

Oconee Joint Regional Sewer Authority

623 Return Church Road Seneca, South Carolina 29678 Phone (864) 972-3900 www.ojrsa.org

OCONEE JOINT REGIONAL SEWER AUTHORITY

Annual Members' Meeting January 6, 2025

The Oconee Joint Regional Sewer Authority Annual Members' Meeting was held at the Westminster Historic Railroad Depot, 129 Main Street, Westminster, SC.

Commissioners that were present:

- Seat 1 (Seneca): Bob Faires, III
- Seat 2 (Seneca): Scott Moulder
- Seat 3 (Seneca): Scott McLane
- Seat 5 (Walhalla): Celia Myers

Commissioners that were not present:

• Seat 8 (Westminster): Kevin Bronson, Board Chair

OJRSA appointments and staff present were:

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

Others present were:

- Andrea Kelley, <u>The Journal</u>
- Larry Brandt, OJRSA Attorney
- Amanda Brock, Oconee County Administrator
- Matthew Durham, Oconee Co. Council
- Glenn Hart, Oconee Co. Council
- Tim Hall, Walhalla Mayor
- Grant Keehn, Walhalla City Council

- Seat 6 (Walhalla): Laramie Hinkle
- Seat 7 (Westminster): Scott Parris
- Seat 9 (Walhalla-Westminster At-Large): David Dial
- Seat 4 (Seneca At-Large): Marty McKee
- Chris Eleazer, Executive Director
- Brian Ramey, Westminster Mayor
- Jimmy Powell, Westminster City Council
- Daby Snipes, Westminster City Council
- Robert Royer, AQD
- Kenneth Marshall, AQD
- Tommy James, Westminster City Councilman-Elect (District 4)
- Riley Morningstar, Blue Ridge Electric
- A) Call to Order As the board chair was absent from the meeting, Mr. Faires called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.
- **B)** Welcome Members and Guests –Mr. Faires welcomed all attendees to the meeting and announced that OJRSA Director, Mr. Chris Eleazer, will be giving a presentation on what is happening with the OJRSA.
- C) Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance By Mr. Moulder.
- **D)** Introduction of Attendees All the attendees introduced themselves to the group.
- **E)** Oconee Joint Regional Sewer Authority Annual Update Mr. Eleazer introduced himself and went over his presentation (*made a part of these minutes*):

- Commissioners The OJRSA has nine (9) board members which includes four (4) from Seneca, two (2) each from Walhalla and Westminster, and one (1) shared between Walhalla and Westminster. In addition, two (2) commissioners are "at large" meaning they cannot live in the municipal area of, or work for, the Member City.
- 2. Sewer South The OJRSA received the Permit to Operate from the SC Department of Environmental Services (SCDES formerly SCDHEC) for Phase II of the project. Mr. Eleazer expressed appreciation to Mr. Hart for helping to make people in the area understand what the OJRSA was trying to accomplish. The OJRSA will reach out to potential users later this week regarding the procedure to apply to tie on, as the OJRSA desperately needs flow to eliminate odor issues and sulfide gas degradation.
- **3. Photos** Photos were shown of the new Welcome Center, Broomway Lane, and Duck Pond Road pump stations; installing the new force main for the Sewer South project (including beneath the lake); an offset pipe beneath Highway 123 that was found during CCTV work and is now on the list to fix; fats, oils, and grease in a trap that the OJRSA inspects; a manhole under water during Hurricane Helene and after water receded (which the OJRSA has been asked to look at either making these manholes watertight or raising them); a point repair on a broken line; and the attendees at a public meeting.
- 4. Compliance:
 - OJRSA staff worked 31,331 hours through November 2024 with no lost-time accidents or OSHA violations.
 - The OJRSA held flagger training with the SC Rural Water Association. Other utilities were invited to participate.
 - Sanitary Sewer Overflows There were seventeen (17) spills totaling approximately 5,384,350 gallons in 2024. One (1) was a significant spill at 13,750 gallons; thirteen (13) were reportable to SCDES; ten (10) were weather-related (including eight (8) at 5,275,800 gallons during Hurricane Helene); and two (2) were on Speeds Creek force main.

Mr. Eleazer added that the State of South Carolina has a "Three Strikes Law" for significant spills (over 5,000 gallons) for every 100 miles of sewer line, which is prorated; exceeding the strikes will lead to a Consent Order. As the OJRSA does not have 100 miles of pipe, the OJRSA would only be allowed 2 strikes.

- The OJRSA had an SCDES facility inspection and received a "satisfactory" rating with no deficiencies noted. The OJRSA is waiting on SCDES to issue a new NPDES permit and also a construction permit to begin construction to convert from chlorine to peracetic acid to treat the wastewater.
- The OJRSA had a Pretreatment Performance Audit in March 2024 and received a "satisfactory" rating with no deficiencies noted. The OJRSA has nineteen (19) industrial wastewater discharge permit facilities on the system of which two (2) don't discharge water at all currently. Fourteen (14) of the industries were in full compliance for the year. One (1) was in significant non-compliance and four (4) minor violations. No consent orders were issued. One (1) non-significant source wastewater discharge permit was issued for the Oconee County Jail due to debris being flushed down the toilets.
- There were no SCDES lab inspections, and the OJRSA has outsourced some of the functions to an independent lab.
- There were no SCDES stormwater inspections. OJRSA continuously makes site improvements to comply with its stormwater permit.
- 5. Consent Order The presentation included slides explaining how the OJRSA came to be under the Consent Order and the progress that has been made on all the requirements. Mr. Eleazer said SCDES is pleased with OJRSA's progress. There was also a slide for anticipated projects for 2025, and Mr. Eleazer explained how the OJRSA received nearly \$10,000,000 in grant money and how part of the funds will be used to rehabilitate approximately 29,000 linear feet of the sewer lines.

