



Oconee Joint Regional Sewer Authority

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OCONEE JOINT REGIONAL SEWER AUTHORITY Ad-Hoc Reconstitution Committee and Executive Committee November 13, 2025

The Ad-Hoc Reconstitution Committee and Executive Committee meeting was held at the Coneross Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Commissioners/Committee Members that were present:

- Katherine Amidon (Environmental Planner, Bolton & Menk)
- Chip Bentley (Appalachian Council of Gov'ts.)
- Kevin Bronson (City of Westminster) – Committee Chair
- Chris Eleazer (Oconee Joint Regional Sewer Authority)
- Lawrence Flynn (Pope Flynn - OJRSA Attorney)
- Joel Jones (Consultant, JonesWater)
- Angie Mettlen, (Vice President, Ardurra)
- Scott Moulder (City of Seneca)
- Celia Myers (City of Walhalla)

Committee Members that were not present:

- Vacant Oconee County Seat (*new member to be appointed by County Council next month*)

OJRSA appointments and staff present were:

- Lynn Stephens, Secretary/Treasurer to the Board and Office Manager

Others present were:

- Ms. Andrea Kelley, The Journal
- Mr. Glenn Hart, Oconee County Councilman
- Mr. Matt Durham, Oconee County Councilman

A. Call to Order – Mr. Bronson called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

B. Recognition of Oconee County Attendees

- **Recognize Oconee County Attendees and Provide a Brief Update on the Committee's Mission** – Mr. Bronson welcomed Oconee County Council Chairman, Mr. Matt Durham, and Oconee County Councilman, Mr. Glenn Hart, to the meeting. Mr. Bronson stated that he wants to make sure Oconee County Council has everything they need as the consolidation process moves forward.

Mr. Bronson said the agenda states to provide a brief update and asked if there was anything Oconee County needed or wanted to know. Mr. Durham replied that he met with Mr. Eleazer yesterday and was brought up to date. Mr. Bronson asked if there were any questions that came out of the meeting yesterday that needed to be asked of this committee. Mr. Eleazer stated that Mr. Durham did not have the opportunity to ask the questions that were received from the other cities, so he forwarded the questions and answers document to Mr. Durham and offered the opportunity to ask some questions and get the answers before the next meeting when the document will go public.

C. Approval of Minutes

- **Ad Hoc Reconstitution Committee and Executive Committee Meeting of October 9, 2025**

Mr. Moulder made a motion, seconded by Mr. Eleazer, to approve the October 9, 2025 meeting minutes as presented. The motion carried.

D. Committee Discussion and Action Items

- 1. Regional Feasibility and Reconstitution Quarterly Report No. 1 (Exhibit A)** – Mr. Eleazer mentioned this is the report that was submitted to the Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) as stated in the committee recommendations. Ms. Bonnie Ammons of the RIA is expecting to receive this every calendar quarter. This document was also presented to the OJRSA board at the last meeting. Report No. 2 will be submitted in January 2026, and Mr. Eleazer asked if any committee members wanted to make changes to the format of the report, then to let him know.
- 2. Update on Proposed Change to Joint Authority Water and Sewer Systems Act** – Mr. Eleazer stated he met with Senator Thomas Alexander around mid-September. Senator Alexander asked to have the proposed changes sent to him electronically in Microsoft Word and with a hard copy, which was done. Mr. Eleazer followed up with him last week. Senator Alexander said he forwarded the changes on “for other eyes to look at.” Mr. Bronson asked Mr. Eleazer to let the Committee know when he hears that Senator Alexander filed the bill. Mr. Flynn added that this probably will not happen for another month.
- 3. Feedback on System Valuation and Financial Review (Sample Noted in Exhibit B); Consideration of Cost-Sharing for Evaluation** – Mr. Bronson asked Ms. Mettlen to discuss how she obtained these reports from First Tryon and Raftelis and what they entail. Ms. Mettlen stated there are two (2) different financial proposals/scope of work. The Raftelis study report is the rate study, and the First Tryon report is the financial valuation of the systems. The reports were obtained from MetroConnects when they were doing their consolidation of sewer systems in the Greenville area, so this is an apples-to-apples comparison of the kind of work they were looking at and what they were trying to do so they could consolidate the fire and sewer districts into MetroConnects.

Ms. Mettlen stated it was discussed at the last meeting about having one (1) consultant do both studies; however, Mr. Flynn felt strongly that having two (2) different consultants do each piece of this separately is valuable.

Ms. Mettlen said this is presented to give everyone a chance to look at the general scope of work. She said this is high level stuff, because this committee is trying to get the best answers it can without costing everyone a significant amount of money and trying to use available data the same as the engineering piece of it. There probably is enough data on that side to feed into these studies.

Ms. Mettlen stated it was discussed that one (1) consultant would be hired for each study for everyone collectively and not each entity doing their own (to ensure everyone is getting the same valuation) and that there was a cooperative way that the fees for the studies could be paid by the group. She asked if everyone was on board with this. Mr. Moulder answered yes.

Mr. Bronson asked if there were any procurement concerns about this; Ms. Mettlen replied that if it goes through the OJRSA, it will need to follow the OJRSA procurement code. Mr. Moulder asked if the OJRSA procurement code has a professional services provision in it that allows seeking out professional services without public bid; Mr. Eleazer replied yes, it does. Mr. Flynn added that, if needed, the OJRSA board could also approve a resolution to exempt itself from the current provisions.

Mr. Moulder said he was good with selecting it through the OJRSA procurement code. Ms. Myers said she may have questions about the payment portion of it, but she was good with going through the OJRSA procurement code.

Ms. Mettlen said if this is the way to go, it may work in this committee’s favor to select each consultant to work with and develop the scope before getting to the fee piece of it. She added that

sometimes this is hard to do when a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) is required. Therefore, the next step is figuring out what consultant to talk to and working through the sequencing of which to work on first (she suggested the valuation come first and the rates second) and then working through the scope with the information obtained.

Mr. Eleazer asked how the technical component plays into this as far as assessing the systems. Ms. Mettlen said, with all the Corrective Action Plans (CAPs) and updated information known, that should be the information used on the valuation and rate studies. This is why more information was requested in looking at the long-term needs of each collection system and the OJRSA. Ms. Mettlen said Ardurra can continue to serve as an advisor to these consultants if there are questions or if there are any technical issues that need clarification. Ms. Mettlen added that she didn't want all the work done on the technical valuation in the initial study to go to waste, so a lot of the information is already obtained.

Ms. Amidon said she heard back from everyone (except West Union) that they could view the shared point document; she asked the committee if anyone could not access them. (No one had any issues accessing.) Ms. Amidon asked Mr. Durham and Mr. Hart who to contact at Oconee County now that Ms. Brock is no longer administrator. Mr. Durham replied that Oconee County will be appointing someone to the committee on Tuesday night.

Ms. Amidon said the information gathered from the Master Plan efforts and the Reconstitution Feasibility Study done by Ardurra have been consolidated into one (1) folder per entity to be provided to the consultants, and the folder sharing ensures that Ardurra and Bolton and Menk are not missing anything that the entities want to add.

Ms. Mettlen added that it is recognized that Oconee County's sewer assets are relatively new, but it is helpful to know any asset replacement plans or anything planned with additional collection lines. Mr. Eleazer added that if there are any questions, Oconee County can contact himself or Mr. Bentley. Mr. Bronson asked Mr. Eleazer to summarize in an email what is needed from Oconee County.

