

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
WATERWORKS DISTRICT #1
OF DESOTO PARISH
320 LIBERTY LANE
GRAND CANE, LOUISIANA
June 23rd, 2025
6PM**

Call to Order

K. E. "Ed" Campbell called the meeting to order. Ronnie Land, Randy Rodgers, & Micheal Jeter were absent.

Prayer / Pledge

Rusty Morris led the prayer, K. E. "Ed" Campbell led the pledge.

Approval of Minutes of June 2025 meeting

K. E. "Ed" Campbell made a motion to approve the minutes from June 2025 meeting. Rusty Morris made motion accept and Joe Etheridge seconded the motion.

Open Floor Discussion

Alvin "Bubba" Lum talked about the problem with the fire departments that were not paying their water bills. Donnie Fisher spoke about why they were not paying. Alvin "Bubba" Lum said everyone needs to pay or nobody pays. The board will discuss this at further length in the future, after talking with the fire departments.

Millage Rate Adoption

Donnie Fisher made the motion to set the millage rate at 1.06, Rusty Morris seconded the motion. The Board did a role call vote, all board members voted to accept the millage rate.

Office Manager

Debra Chatman gave a summary of the financials and spoke about the cost of chemicals for the new plant. Debra also spoke on the cost of utilities and asked the board's permission to pay utility bills online, which is more efficient. The board response was in favor and asked for a list of the utilities to be paid online.

Water System Report

David Ryals {Administrator} gave an update on the plant expansion. David explained some of the issues we are having with the new equipment that is not working properly. David also spoke of our water main on Hwy 764, that may have to be moved because of the repair to this road that collapsed due to heavy rain earlier in the year. He also updated the board about the delinquent accounts we have been catching up on, Donnie Fisher, also spoke about doing lockouts monthly and working with customers that need assistance with payment arrangements. David updated the board about Josh Ryals on the job injury.

LRWA Management Training

K.E. "Ed" Campbell spoke about the management training class that was held in Pleasant Hill on May 28th, and how much we appreciate the LRWA For having these classes. Rusty Morris also spoke about the class and how much he enjoyed the presentation.

Future Water System Plans

K.E. "Ed" Campbell talked about the future of the water system. The board discussed the filling stations for bulk water sales, we have 2 units that were bought in the past and never utilized. David Ryals suggested putting one on the north end and south end. Donnie Fisher suggested putting them on east/west end. The water system would need to acquire or lease land for these stations to be placed. Partnering with the police jury is considered a possibility. Water line improvements were also talked about in the future. David Ryals spoke of the repairs to the water line, leaks that have been allowed to continue for years. David Ryals has requested a rate from LRWA as the system has not had one in years. The new plant expansion costs more to operate, with new chemicals that are required to operate. David brought up other water systems that have gone to wells due to the cost of chemicals used to trat surface water. As surface water has a lot more contaminates than well water.

By Laws

K.E. "Ed" Campbell wanted to review the holiday schedule for the water system. The system is under the DeSoto Parish Police Jury but has less holidays. Donnie Fisher stated we can review the holiday schedule and possibly make changes after review.

Ethics Training

Debra Chatman spoke about the training that all employees and board members, are required to do, including cyber security and sexual harassment. The training was downloaded on the office computer. Joe Etheredge suggested buying a laptop for the training to be downloaded on so the Board could do the training without interrupting the operation of the business. The board approved the purchase of a laptop for this training.

Adjournment

K.E. "Ed" Campbell made a motion for adjournment, Rusty Morris 20nd the motion.