6. Flows – It was explained what the plant's maximum capacity is and where OJRSA currently stands, as well as explaining when the plant will be required to upgrade.

The Director explained how most of the industries do not use all the capacity that they are permitted for, and the OJRSA asked them if they were interested in returning any of it back to the OJRSA; however, the industries did not want to give up the capacity. The industries pay an "unused capacity fee" for each month they do not discharge at least 50% of their permitted capacity.

- **7.** New User Rates The OJRSA board approved using a base plus volumetric rate per 1,000 gallons rate as the way to calculate user rates in 2023. This same calculation formula continued in 2024. A rate and cost-of-service study is being performed by Willdan Financial Services with recommendations expected by March 2025.
- 8. 20-Year Sewer Master Plan A multi-year wastewater plan was completed in 2024 with population growth, land use, the current infrastructure and its condition, pipeline expansion for growth, parameters required for the plant to discharge into waterbodies, and additional treatment plant(s) considered in it.

It was determined that it wasn't feasible for additional treatment plant(s) and to expand the current one as needed. It was recommended to expand the plant to eleven (11) million gallons per day in the first expansion and then expand to thirteen (13) million gallons per day for the second expansion around calendar years 2042-2044.

It was determined that it would cost approximately \$303,723,848 to complete all the projects identified in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). This cost excludes all costs for the Member Cities and Oconee County to rehab/replace the existing system.

There were slides showing the permits issued and the number of sewer availability requests that the OJRSA received in 2024.

Mr. Eleazer stated that a copy of the master plan is on the OJRSA website for anyone to review.

9. Regional Feasibility Study – The study was completed in 2024. Governance structures, revenue and finances, environmental compliance, utility resources, and operations efficiency were evaluated in the study. The system owner and stakeholders were identified. A timeline for the study was shown to the approval by the board in September 2024. The recommendations of the study were included on several slides.

It was recommended to have an Ad Hoc Committee to look over these recommendations and make suggestions of which one to move forward with. The Ad Hoc Committee held its first meeting in December 2024. A timeline for implementation of the study was developed and approved by the State with the Ad Hoc Committee's recommendations to be presented to the full board by May 2025.

Mr. Eleazer spoke about a letter received from the Rural Infrastructure Authority that explains that the OJRSA's efforts to act on the recommendations, as well as the efforts of Oconee County, Seneca, Walhalla, Westminster, and West Union, may be considered in future funding requests.

- **10. Requests for Satellite Systems** The Director made some requests, including participating in the Feasibility Implementation program, continue locating and repairing I&I, gathering GPS/GIS information for mapping purposes, asking that debris not be pushed down the lines into the OJRSA system when they are being cleaned, and for the Member Cities to complete their CIP, biannual reviews, and cost-of-service studies.
- **11. Tour** The Director showed a picture of a group who toured the Coneross Creek Wastewater Reclamation Facility and invited everyone to schedule a tour of the plant.

F) Attendee Questions and Comments:

Mr. Royer asked if the OJRSA is going to get the needed flows for the Sewer South project. Mr. Eleazer replied that it wasn't known if the OJRSA would get the flows and all the OJRSA can do is encourage the flow. Mr. Royer asked about the Welcome Center, and Mr. Eleazer replied they have a treatment plant that is rated for 20,000-25,000 gallons per day (but it doesn't use that much), which is all that is known for flow at this point. Mr. Eleazer explained a bit more about the turn-

around time of approximately 6 hours to keep the odors and hydrogen sulfide from building in the pipeline. He mentioned the most consistent customers that generate wastewater are residential users and the least consistent are industrial users. It is difficult to design a system for industrial users as they may use a lot of water or very little. Having consistent flows help with hydrogen sulfide issues.

- Mr. Durham asked if the OJRSA received capacity back from the industries. Mr. Eleazer replied that the OJRSA requested it back from all the industries, but all of them realized if they ever needed to buy the capacity back, they would have to buy it back at the current rate. Back in 2022, the OJRSA initiated an unused capacity fee for them for if they didn't use 50% of their allocated flow on average for a month's time, they would pay approximately \$1.40-\$1.50 per 1,000 gallons. Most of the industries have hit the 50% mark for a month or so per year, but not on a regular basis. The average usage is 30% of the allocated capacity.
- Mr. Ramey asked what the potential cost is to maintain the line until the OJRSA gets the flow it needs from users. Mr. Eleazer replied he didn't know what the cost would be, as it is unknown what the recommended solution will be. There is a study underway right now to determine what needs to be done. He is hoping the study will be done in the next couple months. He added that the Member Cities cannot fund this at all.
- Mr. Durham asked about the smell at Davis Creek Road and what is being done there. Mr. Eleazer said the smell is caused by hydrogen sulfide and has been going there for a long time. The OJRSA has been working with Seneca Light & Water on this. Seneca had a study done and was putting sodium hypochlorite in the system via two (2) pump stations. The OJRSA also has meters out. Seneca had to reduce the amount of sodium hypochlorite, as it was reducing the pH too much which could cause issues with pipe degradation. SCDES has been pleased with the efforts to fix this. There haven't been any odor issues since, except one day during the New Years holiday.