Ms. Mettlen asked Ms. Amidon to talk about the cost sharing ideas that have been discussed. Ms. Amidon showed a spreadsheet to the committee (*a sample of the spreadsheet is included in these minutes*). She said the spreadsheet is based on the discussion about giving everyone a base amount and splitting the remaining cost per pro-rata share. She added that the contract amount was set at \$100,000 for ease of calculations and concentrate more on the pro-rata share. In addition, West Union was added into the scenario.

Mr. Bronson said that it was also previously discussed about asking the RIA to financially assist with this. Ms. Mettlen said they can be asked, but if the RIA funds it, it will blow up the procurement code and require it to be sent out for bids. Ms. Mettlen said the SC Department of Environmental Services (SCDES) could also be asked, as they do State Revolving Fund (SRF) loans for engineering studies, but the Clean Water SRF requires a signed procurement statement that you follow state and federal procurement codes.

Mr. Bronson asked for an estimate on the cost of the two (2) combined studies. Ms. Mettlen replied that it depends on the scope and how in depth they are. She said she has seen rate studies go anywhere from \$45,000 - \$80,000. She added that there is information obtained by Wildan that can be used. She said it will probably be around \$200,000 - \$300,000 for both studies combined. Mr. Moulder asked what the approximate timeline would be to spread the cost out; Ms. Mettlen replied it would be a six-month effort. Mr. Moulder said it could be spread into two (2) fiscal years.

There was some discussion about West Union paying for this without having representation on this committee. Mr. Flynn said he didn't see a problem asking them.

Ms. Myers asked how the pro-rata was determined (number of customers or miles of sewer line); Mr. Eleazer replied it was the number of customers. Ms. Myers acknowledged two (2) years would make it easier but stated that a "bigger ask" would most likely come later to try to recover some of these funds when the assets are turned over.

Ms. Amidon stated that even if Walhalla no longer has the sewer assets in the end, Walhalla will still want a viable asset for their residents in the future, so having the studies done is still important. She added that if everyone agrees to proceed with the studies, Ms. Ammons would see that everyone is committed and would make it much easier for her to agree to funding on the backend. Ms. Mettlen added she mentioned to Ms. Ammons that this was happening, agreed that it would show some “skin in the game,” and said Ms. Ammons would probably have no problem with the funding being carried out in two (2) fiscal years.

Mr. Bronson asked what the next step is. Ms. Mettlen said the next step is determining what consultant this committee wants to talk to and then working toward that.

Mr. Eleazer suggested that each entity has firms they work with, and he feels it would be beneficial to find a truly independent firm who has not worked with any of them. Ms. Mettlen and Ms. Amidon replied that would be a challenge. Ms. Amidon added that Raftelis and Wildan are the two (2) major firms. Mr. Flynn replied that will be almost impossible; Raftelis, Wildan, and First Tryon are the major firms. He added that there are some other national firms and some engineering firms who do these studies, but engineering firms don’t do them as well. Mr. Bronson said he was comfortable with Raftelis and Wildan; Ms. Myers agreed.

Mr. Bronson asked Ms. Amidon to draft a paragraph about what each entity would get from a valuation which can be sent to all the entities for discussion with their councils. Mr. Bronson asked Mr. Eleazer to have this discussion on the next meeting agenda.

Mr. Moulder asked if feedback from the members regarding payment should be obtained before a recommendation being made before the OJRSA board. Mr. Bronson suggested circulating this information around to all the entities. Ms. Amidon suggested starting with West Union, as the numbers would need to be recalculated if they were not willing to participate. It was discussed to have Mr. Eleazer reach out to Mayor Oliver of West Union. Mr. Eleazer asked Mr. Flynn if he had reached out to West Union attorney, Ms. Mary McCormick. Mr. Flynn replied he had spoken with Ms. McCormick a couple times; he said she is very protective of her client, and he doesn’t feel he would get far and that Mr. Eleazer would get better feedback. Mr. Bronson stated he would be happy to sit down with Mr. Eleazer and Mayor Oliver if needed and possibly Mr. Bentley as well. Ms. Amidon suggested reminding them that if the consolidation happens, West Union’s customers will still benefit from any future infrastructure work.

4. Update on Support Resolutions:

a. West Union – Mr. Flynn stated he sent the markups on West Union’s revised resolution back to them, and he hasn’t heard anything from them since. Mr. Eleazer followed up and hadn’t heard anything either.

b. Oconee County – Mr. Flynn asked today’s attendees from Oconee County as to where they stand. Mr. Flynn explained that the initial Ad-Hoc Feasibility Committee created a report in which they made a request for the inclusion of Oconee County as a member of the reconstituted authority and made recommendations on the conveyance of the collection systems of the existing membership. A resolution was prepared as an offer of support acknowledging that the reconstitution process had been initiated. This resolution does not commit to any course of action but rather simply says the report was received, its parameters are recognized, and the entity signing it will act in good faith to move forward. The resolution was adopted by the OJRSA board and all the Member Cities. A version was sent to West Union who made some changes which were marked up and sent back to them, and this can be sent to Oconee County if they want to see it. Mr. Durham asked that it be sent to Oconee County.

5. Update/Discussion of New Oconee County Appointee – Mr. Durham said Oconee County Council is meeting Tuesday night and will appoint a new representative to this committee at that time.

6. Update on Municipal Elections and Committee Response to Answers and Comments Presented During the October 9, 2025 Committee Meeting (Exhibit C):

- a. **Seneca** – Mr. Moulder reported that all the incumbents won the election. A new mayor was elected; however, he has been on the council for decades (the former mayor did not run for reelection as mayor but instead ran for a city council seat and was elected to this position). All of them are familiar with the process that this committee is going through.

He added that, although they see in a benefit in not having sewer anymore, there are some serious hesitations, not with the reconstitution of the board, but with the turning over of the assets. It is not so much the value of the assets, but the accountability and control they would lose if turned over to a board where they don't get any say on who is appointed. When originally discussed, Seneca would get to have an appointment on the new board, but it has since changed to a delegation appointment.

Mr. Moulder said, in his opinion, with their concerns, they may choose to remain a satellite customer under the purview of the new Authority. Ms. Amidon replied that Seneca would still get to recommend the appointee.

Mr. Flynn said there are significant limitations on the current board where it is hard to "wear a hat" representing the OJRSA and what the best interest of the treatment plant is while having membership in the organization that has a say with how rates are approved. He added that, because Seneca doesn't want to give up control, the organization cannot operate distinctly of the city as an independent enterprise.

Mr. Moulder replied it is being expanded beyond the plant; Seneca is being asked to give up the control and accountability to the organization now to be operating within the city limits and confines of its infrastructure that has a direct impact on decisions that the local council makes over its city. Mr. Flynn replied this has always been known to be the struggle in making this recommendation; however, the thought was: 1) what is in the best interest of Oconee County at large and 2) having someone independent whose only focus in running the organization is how to best provide sanitary sewer service at the collection and treatment level while effectively disregarding political questions that otherwise exist within municipalities.

Mr. Moulder stated there will always be political dynamics but at a different level, and although there may be full trust and faith in Senator Alexander and the delegation, they will not always be there. Mr. Flynn said the fact that Seneca will still be operating the water system, so that softens this a bit. From a growth standpoint, Seneca still has a say whether a development can or cannot happen. Mr. Moulder said the sewer is the more limiting factor; the water is not. Mr. Flynn replied that is the way you control it. Mr. Flynn also stated that this is a multi-step process and knowing everything at the beginning is better in order to work through it.

In addition, Mr. Moulder stated that he still needs to share the questions and answers with his council. He added that he thought the entities had a choice to remain a satellite system and that Seneca's sewer (through rate studies) is self-sustaining; it breaks even. It's not like Seneca will save money by turning over the system; there must be some other benefit associated with this which might be future capital cost occurrence.

