

Jackson County Water and Sewerage Authority
Board Meeting Minutes
May 8, 2025

Chairman Chris Nichols convened the Jackson County Water and Sewerage Authority Board Meeting at 6:00 p.m. on May 8, 2025.

Member Attendees: Chairman Chris Nichols, Vice Chairman Tommy Benton, Kevin Poe, and Jim Dove.

Also Present: Attorney Paul Smart; Authority Staff - Joey Leslie, Mark Dudziak, Judy Smith, Harold Garrison, Nathan Hester, Karen Long, Maggie Adams, and Caleb Baughcum. Visitors: Priscilla Murphy, Jerry Hood, and Charles Welsh

Approval of Previous Minutes

Vice Chairman Benton made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 10, 2025 board meeting.

Member Dove seconded the motion. The motion was carried with no objection, and all board members present voted.

Operating Reports

Finance Director Judy Smith presented operating reports for March 2025, highlighting:

- 96.7 million gallons purchased; 90 million gallons sold.
- 2.3 million gallons used for flushing.
- 1% decrease in billed water usage, 10% increase in billed sewer usage, compared to a year ago.
- Gain of 42 water and 27 sewer customers.
- Work orders completed - 552
- Backflow tests completed – 38
- Aging meter change out – 9
- New installations – 108

Employee Jerry Jackson earned his Maintenance Technicians license and Assistance Finance Director Maggie Adams has been nominated for the North Georgia young alumni and friends 20 Under 40 Program.

Member Poe asked about the Georgia One Fund. Finance Director Smith said we are close to finalizing our banking with Wells Fargo, and as soon as that is complete, we will be able to move those funds.

Visitors

Mr. Jerry Hood, representing Jefferson through EMI, provided updates and addressed questions on the Parks Creek Reservoir.

Charles Welsh with GMC presented the project overview and schedule through the bidding phase and the overall construction.

Chairman Nichols stated he would like benchmarking and percentage completion documentation to see our progress.

Executive Session

Member Dove made a motion to go into Executive Session at 6:32 pm.

Vice Chairman Benton seconded the motion. The motion carried with no objection, and all board members present voted.

Member Dove made a motion come out of Executive Session at 7:23 pm.

Vice Chairman Benton seconded the motion. The motion carried with no objection, and all board members present voted.

No action was taken.

New Business

Blakely II Water and Wastewater Preliminary Application

Applicant requested to be pulled from the agenda.

Doster Lake Estates Water and Wastewater Preliminary Application

Manager Leslie said Griffin Brothers, Inc., is looking to develop a 93 Lot Subdivision located along Jackson Way, which is near PJ Roberts Road and Old Pendergrass Road. He said the average demand is estimated at 27,900 gallons per day (GPD). Manager Leslie said JCWSA has water and sewer facilities in the area, and service is available.

Manager Leslie said staff recommendation is to approve the preliminary application, but the Board may opt to table this decision.

Member Poe made a motion to table the Doster Lake Estates preliminary application until the next regularly scheduled board meeting.

Vice Chairman Benton seconded the motion. The motion carried with no objection, and all board members present voted.

Ruby Lynn Square Water Preliminary Application

Manager Leslie said Commerce Road Partners, LLC, Kenneth Whitworth, is looking to develop a 66-lot townhome development located along Commerce Road and Wilhite Road, in Jefferson. He said average demand is estimated at 19,800 gallons per day (GPD). Manager Leslie said JCWSA has water facilities in the area, and service is available. The project will be served by City of Jefferson sewer.

Manager Leslie said staff recommendation is to approve the preliminary application and authorize the City of Jefferson as the wastewater provider, but the Board may opt to table this decision.

Member Poe made a motion to table the Ruby Lynn Square preliminary application until the next regularly scheduled board meeting.

Member Dove seconded the motion. The motion carried with no objection, and all board members present voted.

Department Reports

Wastewater

- MOWWTP Total gallons treated: 25.58 million
- Monthly Average: 0.853 mgd, monthly Peak: 0.929 mgd
- Sewer Connections Inspected in April: 31
- Completed 248 work orders last month.

Monthly Highlights:

- Collections Department: focus in April was on cross county CMOM work and right of way clearing.
- MOWWTP: The operations team worked on several issues in the plant including a clogged line in dewatering and spring weed removal around the aeration basin. We continue to experience issues with wipes clogging our headworks and RAS pumps.

Water

- Installed five meter stubs.
- Repaired two hydrants .
- Relocated one meter stub.
- Began work on waterline relocation at the Highway 124 and 60 roundabout.
- Processed 978 locates, marked 335 water and 119 wastewater.
- We currently have 48 ongoing large projects and two more project meetings scheduled for next week.

IT

Caleb reported that our new website is complete and running. He said the feedback has been positive.

Engineering Report

- 3 developments nearing initial acceptance.
- GDOT projects are a struggle.
- Multiple fiber lines are being run in some streets.
- Bear Creek expansion plans at 90% and going well.

Manager Report

- Ready to start on the Doster force main line.
- Received a \$75,000 seed grant with EPD for drilling wells.
- Waste load allocation for new wastewater facility. Start working on the engineering.
- Will be presenting a staffing report on adding a construction crew.

Member Dove suggested a get together to discuss some of the long-range projects and regional initiatives.

Chairman Nichols said any board member is welcome to sit down with Manager Leslie and staff individually. He stated if we have a quorum, we will need to have a public meeting.

Chairman Report

Chairman Nichols thanked the staff for their continued hard work for providing water and sewer services to our county.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Karen Long
Board Secretary