Mr. Eleazer stated that the presentation will be on the OJRSA website tomorrow.

- G) Upcoming Meetings:
 - 1. Sewer Feasibility Implementation Ad Hoc Committee Thursday, January 9, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.
 - 2. Operations & Planning Committee Wednesday, January 15, 2025 at 8:30 a.m.
 - 3. Finance & Administration Committee Tuesday, January 28, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.
 - 4. Board of Commissioners Monday, February 3, 2025 at 4:00 p.m.
- H) Adjourn Mr. Faires thanked everyone for their attendance and adjourned the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

Approved By:

Kevin Bronson, OJRSA Commission Chair

Approved By:

Lynn MyStephens, OJRSA Secretary/Treasurer

Approved By:

Christopher R. Eleazer, OJRSA Executive Director

Notification of the meeting was distributed on December 6, 2024 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, <u>www.ojrsa.org</u>, and posted at the OJRSA Administration Building.



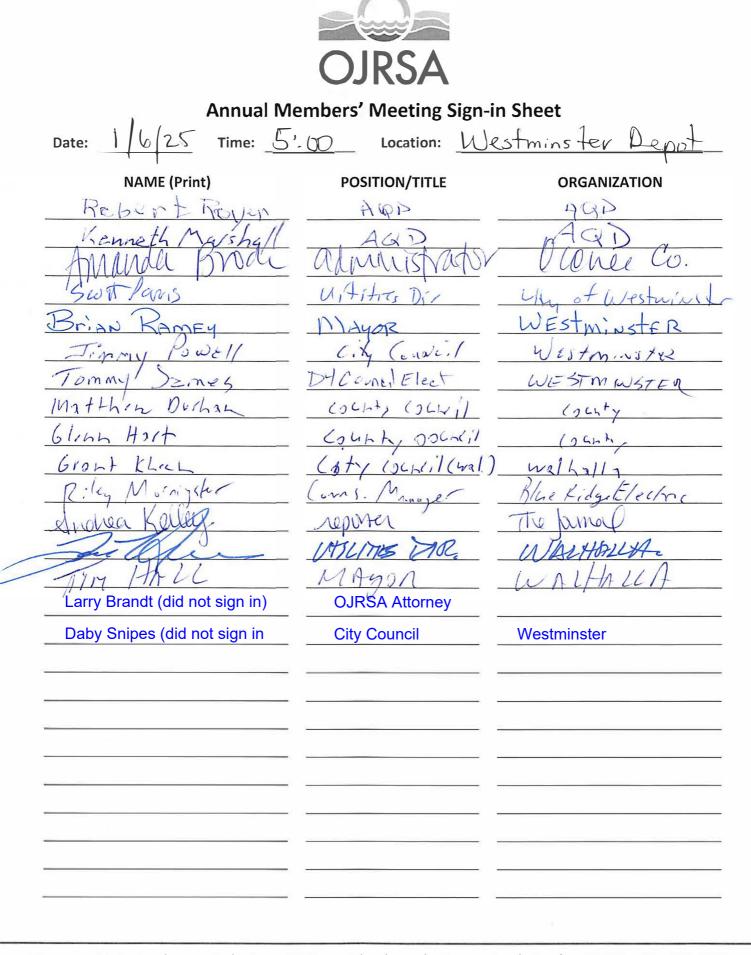
Annual Members' Meeting Westminster Historic Railroad Depot 129 Main Street, Westminster, South Carolina January 6, 2025 at 4:00 p.m.

The Annual Members' Meeting is held in accordance with Article IV Section 1 of the Oconee Joint Regional Sewer Authority Bylaws

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 <u>www.youtube.com/@OconeeJRSA</u> (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 <u>info@ojrsa.org</u>. 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 OJRSA Board Chair
- B. Welcome Members and Guests OJRSA Board Chair
- C. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance Led by Commissioner Scott Moulder
- D. Introduction of Attendees Led by OJRSA Board Chair
- E. Oconee Joint Regional Sewer Authority Annual Update Chris Eleazer, Director
- F. Attendee Questions and Comments OJRSA Board Chair and Chris Eleazer, Director
- G. Upcoming Meetings All meetings to be held in the Lamar Bailes Board Room unless noted otherwise.
 - 1. Sewer Feasibility Implementation Ad Hoc Committee January 9, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.
 - 2. Operations & Planning Committee January 15, 2025 at 8:30 a.m.
 - 3. Finance & Administration Committee January 28, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.
 - 4. Board of Commissioners February 3, 2025 at 4:00 p.m.
- H. Adjourn



Oconee Joint Regional Sewer Authority • 623 Return Church Road • Seneca, South Carolina 29678 • 864.972.3900