- b. **Walhalla** – Ms. Myers stated she is not under delusions that Walhalla's system is worth \$100,000,000; the city breaks even; however, even with \$35,000 per year, Walhalla would have to take some other project away to fund this. In addition, the recommendations of the Ad-Hoc Committee were agreed to, but there were some hesitations. It was presented to the Walhalla council that they would be able to make the recommendations to the delegation about who was on the board and trust that the delegation was going to select one of the recommendations. She stated that the citizens like to be able to go to someone and air their concerns. She added that the city has the cheapest rates, and when the rate study comes out, the citizens will know the rates are going up. She knows the benefit will be in the long term of the next 50 years, but citizens will look at the rates doubling now in a bad economy.

Mr. Flynn replied that the capital side of maintaining and fixing inflow and infiltration (I&I) issues is the easy way to make the system work if there is no reinvesting in the system; therefore,

the rates don't reflect what is necessary to improve the system. If you give the system up, you get to avoid the political blowback of the rates going up, because an independent agency is doing it. Mr. Moulder replied that the cities made the decision to allow the independent agency.

Ms. Myers added that Walhalla had one (1) incumbent reelected and has two (2) new people (of which one (1) of them is returning to council and is familiar with sewer issues). There has not been a change in majority, so this is not stalled.

Mr. Eleazer spoke about being able to delay the two (2) phases of plant expansion if there is some reinvestment in the system, as the OJRSA wouldn't have to continue to treat I&I. During wet weather, the OJRSA sees around eight million gallons-per-day (8,000,000 GPD) while only two million three hundred thousand gallons-per-day (2,300,000 GPD) during dry weather. Mr. Flynn said that is saying that five million gallons-per-day (5,000,000 GPD) of stormwater is being treated; Mr. Eleazer replied that is with also holding twelve million gallons (12,000,000 gallons) of it and letting it seep into the treatment system. Mr. Flynn said that is approximately \$250,000,000 to treat that of the plant was expanded at \$50 per gallon as mentioned by Mr. Jones earlier in the meeting.

- c. **Westminster** – Mr. Bronson stated that Westminster has two (2) new councilmembers. They have been given the information from the committee but have not been briefed yet. The remainder of the council has been non-committal, which is reflective in the questions they submitted; they were given the answers to the questions at the last council meeting, but there was not much feedback. The council was waiting for the elections, as four (4) seats were up for election. The same issues that were voiced by Mr. Moulder and Ms. Myers are in the minds of the Westminster council members. The council will further discuss this when the new council starts on the second Tuesday in January 2026.

E. Committee Member Discussion:

Chip Bentley Comments – Mr. Bronson asked Mr. Bentley if he had any comments or concerns. Mr. Bentley said that this meeting is ultimately meant for the members to make the best decision moving forward. The discussion was about the key issues of what needs to be addressed right now.

State Funding – Mr. Eleazer asked what the likelihood of receiving money from the state to help if this process moves forward since earmarks have been removed from the state budget. Ms. Mettlen said there is a strong one. SRF money comes into play, and the Continuing Resolution that was passed last night had USDA money in it which was strong on water infrastructure. That means Congress is not going to go the way of the White House in gutting the programs that are funding water infrastructure. The SRF will probably go back to 2019 levels which isn't bad. She added that RIA and SRF have come together in the past in times like this to put up a certain amount each; there may be some grant money and some loan money in there. There was some discussion about Senator Lindsay Graham helping to facilitate this.

December 11, 2025 Ad-Hoc Committee Meeting – Mr. Bronson asked if the December 11, 2025 meeting is still good for everyone. Ms. Mettlen said she will not be available that day, but the meeting does not need to be rescheduled for her. Everyone said they were good for that day.

January 8, 2026 Ad-Hoc Committee Meeting – Ms. Amidon asked if the January 8, 2026 meeting is still good for everyone, as she will not be available that day. Everyone said they were good for that day.

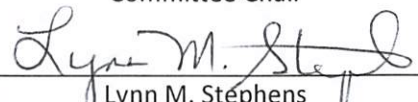
F. Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned at 10:12 a.m.

Upcoming Meetings

1. **Operations & Planning Committee** – Thursday, November 20, 2025 at 8:30 a.m.
2. **Finance & Administration Committee** – Tuesday, November 25, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.
3. **Board of Commissioners** – Monday, December 1, 2025 at 4:00 p.m.
4. **Reconstitution Committee & Executive Committee** – Thursday, December 11, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

Approved By: 
Kevin Bronson
Committee Chair

Date Approved: 12/11/25

Approved By: 
Lynn M. Stephens
OJRSA Secretary/Treasurer

Notification of the meeting was distributed on October 20, 2025 to *Upstate Today*, *Anderson Independent-Mail*, *Westminster News*, *Keowee Courier*, WGOG Radio, WSNW Radio, City of Seneca Council, City of Walhalla Council, City of Westminster Council, Oconee County Council, SC DHEC, www.ojrsa.org, and posted at the OJRSA Administration Building.



Ad Hoc Reconstitution Committee and Executive Committee

OJRSA Operations & Administration Building
Lamar Bailes Board Room
November 13, 2025 at 9:00 AM

This advisory committee was established by the OJRSA Board of Commissioners at its August 4, 2025 meeting to consider the reorganization recommendations as identified in the [Ad Hoc Sewer Feasibility Implementation Committee Final Recommendations](#) report. This committee can neither create policy nor make decisions on behalf of the OJRSA or other wastewater service providers within the area. The recommendations are available at www.ojrsa.org/info.

OJRSA commission and committee meetings may be attended in person at the address listed above. The OJRSA will also broadcast meetings live on its YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/@OconeeJRSA (if there is a technical issue preventing the livestreaming of the meeting, then a recording will be published on the channel as soon as possible). For those not able to attend in person, then the OJRSA Board or Committee Chair will accept public comments by mail (623 Return Church Rd, Seneca, SC 29678) or at info@ojrsa.org. Comments must comply with the public session instructions as stated on the meeting agenda and will be received up until one hour prior to the scheduled meeting. If there is not a public session scheduled for a meeting, then comments shall not be accepted.

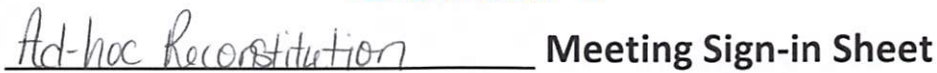
Agenda

- A. Call to Order** – Kevin Bronson, Committee Chair
- B. Recognition of Oconee County Attendees**
 - Recognize Oconee County attendees and provide a brief update on the Committee's mission – Kevin Bronson, Committee Chair and Lawrence Flynn, OJRSA Counsel
- C. Approval of Minutes**
 - Ad Hoc Reconstitution Committee and Executive Committee Meeting of October 9, 2025
- D. Committee Discussion and Action Items**
 - 1. Regional Feasibility and Reconstitution Quarterly Report No. 1 (Exhibit A) – Chris Eleazer, Committee Member/OJRSA Director
 - 2. Update on proposed change to Joint Authority Water and Sewer Systems Act – Chris Eleazer, Committee Member/OJRSA Director
 - 3. Feedback on system valuation and financial review (sample noted in Exhibit B); consideration of cost-sharing for evaluation – Led by Kevin Bronson, Committee Chair
 - 4. Update on Support Resolutions – Led by Lawrence Flynn, OJRSA Counsel
 - a. West Union
 - b. Oconee County
 - 5. Update/discussion of new Oconee County appointee – Led by Kevin Bronson, Committee Chair
 - 6. Update on municipal elections and Committee response to answers and comments presented during the October 9, 2025 Committee meeting (Exhibit C):
 - a. Seneca – Scott Moulder, Committee Member/Seneca Administrator
 - b. Walhalla – Celia Myers, Committee Member/Walhalla Administrator
 - c. Westminster – Kevin Bronson, Committee Chair/Westminster Administrator
- E. Committee Member Discussion** – Led by Kevin Bronson, Committee Chair
Discussion can be related to matters addressed in this meeting or for future consideration by the Board or Committee. Voting is not permitted during this session.
- F. Adjourn**

Upcoming Meetings

All meetings to be held in the Lamar Bailes Board Room unless noted otherwise.

