



# Oconee Joint Regional Sewer Authority

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Seneca, South Carolina 29678  
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www.ojrса.org

## OCONEE JOINT REGIONAL SEWER AUTHORITY Ad-Hoc Reconstitution Committee and Executive Committee April 9, 2026

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) – *via Microsoft Teams*
- Chip Bentley (Appalachian Council of Gov'ts.)
- Kevin Bronson (City of Westminster) – Committee Chair
- Chris Eleazer (Oconee Joint Regional Sewer Authority)
- Glenn Hart, Oconee County Councilman
- Joel Jones (Consultant, JonesWater) – *via Microsoft Teams*
- Angie Mettlen, (Vice President, Ardurra)
- Scott Moulder (City of Seneca)
- Celia Myers (City of Walhalla)

Committee Members that were not present:

- Lawrence Flynn (Pope Flynn - OJRSA Attorney)

OJRSA appointments and staff present were:

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

Others present were:

- Mayor Linda Oliver, Town of West Union – *via Microsoft Teams*
- Kirk Luna, Oconee Co. Citizen
- Brad Davin, Oconee Co. Citizen

**A. Call to Order** – Mr. Bronson called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. Mr. Bronson welcomed the guests attending the meeting, stated they attended the board meeting on Monday to speak about odor issues, and asked them to introduce themselves. Mr. Kirk Luna stated he lives at 510 Dye Drive, Seneca (in Cross Creek subdivision), and Mr. Brad Davin stated he lives at 3100 Chatham Drive, Seneca (also in Cross Creek subdivision). Mr. Bronson said Mr. Eleazer and the OJRSA staff are working on a solution to the odor issues. Mr. Bronson said it was a little pungent this morning; Mr. Eleazer replied that it isn't uncommon this time of year (specifically spring and fall) where there is an odor early in the morning that dissipates later in the day. Mr. Bronson asked if the OJRSA was still working on a mister system for this. Mr. Eleazer replied that he spoke to Mr. Luna a little bit ago to inform him that the OJRSA received the quote from the firm in Georgia for the mister system.

### B. Approval of Minutes

- **Ad Hoc Reconstitution Committee and Executive Committee Meeting of March 12, 2026**  
*Mr. Moulder made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, to approve the March 12, 2026 meeting minutes as presented. The motion carried.*

### C. Committee Discussion and Action Items

**1. Update on South Carolina Senate Bill 829 (Joint System Governance)** – In Mr. Flynn’s absence, Mr. Eleazer read from an update from Mr. Flynn which stated that the bill was given third (3<sup>rd</sup>) reading by the Senate Committee on the Judiciary and unanimously passed 40-0 on March 19, 2026. It was introduced to the SC House Committee on the Judiciary on March 24, 2026 where it is currently sitting. There are six (6) weeks left in the session, and the OJRSA is in a good position that it should pass into law before the end of session on May 14, 2026.

**2. Update on Raftelis and First Tryon Financial Studies** – Ms. Mettlen stated she gave access to the data to both organizations. Each firm provided an updated data request list, and she will provide that to Mr. Eleazer to share with everyone within the next couple of days. Both firms said that they are on board and would like to attend the meeting next month and treat it like an “informal kickoff” of the studies. Mr. Bronson asked if everyone was okay with the firms attending the meeting; committee members were fine with having them attend.

Ms. Mettlen stated that the data request list is just updating the list of documents that the OJRSA has, so it shouldn’t be a big deal. She said that the information can be uploaded to the OneDrive folder that Ms. Amidon already provided to the committee members. Mr. Bronson asked Ms. Amidon to resend him the link. Ms. Mettlen asked Ms. Amidon to send it out to everyone; she will do that. Mr. Eleazer asked if there was a deadline; Ms. Mettlen replied that the Raftelis information should be before the May meeting.

**3. Communications with Elected Officials and Leadership: Feedback and Future Memo Requests** – Ms. Amidon said she appreciated the patience with Memos #3 and #4, as they are more complex than the first two (2) memos.

She stated that Memo #3 will specify who does what role in development. It has been sent to the facilitation team for a final thumbs up and should go out to the group tomorrow. This memo explains the background, how development occurs, and the utility’s role versus the local government’s jurisdictional control (town, city, or county), as well as it is comprehensive with what is allowed by state statute and the Local Government Comprehensive Planning Enabling Act of 1994. She said she will wait until the end of next week for review by this committee, and then it will go out to everyone like was done for Memos #1 and #2. Ms. Mettlen added that Memo #3 came out of discussion questions about controlling growth and will clarify that.

Mr. Bronson asked if Mr. Eleazer put these memos out for the public to view. Mr. Eleazer stated he puts them on the OJRSA website, and he explained how to view them.

Ms. Amidon stated that Memo #4 will have a combination of three (3) topics that were requested during the one-on-one meetings: 1) an update on the timeline; 2) elevator speech (or project status summary), and 3) list of future potential memo topics. She added that those three (3) topics will be attached to all future memos. Ms. Amidon stated that the balance on the list of potential topics (operations, rates, and wholesale agreement) is not ready yet and cannot be discussed until the studies are completed. She said that if anyone had any other topics to let her know; no one had any.

**4. Recap and Update on One-on-One Meetings** – Ms. Amidon stated this goal was created by the Feasibility Study Committee. She and Ms. Mettlen met with the three (3) member cities (Seneca, Walhalla, and Westminster) to get a feel about what’s going on with each of them, the current status, and how they felt about the reconstitution; Mr. Chip Bentley at the Appalachian Council of Governments (ACOG) regarding the 208 process; and recently with Mr. Eleazer regarding OJRSA concerns.