Annual Members' Meeting January 6, 2025 Chris Eleazer, Executive Director

OJRSA

OJRSA Board of Commissioners

Current Term: January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2027

Seat 1 Seneca Bob Faires



Seat 2 Seneca Scott Moulder

Seat 3 Seneca Scott McLane

Seat 4 Seneca (at large) Marty McKee



Seat 5 Walhalla Celia Myers

Seat 6 Walhalla Laramie Hinkle^



Seat 7 Westminster Scott Parris^

Seat 8 Westminster Kevin Bronson



Seat 9 Walhalla/Westminster (at large) David Dial

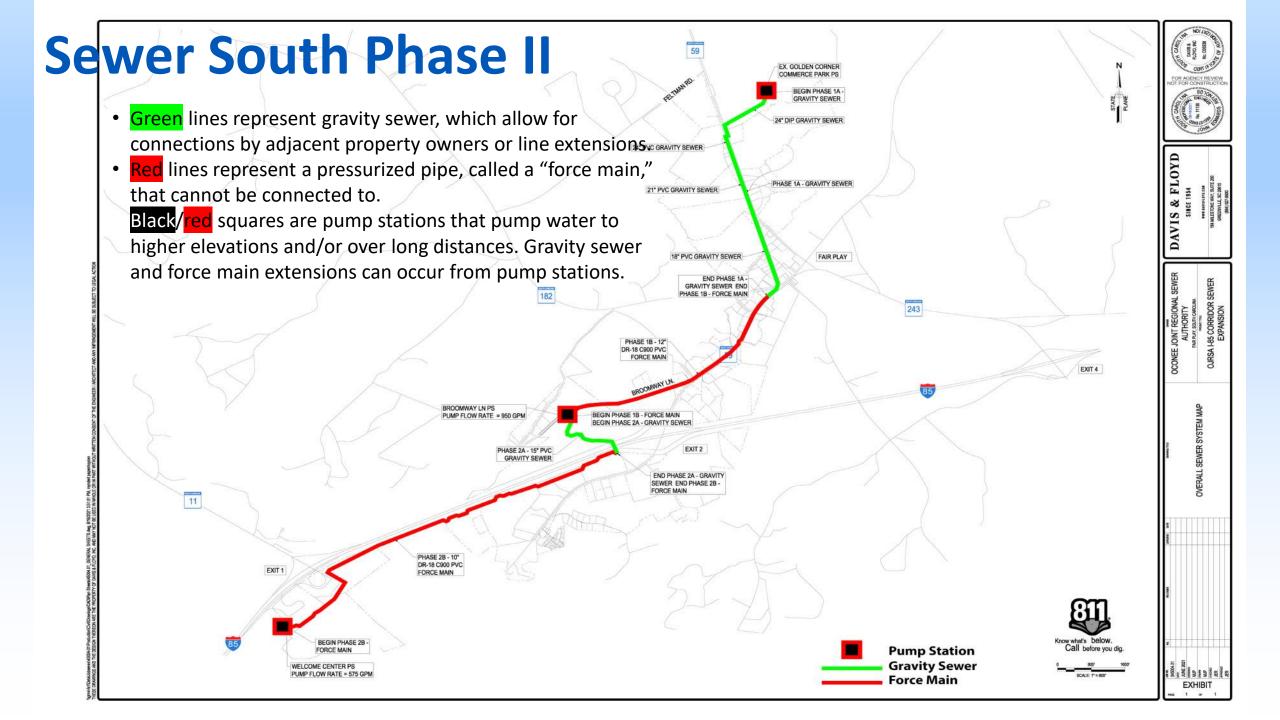
Sewer South Phase II

COMPLETE! SCDES PERMIT TO OPERATE ISSUED IN DECEMBER.

NOW NEED FLOW! OJRSA will begin contacting potential customers later this week with instructions for connecting.

Need at least <u>314,000 gallons</u> per day in the areas of I-85 exits 1 and 2 and additional <u>591,000 gpd at GCCP Pump</u> <u>Station</u> to reduce or eliminate odor issues and degradation of facilities due to hydrogen sulfide gas.

It is very likely these facilities will need pretreatment very soon (e.g. chemical, oxidationreduction potential, etc.).







I-85 Sewer Phase II: Pulling force main pipe beneath lake



I-85 Sewer Phase II: Installing force main in right-of-way



I-85 Sewer Phase II: Broomway Lane Pump Station



Began fats, oils, and grease inspections





Flooding during Hurricane Helene – September 27



After Helene's floodwaters receded – September 28

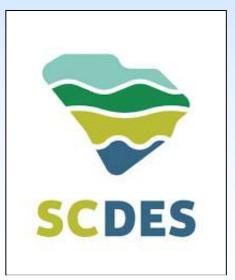


Point repair on broken line





New Duck Pond Pump Station (replacement of Flat Rock PS)



South Carolina Department of Environmental Services replaces SCDHEC

SAFETY

- Employees worked a total of 31,331 hours YTD through November 2024
- Lost-time accidents 0
- OSHA violations 0
- Flagger training held with SC Rural Water Association



CONVEYANCE SYSTEM

2021 CONSENT ORDER still in effect

Sanitary Sewer Overflows

- 17 known spills totaling approximately 5,384,350 gallons (8 due to Hurricane Helene = 5,275,800 gallons)
- 1 Significant Spill (13,750 gallons)
- 13 reportable to DHEC (by R.61-9 and NPDES Permit requirements)
- 10 weather-related (8 due to Hurricane Helene)
- 2 on Speeds Creek pump station force main (14 since 2016)