- Operations & Planning Committee – November 20, 2025 at 8:30 AM
- Finance & Administration Committee – November 25, 2025 at 9:00 AM
- Board of Commissioners – December 1, 2025 at 4:00 PM
- Reconstitution Committee and Executive Committee – December 11, 2025 at 9:00 AM



Date: 11/13/25 Time: 9am Location: WWTP Board Room

NAME (Print)

POSITION/TITLE

ORGANIZATION

NAME (PRINT)
Angie Mettlen

Director

Ardurra

from Ron

city of

Wester

1) Kationene Amiden

Planning

Bolton & Menk

Joel Jones

Cons

Chip Bentley

Deputy ED

A COG

Celia Myers

Administrator

Walhalla

Math Durbin

COUNTY COLLEGE

Dlaczego

SCOTT MOULDEN

BOARD

CITY OF SENECA

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Lang

Pontryagin

Andrea Kelley

reporter

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GLENNY HANT

Dist # 5

OCONEE County

Table of Contents

| | |
|--|----------|
| Submittal Statement..... | 1 |
| Background..... | 2 |
| Summary of Current Actions | 3 |
| Events and Meetings..... | 3 |
| Recommendation Item 1: Dissolve Feasibility Committee and Create New Committee | 4 |
| Recommendation Item 2: Quarterly Report | 4 |
| Recommendation Item 3: Submit Joint Authority Water and Sewer System Act Draft to Oconee County Delegation | 4 |
| Recommendation Item 4: Adoption of Resolutions of Support | 4 |
| Recommendation Item 5: Initiate Collection System Technical Evaluation and Financial Valuation..... | 5 |
| Recommendation Item 6: Develop Communications Plan | 5 |
| Recommendation Item 7: Consider Initial Commissioners for New Authority | 5 |
| Recommendation Item 8: Complete Technical Evaluation and Valuation of Collection Systems..... | 5 |
| Recommendation Item 9: Develop Unified, Equitable Rate Structure | 5 |
| Recommendation Item 10: Execute Transfer of Wastewater Collection System Assets and Reconstitution Documents | 5 |
| Recommendation Item 11 (contingency): Abandon Consolidation and Reconstitution Plan | 5 |
| Summary of Past Actions | 6 |
| Appendix A: Past Updates and Completed Tasks..... | 7 |
| Item 1: Dissolve Feasibility Committee and Create New Committee..... | 7 |
| Item 2: Quarterly Report..... | 7 |
| Item 3: Submit Joint Authority Water and Sewer System Act Draft to Oconee County Delegation | 7 |
| Item 4: Adoption of Resolutions of Support | 7 |
| Item 5: Initiate Collection System Technical Evaluation and Financial Valuation | 7 |
| Item 6: Develop Communications Plan..... | 7 |
| Item 7: Consider Initial Commissioners for New Authority | 7 |
| Item 8: Complete Technical Evaluation and Valuation of Collection Systems | 7 |
| Item 9: Develop Unified, Equitable Rate Structure..... | 7 |
| Item 10: Execute Transfer of Wastewater Collection System Assets and Reconstitution Documents | 7 |
| Item 11 (contingency): Abandon Consolidation and Reconstitution Plan..... | 7 |

Quarterly Progress Report: OJRSA Regional Feasibility and Reconstitution

Report No. 1

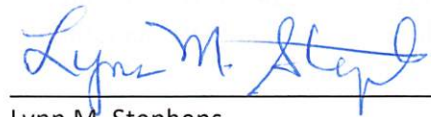
October 10, 2025

Submittal Statement

This report is provided to the South Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority, Oconee Joint Regional Sewer Authority ("OJRSA") Board of Commissioners, and Oconee County Council in accordance with the recommendations provided by the Ad Hoc Regional Feasibility Study Implementation Committee and as accepted by the OJRSA Board of Commissioners on July 15, 2025.



Christopher R. Eleazer
OJRSA Executive Director, and
OJRSA Ad Hoc Reconstitution Committee Member



Lynn M. Stephens
OJRSA Secretary/Treasurer

Background

In 2022, the Oconee Joint Regional Sewer Authority (“OJRSA” or “Authority”) was awarded a Regional Feasibility Planning Grant¹ by the South Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority (“RIA”). OJRSA subsequently procured the services of W.K. Dickson (now, Ardurra) to develop a comprehensive Regional Feasibility Planning Study (“Planning Study”) to determine if regionalizing sewer collection, conveyance, and treatment in Oconee County, South Carolina will streamline service delivery and enhance the success of the community and its quality of life. The Planning Study² included the analysis and recommendations in the following core areas: (1) governance structure; (2) revenues and finance; (3) environmental compliance, (4) utility resources, and (5) efficiency in operations and service.

The Planning Study was completed in August 2024 and adopted by the OJRSA Board of Commissioners (“Board”) in September 2024. A special Ad Hoc Regional Feasibility Study Implementation Committee (“Feasibility Committee”) was established by the Board in November 2024 for the purpose to review, discuss, and evaluate the Planning Study’s primary recommendations for a new governance structure for the OJRSA and to provide independent recommendations for implementing this restructuring. Additionally, the northern area of Anderson County was discussed during this study for potential regional collaboration, but it was determined that that region would not be the focus of the near future as the existing system and service area should be prioritized.

The Feasibility Committee established five major recommendations to reorganize/reconstitute the OJRSA under the South Carolina Joint Authority Water and Sewer Systems Act (the “Act”).

1. The collection systems of current Authority members and Oconee County should be consolidated into one combined system – owned, operated, and maintained by the reconstituted Authority.
2. The Authority should be reconstituted with a new five-member Board of Commissioners (the “New Board”).
3. The governance documents of the reconstituted Authority will be drafted and supersede all existing Authority governance documents and contracts, which must be dissolved as a part of this process. These documents will also provide that the reconstituted Authority will have the power to provide retail sewer services within its service area as necessary to support the operation of the consolidated collection systems. This should be finalized upon completion of the consolidation but can be drafted during the consolidation process.
4. The current Board will dissolve the Feasibility Committee and then establish a working group or smaller ad hoc committee to oversee and guide the initial implementation steps outlined above (the “Reconstitution Committee”³).
5. It is recommended that a communications plan for the reorganization be developed, which should be used by all entities involved. This plan will ensure clear and consistent messaging while also allowing for input from residents and customers of the Authority. Maintaining an open process is crucial to maximize the chances of success in consolidating the collection systems and establishing the reconstituted Authority with the New Board.

The Feasibility Committee noted the recommendations were vital to the long-term success of the Authority, and in the absence of the implementation of these recommendations, the OJRSA runs the risk of significant regulatory compliance matters, lack of funding, and restrictions on growth and development of the County as a whole.

