



GreenvilleWater

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC WORKS
Greenville Water
407 W. Broad Street, Level 2,
Greenville, South Carolina
April 7, 2026
8:30 a.m.**

Commissioners of Public Works in attendance:

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

Greenville Water Senior Staff in attendance:

Chief Executive Officer Jeff Boss, Chief Operations Officer Jeff Phillips, Chief Technology Officer Kenneth Frazier, Chief Human Resources Officer Lisa Bryant, Director of Watersheds Drew Langston, Director of Operations and Maintenance Mark Hattendorf, Director of Business Services Steve Miller, Director of Information Technology Brad Treas, Director of Finance Jacob Polson, Director of Engineering Dr. Keri Cantrell, Controller Brandi Cawthorn, Fleet Services Manager Nick Faltynski, Conservation Tech Supervisor Austin Williams, and attorney Adam Bach.

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

1. WELCOME

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments were presented.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner 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 Meetings for March 3, 2026, 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. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Commissioner Kilgore called on Legislative Liaison Bob Knight to present a legislative update. Mr. Knight distributed a one-page legislative "cheat sheet" for reference.

He summarized legislation addressing failing municipal water systems, citing examples of billing and meter-reading issues in several South Carolina towns. He explained the proposal would authorize a countywide system to assume operation of a municipal

system as a remedy; debate was adjourned on the bill, and he anticipated possible local legislation related to the Somerton system. Mr. Knight indicated no immediate threat to Greenville Water from this matter.

On data centers, Mr. Knight referenced recent public opposition to incentives in Spartanburg County and reviewed several pending bills affecting data centers, including Senator Davis's bill (S. 867) and Senator Rankin's bill (S. 902), as well as a reporting bill (S. 724) related to commercial data center water use. He described the bills as competing approaches that would place oversight with different regulatory bodies and noted hearings were underway; however, he did not expect the bills to pass this session. He added that data center-related provisions could be introduced via budget provisos during the budget process.

Mr. Knight also discussed "concurrency" (adequate public facilities) as a land planning concept that could condition development approvals on the availability/capacity of public facilities and services (e.g., roads, water, wastewater). He noted the concept was being promoted by some state lawmakers and that Greenville County had recently discussed adding a concurrency element to its land use plan. He indicated the topic could reemerge in future sessions, although he did not expect action this year due to timing.

Finally, he reported Greenville County was updating its encroachment ordinance, including revisions to fines, fees, and the cooperative agreement applicable to work within county rights-of-way. He noted the draft was scheduled for first reading at County Council that evening and remained early in the process.

During discussion, it was noted that certain tax reduction and related legislation affected available budget dollars and that the failure of a separate bill freed approximately \$300 million for potential use in the state budget. Commissioners and staff also discussed data center-related concerns, including the long-term risk of oversizing water infrastructure for speculative projects and then maintaining unused capacity. By example, management noted a prior inquiry at the Union Bleachery site for 20 million gallons per day; after the applicable capacity fees were explained, the request did not proceed.

5. 319 FUNDING – OVERVIEW AND OPPORTUNITY

Chief Executive Officer Jeff Boss introduced Drew Langston, Director of Watersheds, who had recently joined Greenville Water. Mr. Boss noted Mr. Langston is a Clemson University graduate and shared background on Mr. Langston's prior experience, including work that supported watershed-related efforts and stakeholder relationships. Mr. Boss also recognized Austin Williams, who attended to support the presentation.