OJRSA CONEROSS CREEK WWTP (3BV8-M848-TN3) Violation List

No Violations Found

Comment from SCDHEC inspection report, April 2024

WATER RECLAMATION FACILITY

- DHEC (SCDES) inspection March 2024 SATISFACTORY with no deficiencies noted (12 page inspection check sheet!)
- Waiting on from SC Department of Environmental Services (SCDES)...
 - Updated NPDES Permit, which may lead to additional monitoring requirements (e.g., PFAS, chromium, etc.)
 - Construction permit to convert to peracetic acid from chlorine gas/sodium bisulfate

PRETREATMENT PROGRAM

- SCDHEC (now SCDES) Pretreatment Performance Audit in March 2024 **SATISFACTORY with no deficiencies noted** (34 page inspection check sheet!)
- 19 Significant Industrial Wastewater Discharge Permit facilities monitoring a total of 326 pollutant parameters (through November)
 - 99.80% compliance rate (does not include late DMR reporting)
 - 14 facilities in full compliance
 - 1 Significant Non-Compliance (SNC) and 4 minor violations issued to 5 industries [there were multiple violations at 1 site]
 - 0 Consent Orders issued to permitted users [closed out 1 in 2024]
- 1 Nonsignificant Source Wastewater Discharge Permit User
 - Continuing corrective action on a Consent Order issued in 2022
- Compliance assistance offered to FOG facilities

The review indicates that the permit requirements evaluated during the inspection were being met,

resulting in a rating of **Satisfactory**. Therefore, no response is necessary.

LABORATORY

- No SCDES inspection during 2024
- Have outsourced some functions to independent lab

STORMWATER

- No SCDES inspection during 2024
- Continued making site improvements to comply with 2022 NPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Industrial Activities
- No permit violations, all samples obtained and self inspections were performed as required in Permit and SWPPP. Corrective actions were taken as necessary.

SCDES Enforcement Update

Consent Order (issued 2021 but still active)

Causes of Order

- 1. SSOs in 2019-2020
 - Two non-Act of God, vandalism, or third party caused (61,500 gal); Violation of SC Code § 48-1-90(A)(1) and SC Code §48-1-95(D)(1)
 - Four Acts of God caused (736,000 gal)
- 2. Unsatisfactory Collection System Inspection Flat Rock Pump Station overflows, structural issues, and trash in wet well
- 3. Failure to enforce Sewer Use Regulation I/I removal and fats, oils, and grease (FOG)

Required to

- 1. Perform capacity, management, operation, and maintenance (CMOM) assessment
- 2. Reduce inflow and infiltration (I/I)
- 3. Update and enforce Sewer Use Regulation on upstream systems and users

Fined \$7,000 by SCDHEC

SCDES Enforcement Update

Consent Order (issued 2021 but still active)

Significant progress made on requirements in 2024

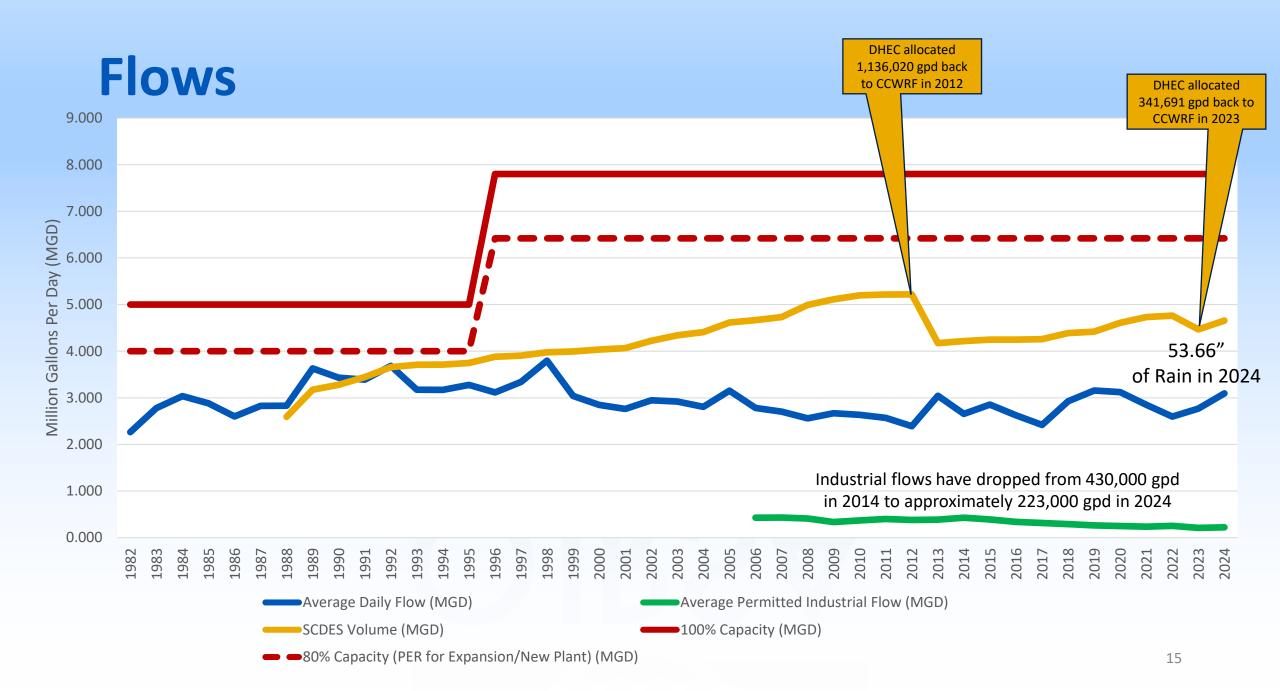
- Completed replacement of Flat Rock Pump Station
- Replaced 340 linear feet of 15-inch gravity sewer and performed necessary point repairs ahead of larger rehabilitation project. Scheduled start: early 2025
- Completed design for 20,685 linear feet of gravity sewer and 700 vertical feet of manholes to address defects identified during FY 2023 inspection. Project was advertised and awarded. Scheduled start: early 2025
- Completed over 68,000 linear feet (12.9 miles) of pipe cleaning, CCTV inspection, and smoke testing, as well as and performed approximately 500 NASSCO Level One manhole inspections
- Repaired manholes on Choestoea gravity sewer south of Westminster
- Began working with cities on Corrective Action Plans to reduce inflow and infiltration impacting OJRSA system
- Began rate and cost of service analysis by third party (also required as part of Regional Sewer Feasibility Study)