The final Feasibility Committee recommendations, which were presented to and accepted by the Board at a joint meeting with Oconee County Council in July 2025, included a list of specific tasks which were

¹ RIA Grant Number RGRG-23-5006

² *Regional Feasibility Planning Study 2024* by W.K. Dickson, Bolton & Menk, and Willdan Financial Services. (www.ojrsa.org/info)

³ This committee was identified in the recommendations as the “Implementation Committee”

established by the Feasibility Committee with timelines associated with each function. These included:

1. Within 45 days (August 29, 2025)⁴, the current Board will dissolve the Feasibility Committee and establish the Reconstitution Committee for further implementation oversight.
2. On a quarterly basis, the Reconstitution Committee will provide an update to RIA, the current Board, and Oconee County on the progress of the implementation of these initial recommendations.
3. Within 45 days (August 29, 2025), the legislative revisions to the Act will be finalized and provided to the Oconee County Delegation ("Delegation"). Consultation shall be made with the Delegation on whether lobbyist support will be needed.
4. Within 90 days (October 13, 2025), resolutions of support for system consolidation/Authority reorganization will be provided to and adopted by each governing body affected by the recommendations, including the Board, Seneca City Council, Walhalla City Council, Westminster City Council, West Union Town Council, and Oconee County Council.
5. Within 120 days (November 12, 2025), consultants shall be engaged, and the process of collection system evaluation (technical) and valuation (financial) will be initiated, including identification of potential funding for this effort and immediate rehabilitation projects that may be identified or on current Capital Improvement Plans ("CIP"). Additionally, a rate consultant will be engaged.
6. Within 120 days (November 12, 2025), a Communications Plan will be developed under the guidance of the Implementation Committee and provided to all entities involved.
7. Within 60 days of the approved changes to Act being approved (likely July/August 2026), the list of recommendations for the initial commissioners for the reconstituted Authority ("New Commission") will be provided to the Delegation.
8. Within 15 months (February 27, 2027), the evaluation and valuation of collection systems will be completed.
9. Within 18 months (May 12, 2027), the determination of a timeline for developing a unified, equitable rate structure will be provided as a part of the initial terms for collection system consolidation.
10. Within 24 months (July 15, 2027), legal documents to transfer collection system assets to the Authority will be executed, as well as all necessary reconstitution documents.
11. Within 25 months (August 16, 2027), if the legislative amendments have not been approved, plans for consolidation under the amended Act will be abandoned. Thereupon, the Authority will proceed to consolidate the member system and implement the reconstitution under the existing Act, with such process to be finalized by no later than 36 months (July 17, 2028). Additionally, all members shall be issued permits in compliance with the OJRSA Sewer Use Regulation ("SUR") and added as co-permittees under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System ("NPDES") permit.

The following sections of this report separately address each of the above.

Summary of Current Actions

This section outlines the efforts and progress made by the stakeholders in implementing the Feasibility Committee's recommendations

Events and Meetings

The following events and meetings occurred during the reporting period:

- July 15, 2025 – Joint Board meeting with Oconee County Council
- August 14, 2025 – Ad Hoc Reconstitution Committee and OJRSA Executive Committee meeting
- September 11, 2025 – Ad Hoc Reconstitution Committee and OJRSA Executive Committee meeting

⁴ Target dates are included for each based on date the recommendations were accepted by the Board

Recommendation Item 1: Dissolve Feasibility Committee and Create New Committee**Target Date: August 29, 2025****Status: Complete**

The Board approved to dissolve the Feasibility Committee and authorized the creation of the Reconstitution Committee at its August 4, 2025 meeting.

Members of the Reconstitution Committee include:

- Kevin Bronson, City of Westminster and OJRSA Executive Committee member (Committee Chair)
- Chip Bentley, Appalachian Council of Governments
- Amanda Brock, Oconee County
- Chris Eleazer, Oconee Joint Regional Sewer Authority
- Scott Moulder, City of Seneca
- Celia Myers, City of Walhalla

Nonvoting facilitators and other committee members include:

- Katherine Amidon, Bolton & Menk
- Lawrence Flynn, OJRSA General Counsel
- Joel Jones, JonesWater
- Angie Mettlen, Ardurra

Recommendation Item 2: Submit Quarterly Report**Target Date: Within 14 days after completion of each calendar quarter****Status: Report #1 complete**

This report has been prepared in response to Item 2 of the recommendations as stated above. The quarterly reports will be submitted to RIA within two (2) weeks of the conclusion of each calendar quarter⁵ until the conclusion of this program.

In the future, past actions will be listed in Appendix A.

Recommendation Item 3: Submit Joint Authority Water and Sewer System Act Draft to Oconee County Delegation**Target Date: August 29, 2025****Status: In Progress**

OJRSA Executive Director Chris Eleazer met with Senator Thomas Alexander (S.C. Senate District 1) on September 9, 2025 to present a draft version of the amendments to the Act. Efforts were made to meet with Representative Bill Whitmire (S.C. House District 1) and Representative Adam Duncan (S.C. House District 2), but a mutually convenient date could not be arranged.

Recommendation Item 4: Adoption of Resolutions of Support**Target Date: October 13, 2025****Status: Partially Complete**

Draft resolutions were provided by the OJRSA attorney to all governing bodies as recommended.

The following resolutions of support for wastewater system consolidation/Authority reorganization have been adopted by the following as of September 30, 2025:

- Seneca – August 26, 2025
- OJRSA – September 8, 2025
- Westminster – September 9, 2025

⁵ The end of March, June, September, and December of each year

- Walhalla – September 16, 2025

Those remaining to approve the matter include:

- Oconee County – to consider in October 2025
- West Union – Attended the September Reconstitution Committee meeting to ask questions and express their questions about the resolution. A revised resolution draft will be submitted for consideration during next quarter.

It is worth noting that the Mayor of the Town of West Union attended the September Reconstitution Committee meeting and is expected to participate in future meetings and remain engaged in the process.

Recommendation Item 5: Initiate Collection System Technical Evaluation and Financial Valuation

Target Date: November 12, 2025

Status: To begin next quarter

This task will begin later in 2025.

Recommendation Item 6: Develop Communications Plan

Target Date: November 12, 2025

Status: To begin next quarter

This task will begin later in 2025.

Recommendation Item 7: Consider Initial Commissioners for New Authority

Target Date: Within 60 days of approved changes to Act (likely July/August 2026)

Status: Contingent on legislative approval

If the recommended amendments to the Act are approved by the South Carolina Legislature and signed into law by the governor, then the list of possible candidates for the New Commission will be provided to the Delegation soon thereafter.

Recommendation Item 8: Complete Technical Evaluation and Valuation of Collection Systems

Target Date: February 27, 2027

Status: Not started

Recommendation Item 5 must occur before project can be completed.

Recommendation Item 9: Develop Unified, Equitable Rate Structure

Target Date: May 12, 2027

Status: Not started

Recommendation Item 8 must be completed prior to beginning this task.

Recommendation Item 10: Execute Transfer of Wastewater Collection System Assets and Reconstitution Documents

Target Date: July 15, 2027

Status: Not started

This task will begin much later in the process.

Recommendation Item 11 (contingency): Abandon Consolidation and Reconstitution Plan

Target Date: August 16, 2027

Status: Not applicable at this time

This contingency item will only apply if legislative amendments are not approved or if the Ad Hoc committee cannot reach consensus.

Summary of Past Actions

Actions taken prior to this report are in Appendix A (starting on page 7).

End of Summary of Current and Ongoing Corrective Actions. See Appendix A for past updates and completed tasks associated with Consent Order 21-025-W.