Mr. Langston provided an overview of Section 319(h) funding under the Clean Water Act, describing it as a program supporting projects that address nonpoint source pollution through best management practices. He reviewed how funding flows from the federal level and the types of projects typically eligible. Staff summarized prior 319-supported work in the North Saluda basin, including streambank and channel restoration,

stabilization projects on Greenville Water property and with basin stakeholders, and associated habitat benefits. Staff also discussed work completed on the Dover property and a 2024 phase that restored approximately 2,000 linear feet along Callahan Branch, noting recent high-water events provided a resilience test of installed structures. Looking ahead, staff identified potential additional opportunities to extend work in adjacent reaches and to partner with neighboring landowners and other organizations, as well as opportunities to protect Greenville Water infrastructure at stream crossings and evaluate work in other drainages. In response to questions, staff noted portions of the remaining reach would involve coordination with adjoining landowners and that the adjacent area was not believed to have significant development, with at least one single-family structure located near the road. Commissioner Kilgore thanked Mr. Langston and Mr. Williams for the presentation; staff noted the overview was requested by Chairman Bannister in connection with planning for potential 319 funding in the Fiscal Year 2027 budget.

6. GREENVILLE WATER'S APPROACH TO CAPITAL PLANNING

Commissioner Kilgore called on Jeff Case to present a report on capital planning. Mr. Case noted he recently provided a longer version of this presentation at the South Carolina Environmental Conference and provided an abbreviated overview for the Commission.

Mr. Case reviewed Greenville Water's history of system master planning, noting the first master plan was completed in 1994 and has been updated approximately every five to six years to validate growth projections and water-demand assumptions. He then discussed project case studies stemming from the 2022 master plan, including an example where the hydraulic model indicated deficient fire flow at a hydrant; subsequent hydrant flow testing showed significantly higher capacity. Mr. Case explained the improved performance resulted from intervening development and required main connections (including back feed capability) that increased available flow without additional Greenville Water capital investment. He emphasized key lessons learned: emergent needs provide opportunities to reassess the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP); coordination with development can mitigate or eliminate some capital needs; and master plans and models should be trusted but verified with updated conditions and field data before committing capital dollars.

Looking ahead to the upcoming master plan update expected to begin in fall 2026, Mr. Case described focus areas including revisiting growth and water usage trends; engaging local stakeholders and wholesale customers; conducting internal management workshops; reassessing level-of-service goals; evaluating CIP projects by customer impact and cost; and identifying project "triggers" rather than relying solely on static timelines. During discussion, commissioners asked about system needs in the Roper Mountain Road area in light of continued growth and hospital development, and about ongoing pressure concerns in the Huntington area. Staff indicated these considerations will be evaluated as part of the master plan update and noted the CIP remains fluid, with projects under consideration including improvements associated with the Roper

Mountain tanks to increase pressures and capacity. Commissioner Kilgore thanked Mr. Case for the presentation.

7. FLEET UPDATE

Commissioner Kilgore called on Fleet Services Manager Nick Faltynski to provide a fleet performance update.

Mr. Faltynski reported on recent fleet initiatives implemented with Enterprise and Geotab, including the installation of in-vehicle video dash cameras (forward-facing and cab-facing). He explained the cameras are intended to support safety and coaching and described AI-enabled alerts and configurable rules (e.g., seat belt use, handheld phone use) as well as an event-trigger feature to capture video during incidents. He noted departments have access limited to their respective vehicles and indicated the program has supported coaching efforts and contributed to reduce at-fault accidents and insurance costs. Mr. Faltynski also reviewed efforts to reduce outsourced equipment maintenance by expanding in-house diagnostics and repair capabilities, including acquiring tools and software to read and troubleshoot equipment codes. He stated that, based on tracked labor costs, outsourcing labor would have totaled approximately \$70,000 in 2024 but was reduced to approximately \$34,000, and outsourcing labor would have totaled approximately \$91,000 in 2025 but was reduced to approximately \$45,000. In addition, he discussed telematics-driven initiatives to reduce vehicle idling through coaching and alerts, reporting an approximate 20% reduction in idling in 2025 and noting a strategic goal to continue improvement in 2026. He further reported improvements in maintenance cost per mile and fleet fuel efficiency, attributing gains to fleet modernization and continued performance management. Mr. Faltynski concluded by outlining ongoing priorities, including replacement of older vehicles and equipment, enhanced safety policy enforcement (seat belts, speeding), continued idle management, and further reductions in preventable accidents. Commissioner Kilgore thanked Mr. Faltynski for the report.

