

**WATER AND SEWER COMMITTEE MEETING
TOWN OF EDISTO BEACH
January 20, 2026
10:00 a.m.**

MINUTES

Present

Jody Kleckley, Chair; John David Griffith, Vice Chair; John Drolet, Committee Member
Quorum of Members Present.

Absent

Lou Rasmussen (excused), David Ballard

Staff Present

Town Administrator Mark Aakhus, Assistant Town Administrator Dee Stalvey, Utilities Director Patrick Zemp, and Municipal Clerk Donna Rizer

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Mr. Kleckley, Chair.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Drolet moved to approve the minutes of the Water and Sewer Committee Meeting of October 21, 2025. Mr. Griffith seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Election of Officers

The Committee conducted the election of officers for 2026.

Chair: A motion was made by Mr. Drolet to reappoint Mr. Kleckley as Chair. The motion was seconded by Mr. Griffith and approved unanimously.

Vice Chair: A motion was made by Mr. Drolet to reappoint Mr. Griffith as Vice Chair. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kleckley and approved unanimously.

Old Business

SCIIP Grant #A-23-C065 Wastewater System Upgrades.

Mr. Aakhus reported on the Lift Station Project. J.S. Haren Company is the contractor on this portion of the project. Work has been completed at four of the eleven lift stations: Pompano, Waterfront, Scott Creek Drive, and Lee Street. Work has begun on the lift stations at Yacht Club Road, Bay Point, Cheehaw Street, and Dock Site Road. Mr. Zemp noted the project is on schedule and expected to be completed soon.

Mr. Aakhus reported on the Wastewater Treatment Plant Project. Haren Construction Company, Inc. is the contractor on this portion of the project which includes the improvement of the existing treatment lagoon, installation of a package plant, equalization and waste activated sludge basins, lagoon dredging, installation of a new lagoon liner, and other related equipment and systems. The

project is funded by the South Carolina Infrastructure Investment Program (SCIIP) grant and administered by the South Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA).

Mr. Zemp noted Haren Construction Company has mobilized dredging equipment to the lagoon and the package plant has been installed. Improvements are being made to the existing wastewater treatment building, including foundation repairs and installation of a new generator. The committee reviewed the wastewater schematics to look at the flow of wastewater through the treatment system to the final discharge pond. Mr. Zemp noted the improvements are intended to increase efficiency, not capacity.

The Wastewater System Upgrades Project must be completed by mid-2026 to comply with grant requirements.

Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) System.

Mr. Aakhus reported on the AMI Project. Fortiline Waterworks has replaced approximately 90% of the existing meters, with full installation anticipated by the end of this week.

Mr. Zemp noted readability is currently 96%, slightly below the target of 98%. Readability is expected to improve over time, and an external antenna is being piloted to help achieve the 98% goal.

Mr. Kleckley suggested the Town advise homeowners to turn off water under the house, not at the street. He indicated restoring water to the lines while meters are being installed could cause issues for homeowners who have turned off their water while winterizing.

Resident George Kostell noted the importance of the customer portal in notifying residents if a leak alarm is triggered in the new AMI System. He emphasized the customer portal and leak alarm were features highlighted as part of the project when it was approved. Mr. Aakhus indicated the customer portal capabilities will be considered by Town Council. For now, the Town will be alerted if a water leak is detected. Mr. Kostell also suggested the AMI Project details be added to the website.

Open Discussion

Future Billing Cycles for Water and Sewer

Mr. Aakhus reported he researched billing and payment practices in comparable communities, noting some bill quarterly, while others bill monthly. Many require or incentivize electronic payments. Committee members noted many residents may prefer monthly billing. Mr. Aakhus noted future billing cycles and payment methods will be discussed at Town Council's upcoming Goal-Setting Retreat.

Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Drolet made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Griffith. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:58 a.m.

APPROVED BY THE WATER AND SEWER COMMITTEE

Donna Rizer

Donna Rizer, Municipal Clerk

March 12, 2026