Appendix A: Past Updates and Completed Tasks

Item 1: Dissolve Feasibility Committee and Create New Committee

Item 2: Quarterly Report

Item 3: Submit Joint Authority Water and Sewer System Act Draft to Oconee County Delegation

Item 4: Adoption of Resolutions of Support

Item 5: Initiate Collection System Technical Evaluation and Financial Valuation

Item 6: Develop Communications Plan

Item 7: Consider Initial Commissioners for New Authority

Item 8: Complete Technical Evaluation and Valuation of Collection Systems

Item 9: Develop Unified, Equitable Rate Structure

Item 10: Execute Transfer of Wastewater Collection System Assets and Reconstitution Documents

Item 11 (contingency): Abandon Consolidation and Reconstitution Plan



1355 Greenwood Cliff, Suite 400
Charlotte, NC 28204

WORK ORDER NUMBER 1

WORK ORDER to the Agreement dated May 13, 2019 by and between the Metropolitan Sewer Subdistrict (the "Client") and First Tryon Securities, LLC, d/b/a First Tryon Advisors ("First Tryon").

SERVICES

First Tryon will provide the following Services under this Work Order:

Phase I (Planning Work):

- Evaluate and provide a detailed analysis of the Client's existing financial condition, credit profile and debt portfolio.
- Build a comprehensive capital planning model to assist in evaluating and establishing the Client's debt capacity for various projects, as well as evaluating the potential consolidation / merger of existing entities under the Client's management, taking the following variables into consideration:
 - Project Specific Items:
 - Timing and amounts
 - Available revenue sources
 - Available funding structures
 - Financing term
 - Amortization/debt service
 - Prioritization of capital project needs
 - Consolidation / Merger Specific Items:
 - Timing of proposed consolidation(s) / merger(s)
 - Existing and proposed cash flows of entities coming under the Client's management
 - Financial condition, credit profile and debt portfolio of entities coming under the Client's management
 - Revenue/cost/growth projections
 - Impact on financial ratios, coverages, etc.
- Work hand-in-hand with the Client's staff to refine the capital planning model to help forecast future financial performance based on pro forma projections provided by the Client, evaluate the Client's debt capacity and affordability and assess the sensitivity of the Client's various planning assumptions.
- At the Client's request, participate in Board meetings, workshops and committee meetings to facilitate the development of the capital planning model.

Phase II: (Transaction Execution Work- if requested by Client)

- Help craft a tailored plan of finance that is appropriate for the Client's short-term and long-term financing objectives.
- Solicit and evaluate financing proposals, prepare related credit packages, evaluate any submitted proposal and negotiate final terms and conditions with the lender.
- Negotiate terms and conditions of the financing, including call provisions, closing requirements and risk allocation provisions, as applicable.
- Prepare and maintain a detailed financing calendar for the financing, incorporating any required notices, Board actions, public hearings and other financing milestones identified by the Client or its counsel.

Metropolitan Sewer Subdistrict
Work Order Number 1
May 13, 2019
Page 2 of 3

- Produce quantitative schedules outlining sources and uses of funds, debt service requirements, escrow cash flows, and other data required by the Client or its bond counsel in connection with the financing.
- Coordinate activities, meetings and conference calls among the members of the working group.
- Assist in procuring any additional professionals or working group participants necessary to complete the financing (e.g., verification agent, trustee, etc.).
- Assist the Client's counsel in its preparation of all legal documents that such counsel deems appropriate for the authorization, execution and memorialization of the transaction.
- Advise the Client regarding current bond market conditions and other developments that would normally be expected to influence interest rates for the financing.
- Prepare and present information regarding the financing process to the Client's governing board, staff or other stakeholders, as requested.
- Coordinate all closing logistics to help ensure a smooth closing and to reduce demands on the Client's staff.
- Provide ongoing responses to any related questions and perform other customary tasks that might arise during the course of the financing.



July 24, 2020

Ms. Carol L. Elliott, PLS
General Manager
MetroConnects
120 Augusta Arbor Way
Greenville, SC 29605

Subject: Proposal for Collections Systems Rate Study

Dear Ms. Elliott:

Raftelis Financial Consultants, Inc. (Raftelis) is pleased to submit this proposal to provide financial consulting services to the Metropolitan Sewer Subdistrict (MetroConnects). We appreciate the opportunity to submit this proposal, which details our understanding and approach to meet MetroConnects' objectives.

Project Understanding

MetroConnects is a wastewater collection district in Greenville County, South Carolina that transports collected wastewater to Renewable Water Resources (ReWa) for treatment. Over the last ten years, Greenville County and MetroConnects' service area has seen significant growth at a rate that outpaces other areas of the country. This sustained growth has created an evolving, dynamic landscape for MetroConnects to provide wastewater services.

In 2018, MetroConnects engaged Raftelis to perform a User Charge Rate Study. Previously MetroConnects assessed wastewater charges on a property tax-basis to fund its wastewater collection and transportation system. In February 2019, MetroConnects adopted a new User Charge Rate Structure. The structure includes a monthly base charge and volumetric charges, which are assessed based on monthly water consumption. This structure is more consistent with industry best practices and provides for a more equitable revenue recovery among MetroConnects customers.

Recently, MetroConnects has been working with local stakeholders to determine how sewer service can be provided most effectively in Greenville County. Sewer collection service is currently provided by multiple sewer subdistricts, with MetroConnects being the largest. Based on financial and capital improvement needs studies performed by First Tryon Advisors and CDM Smith, the cost of providing sewer collection service varies widely within Greenville County. MetroConnects has requested that Raftelis perform a rate study to calculate user rates between subdistricts and in-aggregate.

Scope of Services

We have developed the following Scope of Services based on our understanding of MetroConnects' needs. The scope of services can be adjusted, as needed, to better suit the needs of MetroConnects or address other rate and finance related issues if they arise. Our proposed scope of services includes the items listed below.

Task 1: Project Initiation, Management, and Data Collection

The project management task begins with the submittal of this engagement letter and continues throughout the duration of the Study. It is designed to ensure the Study progresses in an efficient and deliberate manner. This task will include administrative components related to project management, quality assurance and control processes.

As part of this task, Raftelis will prepare and submit to MetroConnects staff a detailed data request list so readily available data can be forwarded to Raftelis. The data required will include, but not be limited to, operating and capital budgets, billing data, financial reports, population or growth forecasts, ordinances, and contractual agreements.

Task 2: Project Revenue Requirements

The first step in the study process will be developing forecasts of revenue requirements. Using information developed by First Tryon, Raftelis will prepare a revenue requirement forecast for six sewer subdistricts: Berea Public Service District; Gantt Fire, Police and Sewer District; Marietta Water and Sewer District; Parker Fire and Sewer Subdistrict; Taylors Fire and Sewer District; and Wade Hampton Fire and Sewer District. In addition to forecasts for each subdistrict, Raftelis will update the rate model developed in the 2018 Study to re-cast the financial plan for MetroConnects. Once a forecast of revenue requirements is developed for MetroConnects and each subdistrict, a final forecast will be prepared with all subdistricts in-aggregate.

The revenue requirements will include all operating and maintenance (O&M) costs, capital costs (including annual debt service payments and cash-financed capital), and reserve requirements. The projection of revenue requirements will recognize the individual system's current and future capital needs, established in the study performed by CDM Smith. It is our understanding that the study performed by First Tryon Advisors provides estimates for financing the capital outlined in the CDM study and as a result, estimates for future debt service requirements and revenue financed capital, will be assumed from the First Tryon Advisors study. In addition, it is our understanding that the First Tyron Advisors study provides projections for operating expenses for each of the sewer subdistricts. Raftelis will utilize these projected operating expenses in its projections of revenue requirements.

