



GreenvilleWater

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC WORKS
Greenville Water
407 W. Broad Street, Level 2,
Greenville, South Carolina
March 4, 2025
8:30 a.m.**

Commissioners of Public Works in attendance:

Chairman Phillip A. Kilgore, Vice-Chairman James W. Bannister, Debra M. Sofield, Mayor Knox H. White, and John DeWorken. A quorum was present.

Greenville Water Senior Staff in attendance:

Chief Executive Officer Jeff Boss, Chief Administrative Officer Dr. Bob Schmidt, Chief Technology Officer Kenneth Frazier, Director of Operations and Maintenance Mark Hattendorf, Director of Operational Technical Services Jane Arrington, Director of Water Resources Elizabeth Pierczynski, Director of Business Services Steve Miller, Director of Human Resources Lisa Bryant, Director of Communications Pam Flasch, Director of Engineering David Niese, Director of Finance Jacob Polson, Director of Procurement & Contracts Will Bettis, and Attorney Adam Bach.

The Regular Meeting of the Commissioners of Public Works of the City of Greenville, SC was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Chairman Kilgore.

1. WELCOME

Chairman Kilgore welcomed several Greenville Water team members who would be making presentations on behalf of Greenville Water at the South Carolina Environmental Conference (SCEC) in Myrtle Beach. Chief Executive Officer Jeff Boss shared Greenville Water had 9 accepted presentations, he introduced the team members, and each gave a brief description of their presentation to be made at SCEC.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments were presented.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Kilgore asked for questions pertaining to the consent agenda items. There being none, he called for approval of the items of the Consent Agenda which were the meeting minutes of the Regular Commission Meeting February 4, 2025, the Water Resources Report, New Development, and New Annexations. Commissioner Sofield moved, seconded by Commissioner DeWorken, to approve the items of the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

4. FLEET MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Chairman Kilgore progressed to Fleet Supervisor Nick Faltynski to present a fleet management update since Greenville Water partnered with Enterprise Fleet Management. Mr. Faltynski reviewed Greenville Water's agreement with Enterprise from November 2023,

fleet department functions outsourced, the emphasis on fleet safety and the first year of the program.

In 2024 Greenville Water began using Geotab for GPS and telematics to help monitor drivers to increase safety, reduce risk and lower costs. Geotab is a connected vehicle and asset solution that empowers fleet efficiency and management through a telematics device that uses GPS tracking. Also, older vehicles have been replaced with newer vehicles which have updated built-in safety features including lane keeping assistance, automatic breaking, et cetera.

In 2023 Greenville Water was averaging 14 years of life expectancy for a vehicle, which is a long lifecycle in the industry. The optimal time to replace a vehicle is more around the 5-year range. As the vehicle gets closer to the 10-year mark maintenance and fuel costs increase substantially as the resale value declines. The return on investment will be better around the 3 to 5-year mark.

Prior to 2024 Greenville Water maintenance costs tripled after 100,000 miles with a fleet cost of \$0.25 per mile. The new target is a fleet cost of \$0.07 per mile. Greenville Water fleet traveled an estimated 1,300,000 annual miles at 13 miles per gallon. The new target is 17 miles per gallon. By pushing out the older vehicles the fleet management goals were to:

- Decrease maintenance cost
- Increase fuel economy
- Decrease idling rate
- Realize direct purchase savings

Greenville Water currently has 85 pre-existing vehicles with a maintenance cost per mile of \$0.22 and 30 new vehicles with a maintenance cost per mile of \$0.13. The 2024 miles per gallon were 15 MPG with 11,000 annual gallons saved. Staff found the decrease in idling resulted in a fuel savings of \$8,008 (\$3.15/gal) per month from January 2024 to December 2024. Partnering with Enterprise Fleet Management to purchase 63 vehicles resulted in a direct purchase savings of \$205,433.19. The direct purchase also resulted in the ability to upfit vehicles with more up-to-date equipment and with things like hydraulic pumps and air compressors on the vehicles. This creates a safer driving environment because team members do not have to pull a trailer with this equipment.

Future goals for Greenville Water Fleet management include:

- Resale of vehicles once they reach the 5-year mark, with a greater rate of return.
- Efficient configuration of fleet assets using Geotab analytics.
- Enhanced safety policy through newer vehicles with safety features, Geotab with its telematics and coaching drivers to be better drivers.

5. FEMA PRELIMINARY DAMAGE INVENTORY

Chairman Kilgore introduced Chief Administrative Officer Bob Schmidt to speak about the damage inventory summary in the watersheds. Dr. Schmidt explained the damage inventory summary is a document that is required by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) that will be posted at the federal and state level. It establishes the foundation for

future actions of the Public Assistance Program. This is the initial catalog of all items for consideration for public assistance. If something is not included in the catalog, it will not be considered. The document captures completed work and work to be completed. FEMA logically groups projects. Each has a detailed list of generally three groups after the initial assessments which are debris impacts, emergency response activities, and damaged facilities.

