

**NEUSE REGIONAL WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING DATED
Thursday, May 23, 2024**

The Neuse Regional Water and Sewer Authority held its Monthly Board Meeting on Thursday, May 23, 2024 at 5:30 P.M. at the Neuse Regional Water and Sewer Authority Water Treatment Plant.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Barry Sutton, Steve Miller, Bruce Parson, Virgil O’Neal, Sammy Aiken, Rhonda Barwick, Polly Hardee, Scott Howard, Vallie Johnson, Oryan Lowry, Anthony Riggs, Darrell Rudisill, Victor Styles

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jamie Cannon, Andy Heath, Cody Murphy

ALTERNATES PRESENT: Mayor Mike Horne, Mayor B.R. Jackson

NRWASA STAFF PRESENT: Harold Herring - Executive Director
Angela McKenzie – Administrative Assistant
Jessica House – Administrative Secretary
Charlie Colie - WTP Superintendent
Jacob Brown – WTP Assistant Superintendent
Dustin Smith – Facilities Supervisor
Jamie Norment – Legal Counsel

SPECIAL GUESTS: None

Call to Order

Chairman Barry Sutton called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. and welcomed new NRWASA employee, Jessica House.

Revisions, Additions and Adoption of Agenda

Mr. Virgil O’Neal moved to adopt the Agenda as presented. Seconded by Mr. Victor Styles and upon unanimous vote, the motion carried.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Approval of March 2024 Minutes Chairman Barry Sutton

Mr. Oryan Lowry moved to approve the March 2024 Minutes as presented. Seconded by Mr. Virgil O’Neal upon unanimous vote, the motion carried

2. Approval of May 2024 Treasurer’s Report Chairman Barry Sutton

Mr. Victor Styles moved to adopt the May 2024 Monthly Treasurer’s Report. Seconded by Mr. Scott Howard and upon unanimous vote, the motion carried.

3. Amendment #1 2023/2024 Operating Budget Mr. Harold Herring

Mr. Victor Styles moved to approve the FY2023/2024 Operating Budget Amendment #1. Seconded by Mr. Anthony Riggs and upon unanimous vote, the motion carried.

4. PBMares FY2023/2024 Annual Audit Mr. Harold Herring

Mr. Vallie Johnson moved to approve the PBMares FY2023/2024 Annual Audit. Seconded by Mr. Victor Styles and upon unanimous vote, the motion carried.

5. Finance Committee- FY24/25 Annual Operating Budget Mr. Steve Miller

Mr. Steve Miller updated the Board that the Finance Committee held a meeting on May 1, 2024 with Mr. Harold Herring to discuss the Budget. The Budget increased from prior year due to price increases for materials and chemicals. Revenue is still maintained at \$4.00/1000 gallon water rate. Interest income slightly increased. Expenses increased as the Personnel Committee approved a 3.5% COLA for NRWASA employees and health insurance costs increased. Other expenses that increased include Contract Services for Carbon Replacement and land application costs, Distribution Repairs, and Property Insurance. Mr. Steve Miller commended Mr. Harold Herring and his staff for the hard work on the Budget. He further reviewed the FY24/25 Annual Operating Budget and recommended that the Board move to adopt the FY24/25 Annual Operating Budget as presented.

6. Public Hearing FY24/25 Annual Operating Budget Mr. Steve Miller

The NRWASA Board opened the Public Hearing for discussion of the FY24/25 Annual Operating Budget at 6:13 P.M. There were no public comments and no written comments offered. Public Hearing was closed at 6:14 P.M.

7. Adoption of FY24/25 Annual Operating Budget Chairman Sutton

Mr. Bruce Parson moved to adopt the FY24/25 Annual Operating Budget as presented. Seconded by Mr. Virgil O'Neal and upon unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Chairman Barry Sutton thanked Mr. Harold Herring and staff for their efforts in preparing the Budget and making sure that NRWASA stays within the Budget each and every year.