Based on discussions with MetroConnects staff, it is our understanding that MetroConnects has developed estimates for operating the sewer subdistricts' sewer collection systems. Raftelis will utilize these projections in addition to the subdistricts' projected operating expenses as provided in the First Tryon study. Raftelis will rely on estimates provided by MetroConnects to recognize any economies of scale that may result from a combined system.

The forecast of revenue requirements will consider certain financial and debt policies. Policies and metrics will be identified, tracked, and incorporated into the forecast of revenue requirements. Raftelis will meet with MetroConnects staff to review all components of the forecast of revenue requirements. We will solicit staff input to ensure the forecast is consistent with the expressed financial objectives.

Task 3: Establish and Forecast Billable Units of Service

Raftelis will examine each subdistrict's billing records to determine customer demands for wastewater service. To do so, Raftelis will use detailed water usage information from the sewer subdistricts' water provider (Greenville Water). Currently, Raftelis has limited billing data related to each of the sewer subdistricts water use. Raftelis will use this information as a starting point, however, more recent and detailed billing data will be ideal.

Raftelis anticipates that Renewable Water Resources (ReWa) will assist in obtaining new billing data from Greenville Water. In addition, GIS information will be needed to determine the subdistrict for each water customer. As a result, this portion of the study may require a significant level of effort.

Based on the information obtained, Raftelis will develop a forecast of billable units of service over a five-year forecast period using growth assumptions for each subdistrict. We will discuss key assumptions with MetroConnects staff.

Task 4: Calculate Rates

The next step in the study process is to calculate rates using the analyses from Tasks 3 and 4. Rates will be calculated for each year in the forecast period and adjusted, where possible, to provide for a smooth forecast of rates. Customer impact analyses will be performed to understand the impact of proposed rate changes to different types of customers and households. Raftelis will take the calculated rates for each subdistrict and compare them to annual sewer costs as determined by First Tryon. This will help MetroConnects assess the full impacts on customers under individual and consolidated systems.

Task 5: Model Development

At the heart of any successful rate study is the model used to develop revenue requirements and perform operational and capital financial planning, review customer information, and calculate rates and revenues. The model incorporates the results of each of the other tasks in the engagement, and is sophisticated enough to perform the complex calculations involved in a comprehensive rate analysis with the ability to analyze various rate scenarios.

The model created for this engagement will be developed using Microsoft Excel and will be based on a model framework that incorporates industry standard rate-setting methodologies in a user-friendly manner. The rate model will be built around our innovative modeling approach and will include a customized and interactive dashboard.

Task 6: Recommendations & Presentation

Raftelis will be able to assist MetroConnects as necessary in presenting the results of the study and supporting study recommendations. We will work with MetroConnects to determine the most appropriate level of stakeholder interaction. For the purpose of this scope of services, we have included one presentation.

Oconee Joint Regional Sewer Authority - Reconstitution
Draft Technical and Financial Analysis Cost Sharing Formula
Contract Amt. \$100,000 *editable*

| | BASE AMOUNT | Pro-rata Share | TOTAL |
|-------------|-------------|----------------|-----------|
| Seneca | \$10,000 | \$26,716 | \$36,716 |
| Walhalla | \$10,000 | \$8,064 | \$18,064 |
| Westminster | \$10,000 | \$4,912 | \$14,912 |
| West Union | \$10,000 | \$304 | \$10,304 |
| Oconee | \$10,000 | \$4 | \$10,004 |
| OJRSA | \$10,000 | \$4 | \$10,004 |
| | \$60,000 | \$40,004 | \$100,004 |

BASE AMOUNT = 10% for each

2025
remaining 40% pro-rata share method

| Breakdown | Ratio | Percentage |
|-------------|--------|------------|
| Seneca | 66.79 | 67% |
| Walhalla | 20.16 | 20% |
| Westminster | 12.28 | 12% |
| West Union | 0.76 | 1% |
| Oconee | 0.01 | 0% |
| OJRSA | 0.01 | 0% |
| | 100.01 | 100% |



REGIONAL SEWER FEASIBILITY STUDY RECONSTITUTION QUESTIONS & ANSWERS AD HOC RECONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

Background

During the process of resolution adoption by the individual municipalities and the County, each council and staff were encouraged to ask questions. The original questions (unedited) and draft responses are provided below (in red).

Westminster

1. What happens after this fall's municipal elections if there is a change in the support of the three city councils? At this time, each council has considered and approved the support resolution. However, the support resolution is not binding and does not commit any participant to a particular course of action. If a participant chooses to opt out, they would not be admitted as a member of the reconstituted authority (the "New Authority"), would not have representation on the Board, and would most likely become a wholesale customer of the new Authority.
2. There are concerns a new board without ties to the city council will approve rates for city customers beyond what the city council believes is appropriate. How will rates be kept "in check?" Sewer service is a business, and rates must be set a level that covers all necessary operating expenses and capital expenses. However, if the new legislation is adopted and a gubernatorial appointment is permitted, board members must reside in a household receiving service from the New Authority. As a result, any rate decisions will have a direct bearing on the financial situation of the member. This may actually be a better result than the current board as many of the current members do not actually receive service from the joint system, and often vote solely on the basis of the benefits to the member-city, rather than fulfilling their fiduciary obligation to the organization.
3. They want to see the outcome of a technical and financial evaluation. Yes, that is a prerequisite, and those persons/firms should be engaged by December 14, 2025 (120 days approval by Board of the ad.hoc committee report).
4. They want to know the cost for Westminster to participate in the technical and financial evaluation. Planning level costs for these evaluations are currently being developed, including a methodology for apportionment. The intent is to keep costs as low as possible by using data and analysis from the previous corrective action plans to prepare a system status assessment and a high-level capital improvement analysis for each system.

5. Will the new entity be a public entity that will allow for public attendance and participation in meetings and committee meetings? **Yes. The new entity will be created under the same statutory framework as the existing authority, which is the “Joint Authority Water and Sewer System Act”, as codified at Title 6, Chapter 25 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina 1976, as amended. The New Authority will be reconstituted under the act as a public body politic and corporate and subject to FOIA and similar open government laws.**
6. They would like to see a customer rate schedule for the rates under a new Authority. This will be part of the recommendations from the evaluation process. According to the ad hoc committee report “[a] unified and equitable rate structure will be developed and deployed as part of the governance documents of the reconstituted Authority.” The schedule calls for the rate schedule to be developed within 18 months of the approval of the plan, so approximately February 2027.
7. What happens if a city decides not to participate? **Nothing can make a city participate, but State regulators (including RIA) have public advised that something must be done. If a city decides not to participate, they will likely be left out of the new organization and required to separately negotiate a wholesale treatment contract with the New Authority for sewer treatment services.**
8. They want to be sure the city is fairly compensation for any assets they may turn over to the new Authority. As a quick point of reference, the city received a \$5 million SCIIP grant to rehabilitate sewer collection lines and the construction is underway. **There will be a technical review, and the consultants will also conduct an analysis to determine the depreciation of each system and estimate the significant capital investments required to bring the systems into regulatory compliance. Even if the third-party financial consultant concludes that a system’s value exceeds its liabilities (for example, the cost to fully rehabilitate it), it is unlikely that any cash proceeds would be available for the acquisition of existing collection systems. Generally, the acquisition of these systems is viewed as relieving each participant of financial and operational liability, rather than generating revenue. However, there may be an opportunity to establish a franchise fee within each city’s municipal boundaries, with those funds remitted back to the respective city in consideration of the use of public rights-of-way.**

Walhalla

1. Current condition of the Walhalla sewer system. **As the current owners and operators of their respective collection systems, each city is in the best position to provide information about the operating condition of its system. That information can be further supported by the recent CMOM (Capacity, Management, Operation, and Maintenance) and Corrective Action Plan (CAP) reports, as well as by the upcoming technical review to be completed by the consultants.**
2. Estimated upgrades needed to the sewer system. **To be determined based upon recent CMOM/CAP and technical review by consultants.**

3. Current valuation (financial) of the sewer system. Will look to current asset values in audited financial statements, as well as technical review. Compensation, if any, will be considered as described in “Westminster #8.”
4. Estimated cost to upgrade the sewer system. To be determined based upon recent CMOM/CAP and technical review by consultants.

