dylan Haman moved to approve CDM Smith Riverbank Stabilization Engineering Agreement. Seconded by Mr. Dennis Pope and upon unanimous vote, the motion carried.

5. <u>Annual Conversion to Free Chlorine Update</u> .... <u>Mr. Jacob Brown, NRWASA Asst. WTP Superintendent</u>

Mr. Jacob Brown familiarized the new NRWASA Board Members regarding the process of the annual chlorine conversion and further advised the Board that the Annual Conversion to Free Chlorine was in progress and going well. The conversion will end April 20, 2026.

6. <u>Miscellaneous & Informational Discussion Items</u> .... <u>Chairman Barry Sutton</u>

Chairman Sutton asked the Board if there were any Miscellaneous items for discussion.

Mr. Steve Miller asked the Board what can CDM Smith do before the land purchase. Mr. Jim Boyer with CDM Smith advised the Board that the Permitting Phase could begin prior to the purchase of the land.

Mr. Dylan Haman with the Town of Grifton, advised the Board that the Town of Grifton would be holding their annual Shad festival April 16th-April 18th and invited all to attend.

CLOSED SESSION

Pursuant to a motion made by Mr. Vallie Johnson, seconded by Mr. Dennis Pope, and unanimously approved, the Board entered a Closed Session at 6:48 pm. to consult with our Legal Counsel to discuss a Real Estate Acquisition pursuant to General Statutes Section 143-318.11.

Pursuant to a motion made by Mr. Vallie Johnson, seconded by Mr. Billy Kennedy, and unanimously approved, the Board entered back in session at 7:21 pm.

Mr. Harold Herring advised Chairman Barry Sutton that he had another item to review with the Board.

1. <u>PFAS Update</u> .... <u>Mr. Harold Herring, NRWASA Executive Director & Mr. Charlie Colie, NRWASA WTP Superintendent</u>

Mr. Harold Herring reviewed with the Board the schedule update-Design, Bid, Build Approach. Mr. Harold Herring further advised the Board, he was waiting on the Letter of Intent from the State.

Mr. Charlie Colie advised the Board that time was of the essence. Mr. Charlie Colie further stated that the PFAS regulation rules states if you serve over 10,000 customers, you have to take 2-4 samples a quarter by April 26, 2027. Public Water Systems must conduct initial monitoring at each entry point and report results of initial monitoring to the State.

Mr. Harold Herring advised the Board, NRWASA will leave contacts to the State for each Member Entity to take for any questions they have concerning requirements pertaining to each of their water systems.

Mr. Charlie Colie advised the Board that NRWASA received a quote regarding the cost for Compliance Testing at the Entry Point and it would cost NRWASA $2,000. Mr. Charlie Colie further stated that the State of Indiana and the State of South Carolina are the current states where the testing is being handled.

2. Task Order#3-PFAS Treatment System Final Design and Bidding .... Mr. Harold Herring, NRWASA Executive Director

Mr. Harold Herring advised the Board that Ward & Smith has reviewed the Final Design and Bidding Engineering Agreement and CDM Smith has made the revisions per Ward & Smith's request. Mr. Harold Herring further advised the Board that this Task was approved by the Board at the January 2026 Board Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned without objection at approximately 7:45 pm. Motion to adjourn by Mr. Virgil O'Neal, Seconded by Mr. Billy Kennedy, and after unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Sincerely,

Kathryn J. Barker
Kathryn J. Barker
Administrative Secretary

Virgil E. O'Neal
Virgil O'Neal,
NRWASA Secretary