Ms. Amidon also said they have not yet met with Oconee County, and she has tried through multiple emails and phone calls to request availability with Oconee County and has not gotten a response. Ms. Amidon added that the purpose of these meetings is to have transparency with each group to determine any concerns that could derail the process and to mitigate those concerns. Ms. Mettlen added that they also met with the Town of West Union as well.

Ms. Mettlen also said that she appreciates that Oconee County passed the resolution; however, they need to meet with the County to know the disposition of the County and that they are in the process being that money is being spent on these studies now. She asked Mr. Hart if Oconee County is going to stay in or not. Mr. Hart suggested that Ms. Mettlen contact the County Administrator and request an Executive Session during the next County Council meeting on the third Tuesday of the month (April 21, 2026). Ms. Mettlen said she would do that.

Ms. Mettlen stated when the original Request for Qualifications (RFQ) was advertised by the RIA, Anderson County was included. She said some individuals told her not to include them, and she asked if Anderson should be included now.

Ms. Amidon added that Anderson County was included in the Fair Play project for census track #109 because it made sense from a proximity standpoint; however, they participated in stakeholder meetings but didn't share any information on their future plans. She asked if Oconee County had any updates. Mr. Hart replied that the Council leaves all options open that would be best for Oconee County. Ms. Amidon asked Mr. Hart to elaborate on that, but Mr. Hart declined.

Mr. Moulder stated he didn't think Anderson should be included at this time; that the focus should be cleaning up Oconee County's house before inviting guests who will only have a small involvement in the future of Oconee County.

- 5. Future Meeting Scheduling** – Ms. Mettlen said the facilitation team spoke about changing the cadence of the meetings while Raftelis and First Tryon perform the studies. She asked if anyone wanted to skip meetings during the next few months, as there probably wouldn't be much to discuss until the studies are completed. Mr. Bronson said he wouldn't mind not having a meeting in July. It was agreed that there would be a meeting in May, no meetings in June or July (unless something important comes up which a meeting could be scheduled at that time), and a meeting would be held in August.

Mr. Moulder asked when the studies would be completed. Ms. Mettlen said she couldn't answer the question for First Tryon, as their study won't begin until Raftelis is done; however, Raftelis should be done by late September/early October. She said that Raftelis may have some preliminary results by the August meeting.

Ms. Myers said if anything important came up, it could be added to the Director's Update in the board meetings. Mr. Eleazer suggested one of the facilitators come to the board meeting in June or July (even remotely) to provide an update.

- D. Committee Member Discussion** – The members didn't have anything to discuss.

Ms. Myers said she's good; however, in the coming months, if anything comes up, she will reach out to Ms. Amidon and Ms. Mettlen.

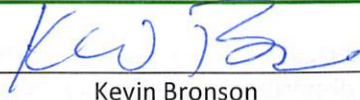
Mr. Bronson gave the visitors a chance to talk if they needed to say anything. Mr. Luna stated he appreciated the opportunity to come today and for the discussion and the help. Mr. Davin said he concurred with Mr. Luna and stated he appreciated the transparency of the board.

- E. Adjourn** – The meeting was adjourned at 9:33 a.m.

### Upcoming Meetings

- 1. Operations & Planning Committee** – Thursday, April 16, 2026 at 8:30 a.m.
- 2. Finance & Administration Committee** – Tuesday, April 28, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.
- 3. Board of Commissioners** – Monday, May 4, 2026 at 4:00 p.m.
- 4. Reconstitution Committee & Executive Committee** – Thursday, May 14, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

Approved By:

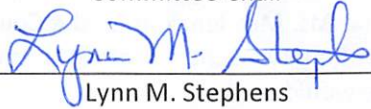


Kevin Bronson  
Committee Chair

Date Approved:

5/14/26

Approved By:



Lynn M. Stephens  
OJRSA Secretary/Treasurer

Notification of the meeting was distributed on March 6, 2026 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, SCDES, [www.ojrja.org](http://www.ojrja.org), and posted at the OJRSA Administration Building.



## **Ad Hoc Reconstitution Committee and Executive Committee**

OJRSA Operations & Administration Building  
Lamar Bailes Board Room  
April 9, 2026 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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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. Approval of Minutes**
  - Ad Hoc Reconstitution Committee and Executive Committee Meeting of March 12, 2026
- C. Committee Discussion and Action Items**
  1. Update on South Carolina Senate Bill 829 (Joint System Governance) – Lawrence Flynn, OJRSA Counsel or Chris Eleazer, OJRSA Director
  2. Update on Raftelis and First Tryon financial studies – Angie Mettlen, Facilitator
  3. Communications with elected officials and leadership: feedback and future memo requests – Katherine Amidon, Facilitator
  4. Recap and update on one-on-one meetings – Katherine Amidon, Angie Mettlen, and Joel Jones; Facilitators
  5. Future meeting scheduling – Angie Mettlen, Facilitator
- D. 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.
- E. Adjourn**

### **Upcoming Meetings**

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

- Operations & Planning Committee – April 16, 2026 at 8:30 AM
- Finance & Administration Committee – April 28, 2026 at 9:00 AM
- Board of Commissioners – May 4, 2026 at 4:00 PM
- Reconstitution Committee and Executive Committee – May 14, 2026 at 9:00 AM