SCDES Enforcement Update

Consent Order (issued 2021 but still active)

Anticipated projects for 2025

- Complete rehabilitation for up to 29,000 linear feet of pipe and perform as much of the work as possible using SCIIP grant funds
- Construction to begin and possibly end for Seneca Creek Force Main replacement
- Consider funding for design phase of system rehabilitation projects based on CMOM CCTV/clean/inspection performed during FY 2024
- Continue work with cities to monitor, assist, and report actions taken to address deficiencies in their system as part of their Corrective Action Plans and Regional Sewer Feasibility Implementation programs
- Design replacement of Speeds Creek Force Main and seek funding sources for 2026 construction project
- Identify elevations to raise manholes to in order to prevent inflow during flooding events. This was requested by SCDES after Hurricane Helene to prevent OJRSA from shutting down treatment plant and pump stations. See "during/after" photos from earlier in presentation).



User Rates

- Still the same as reported in January 2024...Board approved use of base + volumetric rate for sewer (charge per 1,000 gallons), became effective July 1, 2023
- Rate and cost of service study being performed by Willdan Financial.
 <u>Recommendations and</u> results expected by March 2025 (to be addressed during Regional Sewer Feasibility Implementation project).

O&P COMMITTEE to BOARD 10/19/2022: RESIDENTIAL BASE + VOLUME, NONRESIDENTIAL BASE + VOLUME; MASTER METERS BILLED AS NONRESIDENTIA

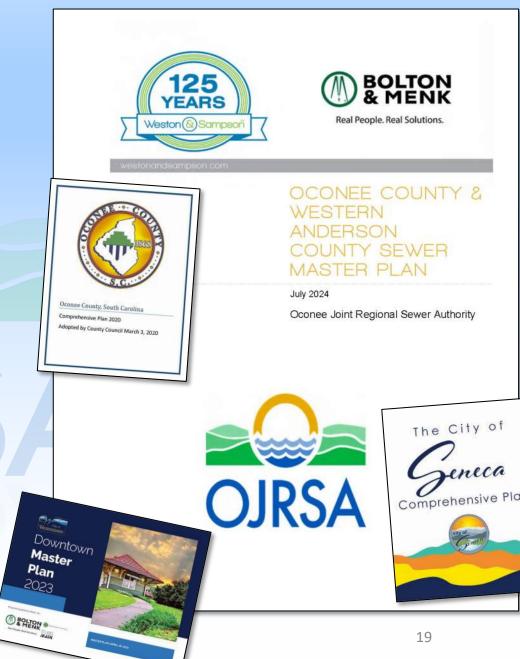
F&A Worksheet: November 21, 2022					
Average TOTAL sewer gallons billed by cities FY 2022	56,457,682	OJRSA Revenue/Year from Cities	\$5,077,763	DATA COLLECTED FROM CITIES WEEK OF JUNE 20, 20	022
RESIDENTIAL sewer gallons billed by cities FY 2022	30,446,358	Includes Contingency % of	0.00%	# Residential Customers 7,938	
Nonresidential sewer gallons billed by cities FY 2022	26,011,324	Months/Year	12	# Commercial Customers 888	81.17%
		Revenue Needed/Month	\$423,147	# Industrial Customers 31	2.83%
		% Collected from Residential	53.93%	# Institutional Customers 175	16.00%
		% Collected from Nonresidential (w master)	46.07%	TOTAL NON-RES CUST 1,094	
				TOTAL CUST 9,032	
Residential User Rates					
Residential Volume/Month	30,446,358 gallo	ons = <u>RESIDENTIAL sewer gallons billed by cities</u>			
Res 1,000 GAL/MONTH	30,446 x 1,0	000 gallons = <u>Residential Volume/Month</u> / 1,000 gallons			
Revenue Needed/Month for Residential	\$228,193.61 = <u>Re</u>	evenue/Month x <u>% Collected from Residential</u>			
Base Residential Rate/Month	\$10.00 /mc	onth = As set by OJRSA			
Residential Total Fees Collected from Base Rate	\$79,380.00 = <u>Ba</u>	ase Residential Rate/Month x # Residential Customers			
Residential Volumetric Cost/1,000 GAL	\$4.89 /1,0	00 gallons = (<u>Revenue Needed/Month for Residential</u> - <u>Resi</u>	dential Total Fees C	Collected from Base Rate) / Res 1,000 GAL/MONTH	
Amount Revenue Generated from Residential Volumetric	\$148,882.69 = <u>Re</u>	es 1,000 GAL/MONTH x Residential Volumetric Cost/1,000 GA	<u>\L</u>		
Nonresidential User Rates					
Nonresidential Volume/Month	26,011,324 gallo	ons = Nonresidential sewer gallons billed by cities			
Non-Res 1,000 GAL/MONTH	26,011 x 1,0	000 gallons = <u>Nonresidential Volume/Month</u> / 1,000 gallons			
Revenue Needed/Month for Nonresidential	\$194,953.30 = <u>Re</u>	evenue/Month x <u>% Collected from Nonresidential</u>			
Base Nonresidential Rate/Month	<mark>\$15.00</mark> /mc	onth = As set by OJRSA			
Nonresidential Total Fees Collected from Base Rate		ese Nonresidential Rate/Month x TOTAL NON-RES CUST			
Nonresidential Volumetric Cost/1,000 GAL				al Fees Collected from Base Rate) / <u>Non-Res 1,000 GAL/MONTH</u>	
Amount Revenue Generated from Nonresidential Volumetric	\$178,697.80 = <u>No</u>	on-Res 1,000 GAL/MONTH x Nonresidential Volumetric Cost/	1,000 GAL		
TEST					
Revenue Needed/Month	\$423,147 = Re	evenue/Month			
TOTAL RESIDENTIAL REVENUE RECEIVED/MONTH			e + (Res 1.000 GAL/	MONTH x Residential Volumetric Cost/1,000 GAL)	
TOTAL NONRESIDENTIAL REVENUE RECEIVED/MONTH				000 GAL/MONTH x Nonresidential Volumetric Cost/1,000 GAL)	
TOTAL REVENUE/MONTH		423,370 = TOTAL RESIDENTIAL REVENUE RECEIVED/MON			
TEST Balance Must Be ≤ \$0	*	evenue Needed/Month - TOTAL REVENUE/MONTH			
	·	<u>,</u>			