A couple of assessments and inspections have been conducted of the North Saluda and Table Rock dams. Ongoing work to be completed includes reservoirs, 350 miles of non-navigable waterways, fire breaks, three sets of water transmission pipes across the river, 150 miles of roads and infrastructure.

Debris Removal Activities completed include force account labor (FAL)/force account equipment (FAE) and contract work. Ongoing work to be completed includes cut and push of debris, dams, reservoirs, non-navigable/natural waterways which will require a special set of permits.

Emergency protective measures which is a part of the overall emergency repairs set completed work will include increased water treatment costs, FAL/FAE, fence repairs, supplies, and rented equipment and contract work. Ongoing work includes water treatment costs, FAL/FAE, and a security drone. Emergency repairs will include slope stabilization of roads and the upslope and downslope of areas adjacent to roads.

Cost estimates submitted by FEMA will be uploaded to the federal and state database on March 10, 2025. The cost estimates are put together by outside agencies, SC Emergency Management Division (SCEMD) and FEMA. Damage assessments will start within about 60 days. There will be some projects developed before that. Greenville Water already has projects that are believed to be able to mitigate this in the future. Priority projects that can be expedited will be reviewed.

6. PELZER SCIIP GRANT CONDEMNATION APPROVAL

Chairman Kilgore called on Director of Engineering David Niese to present on the Pelzer Water System improvements and right-of-way acquisition which is a South Carolina Infrastructure Investment Program (SCIIP) project. The project has reached the right-of-way acquisition process. There were 18 easements to secure beginning back in November. Twelve of the easements have been obtained, five are in progress and one is unresponsive. As this is a SCIIP funded project there are deadlines that have to be met. These deadlines are coming up fairly quickly. The project needs to be on the street by mid to late April, thus the request for approval to use eminent domain should it be necessary.

Mr. Niese shared the details of the easement request for the property of the unresponsive party. Commissioner DeWorken asked if the property owner would be able to use the property once the project is completed. Mr. Niese said the project will improve the property because the work will flatten out an area the owner may be able to work with. Chairman Kilgore recalled what necessitated the request is to create another connectivity in the southern area of Pelzer.

Mr. Niese requested approval to use the Commission's eminent domain to start the condemnation process should the need arise. Commissioner DeWorken restated the process of the project which would include construction, then repair the construction which will not prohibit

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the property owner from using the said property. In fact, it is the belief of Mr. Niesse that the construction will improve the property. Chairman Kilgore pointed out that this would be eminent domain to obtain an easement on the property as opposed to eminent domain to acquire the property.

Commissioner DeWorken moved, seconded by Commissioner Sofield, to approve the use of eminent domain to obtain easements for the Pelzer Water System improvement project. The motion passed unanimously.

7. CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT

Chairman Kilgore welcomed Chief Executive Jeff Boss to present his report. Mr. Boss presented legislative update information shared with him by Legislative Liaison Bob Knight who was unable to attend the meeting.

The surface water study committee WaterSC water resources working group will be submitting a report on March 26, 2025.

The bill filed to extend SC Department of Transportation's five-year provision for utility line relocation reimbursement is on course to be sent to committee in the coming week.

Mr. Boss proudly announced Greenville Water's continued recognition as a top-tier utility, having maintained a coveted AAA rating from Fitch Ratings, Standard & Poor's, and Moody's Investors Service. This milestone highlights Greenville Water's commitment to financial excellence, operational stability, and exceptional service to its consumers.

Greenville Water performed a small, prescribed burn of 90 acres between the dam and dock area of the North Saluda watershed. The fire burned fast and hot. It was very well controlled and did what it was supposed to do.

Phase I of the 60-inch Adkins Transmission main project is 85% complete. This line should be tested and tied in by March/April of 2025. Phase II has already begun and is 5% complete.

There is a legacy program that Greenville Water no longer offers where reimbursement agreements were signed for water line extensions. In this program, once the revenue received from the extension reached a certain percentage of the cost, the agreement holder would be reimbursed for some of the expense of having the line extended. There is a large sum of debt held for these agreements waiting for the revenue percentage to be reached or to be reimbursed. The Engineering Department is working with Greenville Water's attorney to get rid of a portion of this debt because the agreement holder is either no longer an entity, they are deceased and there are no heirs, or they cannot be found.

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Sofield moved, seconded by Commissioner DeWorken, to enter executive session to receive a report regarding ongoing litigation. The motion passed unanimously.

(Executive Session)

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Commissioner Sofield moved, seconded by Commissioner DeWorken, to go out of Executive Session. The motion passed unanimously. No action was taken.

9. COMMISSION COMMENTS

No comments were presented.

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned 9:50 a.m.



Phillip A. Kilgore, Chairman



Kimberly Haulter, Executive Assistant