

**WATER AND SEWER COMMITTEE MEETING
TOWN OF EDISTO BEACH**

**May 19, 2026
10:00 a.m.**

MINUTES

Present

Jody Kleckley, Chair; John David Griffith, Vice Chair; David Ballard, John Drolet, Lou Rasmussen (via teleconference), Committee Members

Quorum of Members Present.

Staff Present

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

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m. by Mr. Kleckley, Chair.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Ballard moved to approve the minutes of the Water and Sewer Committee Meeting of January 20, 2026. Mr. Griffith seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Old Business

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

Mr. Aakhus reported that the Lift Stations Project is complete. J.S. Haren Company, the contractor for this phase, has finished work on all eleven lift stations, and all are now operational.

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).

The RIA has extended the project deadline to December 31, 2026, in accordance with federal funding requirements. Reimbursement requests are due by October. American Engineering Consultants, Inc. anticipates substantial completion by mid-July and expects to meet required funding deadlines.

Mr. Zemp noted the lagoon liner installation is underway. Groundwater is being managed during construction and routed to the effluent pond for discharge and reuse for golf course irrigation. Sludge volumes were significantly underestimated, resulting in extended removal duration.

Building improvements are continuing. Electrical service has been installed, the chlorination system pads are complete, equipment installation is ongoing, and Dominion Energy's work has been completed.

Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) System.

Mr. Aakhus reported on the AMI Project. There are no water or sewer rate increases included in fiscal year 2026-2027 budget. The June 12 billing cycle will be issued soon, with one additional six-month billing cycle expected before transitioning to the new billing system structure.

In the interim, the Town is working toward integrating the new billing software and plans to make a customer portal available. The goal is to be ready to transition to monthly billing beginning in January. It was also noted that a tiered water rate structure is already in place, with a base flat fee and additional usage-based tiers above that level.

Open Discussion

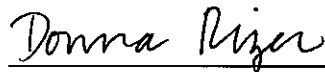
Mr. Griffith asked about the status of the ongoing stormwater survey. Mr. Aakhus reported that the interior lagoon study is funded for the design phase and the Town is awaiting information on available earmark funding. He added that Town has implemented a Town-wide planning strategy that identifies seven priority areas.

Adjournment

There being no further business to address, Mr. Ballard made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Griffith seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:04 a.m.

APPROVED BY THE WATER AND SEWER COMMITTEE



Donna Rizer, Municipal Clerk
September 15, 2026