Residential Base + Volume, Nonresidential Base + Volume; Master Meters Billed as Nonresidential

	Gallons of Wastewater Billed Per Month													
Γ	0	1,000	2,000	3,000	4,000	5,000	10,000	15,000	20,000	25,000	30,000	50,000		
Residential	\$10.00	\$14.89	\$19.78	\$24.67	\$29.56	\$34.45	\$58.90	\$83.35	\$107.80	\$132.25	\$156.70	\$254.50		
Nonresidential	\$15.00	\$21.87	\$28.74	\$35.61	\$42.48	\$49.35	\$83.70	\$118.05	\$152.40	\$186.75	\$221.10	\$358.50		

20-Year Sewer Master Plan

- Multi-year wastewater plan completed in mid-2024
- Considered
 - Population growth
 - Current and projected land use
 - Condition of current infrastructure
 - Pipeline expansion for new growth
 - Discharge permit parameters and receiving waterbodies
 - Additional treatment plant(s)



20-Year Sewer Master Plan

OCONEE JOINT REGIONAL SEWER AUTHORITY 20-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN & REHABILITATION PLAN

Includes projects identified in Oconee County & Western Anderson County Sewer Master Plan Scenario 4 as recommended by Weston & Sampson/Bolton & Menk (2024) and known/anticipated O&M and rehabilitation projects. All costs in July 2024 Dollars.