8. Approval of Capital Project Budget and Ordinance for ITAC SCADA System Upgrade Mr. Harold Herring

Mr. Harold Herring advised the Board that the NRWASA SCADA system was in need of an upgrade for effective operations. This is Phase one of the four phase upgrade with a total cost of approximately \$1.4 million dollars. Phase one will be \$269,000. Mr. Steve Miller asked about bidding for the project. Mr. Herring advised that ITAC built the original system and it would be best to stay with ITAC. Mr. Victor Styles made a motion to approve the Capital Project Budget Ordinance for ITAC SCADA System Upgrade. Seconded by Mr. Anthony Riggs and upon unanimous vote, the motion carried. Mr. Herring advised the Board that the ITAC SCADA contract is for the upcoming year starting July 1, 2024 and is included in the FY 24/25 Budget. Mr. Vallie Johnson made a motion to approve the ITAC SCADA Contract. Seconded by Mr. Victor Styles and upon unanimous vote, the motion carried.

9. Approval of Resolution for 2024 Spring PFAS Treatment Study Grant Acceptance Mr. Harold Herring

Mr. Harold Herring advised the Board that the PFAS 2024 Spring Grant was approved and recommended the Board approve the Resolution for 2024 Spring PFAS Treatment Study Grant Acceptance. Mr. Anthony Riggs moved to approve the Resolution for 2024 Spring PFAS Treatment Study Grant Acceptance as presented. Seconded by Mr. Sammy Aiken and upon unanimous vote, the motion carried.

10. Approval of Capital Project Budget and Ordinance for PFAS Treatment Study Mr. Harold Herring

Mr. Harold Herring informed the Board that CDM Smith has submitted a PFAS Treatment Study Contract. A NCDEQ State Grant of \$500,000 dollars will be used for the Capital Project Budget for PFAS Treatment Study. A \$10,000 Loan Closing Fee will come from NRWASA Appropriated Fund Balance and \$10,000 is budgeted for Sales Tax Receivables for a total project budget of \$520,000. Mr. Herring recommended the Board approve the Capital Project Budget and Ordinance for PFAS Treatment Study. Mr. Virgil O'Neal moved to approve the Capital Project Budget and Ordinance for PFAS Treatment Study as presented. Seconded by Mr. Scott Howard and upon unanimous vote, the motion carried. Mr. Harold Herring recommended the Board approve the CDM Smith \$450,000 PFAS Treatment Study Contract. Mr. Victor Styles moved to approve the CDM Smith PFAS Treatment Study Contract as presented. Seconded by Mr. Sammy Aiken and upon unanimous vote, the motion carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

11. Ward & Smith Mr. Jamie Norment

Mr. Jamie Norment advised the Board that each Board Member and Alternate should have received the Annual Evaluation for Mr. Harold Herring. Annual Evaluations are due by June 15, 2024.

Two major events with PFAS and PFOA. EPA regulations were announced. It begins with the monitoring phase through 2027 and then the implementation phase. Part of the ruling is that the EPA is to set aside money to help with compliance and it will be very competitive for funding. The second item concerns PFAS and PFOA litigation. Settlements from 3M and Dupont have been approved by the Court. Tyco and BASF have settled and are under review. Other lawsuits against smaller companies continue with more settlements expected next year.

12. Miscellaneous Discussion Items Chairman Barry Sutton

There were no Miscellaneous items to be discussed.

13. Informational Discussion Items Chairman Barry Sutton

Mr. Harold Herring presented a Drone Video to the Board showing the Neuse River at the NRWASA #1 screens. The sandbars were visible and showed movement as the video spanned several months. Erosion issues are contributing to the sandbar.

14. Public Comments Chairman Barry Sutton

No Public Comments

15. Closed Session Chairman Barry Sutton

No Closed Session

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned without objection at approximately 6:45 p.m. Motion to adjourn by Mr. Bruce Parson. Seconded by Mr. Victor Styles and after unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Sincerely,

Angela McKenzie
Administrative Assistant

Virgil O'Neal,
NRWASA Secretary