8. REFERRAL BONUS PROGRAM

Commissioner Kilgore welcomed Chief Human Resources Officer Lisa Bryant to provide an update on the referral bonus program implemented in spring 2024. Ms. Bryant stated the program is intended to attract qualified team members aligned with Greenville Water's mission, vision, values, and culture, and to support employee retention.

Ms. Bryant explained eligible employees (those with at least six months of service) may refer applicants; when a referred applicant is hired, the referring employee may receive a referral bonus of \$500 (less applicable taxes). She noted the applicant must identify the referral source during the application process. Ms. Bryant reported 13 bonus payments have been made to date, with 11 of those referred hires retained (approximately an 85% retention rate), and noted two referred hires resigned after a bonus was paid. She further reported seven additional payments were pending for later in the year. Ms. Bryant also invited the Commission to Greenville Water's annual spring

cookout in conjunction with National Drinking Water Week, scheduled for Wednesday, May 6. Commissioner Kilgore congratulated staff on the referral bonus program's success.

9. CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT

Chief Executive Officer Jeff Boss provided updates on recent activities and initiatives. He reported that Greenville Water had three presentations accepted for the South Carolina Environmental Conference (SCEC) and noted staff represented the organization professionally. Mr. Boss also highlighted Greenville Water's participation in SCEC competitions, reporting improved performance over recent years, including strong finishes in the fire hydrant and pipe tapping competitions and advancement of teams to national competition in Washington, D.C. He further recognized Chief Operations Officer Jeff Phillips for receiving a prestigious industry award at SCEC and stated the Commission expressed appreciation for Mr. Phillips and all staff who represented Greenville Water at the conference.

Mr. Boss provided watershed and capital funding updates. He reported debris clearing at Table Rock was complete and debris clearing in the North Saluda watershed was expected to be complete by the end of July; however, some roads and trails remained in poor and potentially hazardous condition. He stated staff continued to work with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding road repairs and discussed a potential "428" approach to bundle work under a single, lump-sum project rather than multiple individual projects. Mr. Boss also reported Greenville Water completed a bathymetric study in 2024 prior to Tropical Storm Helene and that EPA funded a follow-up bathymetric study afterward; the studies indicated approximately 0.5% loss of water storage capacity, with North Saluda more impacted than Table Rock. He stated staff were evaluating potential mitigation measures, such as armoring and related controls to reduce future sedimentation.

Mr. Boss reported Representative Timmons submitted grant applications for the downtown pump station and for a Greenville Water wildlife study (including bear, fish, and trout components). He also noted continued pursuit of a fish passage project on the Saluda River and reported the watershed communications network (including towers supporting drones) remained under consideration for direct funding through the State, potentially via the Department of Natural Resources. Mr. Boss provided State Revolving Fund (SRF) updates, including a galvanized main program (\$22 million at 2% interest), an \$8 million White Horse Road waterline project, and a \$14 million SRF request for the downtown pump station with significant debt forgiveness. He reported first reading of the new bond ordinance was completed without questions during the meeting, with second reading anticipated on April 13, and noted staff expected to bring forward subsequent ordinances to support future funding needs, including the crosstown main and a plant expansion in the 2030s. Mr. Boss also reported a frontage road project previously estimated at \$10–\$20 million would be deferred in favor of repairing a 30-inch PCCP pipeline. Additional operational updates included work to improve access roads around Table Rock (including use of rented equipment and efforts led by Don Wolf), a successful

Minutes – Commissioners of Public Works
April 7, 2026
Page 6

prescribed burn in the Tanglewood area, and replacement of the backwash tank at the Adkins facility.

10. COMMISSION COMMENTS

No comments presented.

11. ADJOURNMENT

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



Phillip Kilgore, Vice-Chairman



Kimberly Haueter, Executive Assistant