West Union

1. What is the advantage to West Union to joining OJRSA? It is not contemplated that West Union will become a member of the new Authority. It is expected to remain a treatment customer-only or, alternatively, they will be acquired in whole by the New Authority. Under either scenario, West Union would benefit from regionalized management and long-term planning for wastewater treatment, ensuring compliance with regulatory requirements and improving system reliability. If the system were acquired, West Union would be relieved of the financial and operational responsibilities associated with owning and maintaining the system, including future capital improvements and regulatory compliance obligations.
2. Would ownership of the West Union system transfer to OJRSA? While West Union would not be a member, the new Authority would consider the acquisition of the West Union collection system.
3. Who would operate, maintain, and insure the West Union system after it was transferred? The New Authority.
4. What will happen to West Union public works employees after the transfer? Would they work for OJRSA? Additional staff may be needed, and if so, the Authority will entertain the employment of the best and most qualified service members.
5. Would West Union be compensated for the value of the assets taken over by OJRSA? Probably not. See answer to “Westminster #8” above.
6. How much will the funding of operational costs of OJRSA add to West Union customer rates/bills? Unknown at this time. To be determined based upon recent technical review by consultants, and development of rate study. See “Westminster #6” above.
7. If West Union were to participate in OJRSA, what weight vote would it have? An equally weighted vote? Or a vote based on some other basis, such as volume, linear feet of lines, number of customers, or revenue? West Union will not be a member of the New Authority. As a result, it will not have any voting rights. It will only be a customer, unless it elects to turn over its collection system to the New Authority whereupon rates and other costs will be solely determined by New Authority board.
8. Who would bill for sewer? (West Union has and reads its own water meters.) Assuming the New Authority acquires the West Union collection system, West Union would bill for the New Authority’s sewer service on the respective West Union water bill. Arrangements would be necessary to provide water flow data to the New Authority in order to ensure the appropriate amount is billed.
9. Is revenue shared with members? If it is calculated on a percentage of revenue basis, how frequently is that updated? While this has happened in the past, it is bad

business practice and strongly discouraged. No revenue will be directly distributed from the New Authority's operating accounts. However, it is possible for a participant city to charge a franchise fee, which will be imposed within its municipal limits. See "Westminster #8" above.

10. Who would install new taps? And how much would that cost new users in West Union? The entity that owns and operates the sewer collection system, whether it remains the respective city or is transferred to the New Authority, would be responsible for coordinating and installing new service connections. The cost for new users would reflect the actual cost of installation, along with any applicable capacity or connection fees. Even if ownership of the sewer collection system is transferred to the New Authority, each city would continue to own and operate its respective water utility system. This allows the cities to retain an important role in managing and directing future growth and development within their service areas through their continued role as water providers.
11. Who would pay for expansion of sewer service and collection lines within West Union to support future growth? If West Union's collection system is acquired by the New Authority, then this would be the responsibility of the New Authority. Additionally, as noted in Question #10 above, each city would continue to own and operate its water utility system, allowing it to play an ongoing role in managing and guiding growth through its control over water service extensions.
12. Can you provide us with or direct us to a map of current sewer service areas in the County? To be provided.
13. Also, what is the monthly/annual overhead for the costs of operating OJRSA? And, how is that allocated among the members? Each year, the authority presents a balanced budget for consideration and approval. The budget is based on the anticipated costs of maintaining the system. For Fiscal Year 2026, the projected O&M expenses are \$6,759,426. Rates are structured to cover these operating expenses, including minor capital projects required to address issues identified in the 2021 consent order issued by the South Carolina Department of Environmental Services. The authority no longer uses the "pro rata model". Instead, rates are administered under a "base, plus volume" system, similar to standard water customer billing practices. Under this rate methodology, the authority charges a base charge, which is a fixed amount to recover each participant's share of system costs, administrative and maintenance, and a volume charge, which is a variable amount based on the actual amount of wastewater discharged to and treated by the authority.
14. Finally, is Anderson County involved in OJSRA? No. Anderson County is not involved, and any future conversations with Anderson County, or any Anderson sewer providers will be exclusively performed on a contract basis.

Seneca

1. What is the official plan, will OJRSA run all of the sewer? Yes. That is the overarching goal of consolidation. Finding #1 of the ad hoc committee was that

“[t]he collection systems of the current Authority members and Oconee County should be consolidated into a one combined system – owned, operated, and maintained by the reconstituted Authority.”

2. How will future development be handled, both in the interim before the plan goes through, and after OJRSA takes over? Expansion would occur as growth develops and where sufficient system capacity and appropriate funding is available.
3. What will the assets be valued at? When will more information be provided about this process? To be determined based upon recent CMOM/CAP and technical review by consultants.
4. Will L&W maintain any control over its sewer system after the plan goes into effect? No. The plan is for the entirety of the Seneca sewer system to be conveyed to the New Authority. However, the New Authority will need to work in concert with L&W for growth, system maintenance and other utility functions within the City of Seneca and all other members.
5. Will L&W employees become OJRSA employees? Will they be contract labor? Potentially, see “West Union #4”.
6. How will the easements that L&W has or had be transferred to OJRSA? These land rights will be transferred to the New Authority as part of the conveyance process. Title work will need to be performed to identify all sewer system assets. Where individual easements are available, they will be assigned and all other ROW will be generally conveyed under a master ROW conveyance document. Also, personal property will be conveyed under master Bill of Sale for both fixed and non-fixed assets.
7. Will there be major rate increases once this occurs? Unknown until the rate evaluation is completed. See “Westminster #6” above.
8. Will the customers who are currently inside city limits be charged the same as those who are outside city limits? Best practice, and a stated goal of the ad hoc committee, is to establish a uniform and consistently applied rate structure for all users. The specifics of that rate schedule will not be known until the ongoing rate evaluation is completed. However, with the creation of a consolidated regional system, it would be difficult to justify maintaining separate in-city and out-of-city rate differentials.
9. Can the city have its own treatment plant? While the city can theoretically propose to build and operate its own treatment plant, it is highly unlikely that such a project would be approved. From a regulatory perspective, DES has a stated goal of consolidating service, and the construction of a new facility would raise significant

permitting challenges given discharge impacts and the existence of the current treatment plant. It would also be cost prohibitive and face major hurdles under the 208 planning process. Most importantly, because Seneca represents the majority of the flow to OJRSA, diverting that flow and revenue to a separate facility would significantly undermine the financial and operational stability of the existing regional system. Under the 208 Plan's "do no harm" principle, regulators are unlikely to approve a new plant that disrupts or diminishes the public's investment in existing infrastructure. For these reasons, construction of a new plant is not a recommended or realistic path.

10. Should L&W hold off on any sewer projects? Yes, but only major construction. Basic maintenance and updates to the system to comply with OJRSA consent order requirements as well as other system support should continue as necessary to maintain the system in good utility condition. All other members should conform to this advice.

Oconee County

No formal questions were submitted or received, as staff indicated the County's questions have been addressed in the foregoing.