December 2024

PROJECT	JUSTIFICATION	LOCATION	PRIORITY	DRIVER	FUNDING	ORDER	SIGNIF O&M COST?	TOTAL PROJECT COST	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031	FY 2032	FY 2033	FY 2034	FY 2035	FY 2036	FY 2037	FY 2038	FY 2039	FY 2040	FY 2041	FY 2042	FY 2043	FY 2044	FY 2045
Cane Creek PS Upgrade	Approaching or beyond end of useful life	Conveyance	2	MãO	Cash &/or Debt	No	No	\$ 2,887,500	\$.	\$ -	\$ -	s -	\$ -	\$ 1,694,401	\$ 1,193,099	\$.	8 -	\$.	\$ -	\$	\$ -	8 -	s -	\$ - 5	\$-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Choestoea Creek Gravity Sewer	For future growth around Westminster, upsize from 8" to 12"	Conveyance	3	Growth	Cash &/or Debt	No	No	\$ 1,790,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$	5 -	\$ -	\$ -	8 -	\$ -	\$ -	\$.	\$	\$	5 -	\$	\$ -	\$ - \$	\$ 285,406	\$ 1,234,106	\$ 270,489	\$ -
Choestoea Creek PS Replacement	Beyond useful life	Conveyance	1	MãO	Cash &/or Debt	YES	No	\$ 2,887,500	\$ 1,694,401	\$ 1,193,099	\$.	\$ -	\$.	5 .	8 -	\$.	\$ -	\$.	\$ -	\$.	8 -	\$.	\$ -	\$ - \$	\$ •	\$.	\$ -	8 -
Cryovac PS Upgrade	Approaching or beyond end of useful life	Conveyance	3	O&M	Cash &/or Debt	No	No	\$ 1,155,000	\$	8 -	\$	5 -	\$ -	5 -	\$ 680,488	\$ 474,513	8 -	\$.	8 -	\$.	5 -	s : 1	5 -	8 - 5	\$	8 -	\$ -	8 -
Davis Creek Road No. 1 Pump Station & Force Main (Newry Area development)	Elimination of pump stations and allows for growth on eastern side of system	Conveyance	2	Growth	Primary Debt	No	YES	\$ 22,143,000	\$ 3,437,632	\$ 8,481,316	\$ 8,504,552	\$ 1,719,500	8 -	8 -	8 -	s -	8 -	\$ -	8 -	\$	8 -	8	\$ -	8 - 5	\$	8 -	\$ -	8 -
Davis Creek Road Gravity Sewer / PS Elimination	Elimination of pump stations and allows for growth on eastern side of system	Conveyance	2	Growth/O&M	Primary Debt	No	No	\$ 5,281,000	\$ 842,026	\$ 3,640,956	\$ 798,018	5 -	\$	5 -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	8 -	\$ -	5 -	\$	5 -	\$ - 5	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	8 -
Flat Rock Downstream Gravity Sewer	For future growth south of Walhalla, upsize from 8° to 10°	Conveyance	3	Growth	Cash &/or Debt	No	No	\$ 1,890,000	\$.	\$ -	\$.	5 -	\$ -	\$ -	ŝ	\$ -	\$ -	\$.	\$	\$	5 -	\$	\$ 304,920	\$ 1,303,050 \$	\$ 282,030	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Lower Seneca Creek Sewer Improvements	New service area, 8" gravity and pump station/force main	Conveyance	3	Growth	Primary Debt	No	YES	\$ 4,033,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$	\$ -	\$ -	\$.	5 -	\$ 643,039 \$	\$ 2,780,529	\$ 609,431	\$ -	\$ -
Lower Westminster Gravity Sewer	For future growth south of Westminster, replace 10" with 15"	Conveyance	3	Growth	Cash &/or Debt	No	No	\$ 1,872,000	\$.	\$ -	\$.	\$.	\$.	\$.	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$.	\$ 302,016	\$ 1,290,640	\$ 279,344	8 -	\$ -	\$ - 5	\$	\$.	\$.	\$ -
I-85 Region Sewer OCONEE COUNTY FUNDED (2022 Dollars: \$16,000,000)	To be funded by Oconee County for growth along I-85 corridor	Conveyance	N/A	Growth	Oconee Co	No	YES	5 -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	5 -	\$	5 .	8 -	5 -	\$ -	\$ -	8	\$ -	5 -	\$	5 -	8 - 5	\$ -	\$ +	\$ -	8 -
ISS PS Replacement	Approaching or beyond end of useful life	Conveyance	1	M8O	Cash &/or Debt	No	No	\$ 1,155,000	\$.	\$ -	\$ -	8 -	\$ -	\$.	8 -	\$ 677,760	\$ 477,240	\$.	8 -	\$ -	\$ -	8 -	8 -	\$ - \$	\$	\$ -	\$.	5 -
Martin Creek Gravity Sewer (needed to serve Newry Area development)	Elimination of pump stations and allows for growth on eastern side of system	Conveyance	2	Growth	Primary Debt	No	No	\$ 7,318,000	\$ 1,166,814	\$ 5,045,354	\$ 1,105,831	5 -	\$	5 -	8 -	\$ -	5 -	\$.	8 - 1	\$	5 -	š	8 -	8 - 8	\$	\$ -	\$ -	8 -
Martin Creek H2S Control	Elimination of asset degradation due to H2S and eliminate odor complaints	Conveyance	1	O&M	Cash &/or Debt	No	YES	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 586,806	\$ 413,194	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	5 -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$	\$ -	5 -	8 -	\$ -	8 - 5	\$.	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Martin Creek Pump Station & Force Main	Allows for elimination of upstream pump stations and growth	Conveyance	3	Growth/O&M	Primary Debt	YES	No	\$ 38,486,000	\$.	\$ -	\$.	5 -	\$ -	\$ -	8 -	\$ -	\$ 3,902,053	\$ 9,544,290	\$ 14,781,475	\$ 10,258,182	5 -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ - \$	\$	\$ -	\$.	\$ -
Millbrook PS Upgrado ASSUMED ELIMINATED BY DAVIS CREEK SEWER PROJECT	Eliminate pump stations, allows for growth in eastern area (\$2,000,000 if replaced)	Conveyance	1	Growth/O&M	N/A	No	YES	s .	\$	5 -	\$.	5 -	\$ -	\$.	8 -	\$ -	\$ -	\$.	\$.	\$.	5 -	\$	\$.	\$ - 5	\$	\$ -	\$.	\$ -
Newry Area Pump Station & Force Main	Growth in the Newry/SC 130/Old Clemson Hwy area	Conveyance	2	Growth	Primary Debt	No	YES	\$ 19,751,000	\$ 3,066,282	\$ 7,565,121	\$ 7,585,847	\$ 1,533,750	\$ -	5 -	8 -	\$ -	\$ -	\$.	5 -	\$.	5 -	\$.	\$ -	\$ - 5	s .	\$ -	\$ -	5 -
Pelham Creek PS Replacement ASSUMED ELIMINATED BY DAVIS CREEK SEWER PROJECT	Eliminate pump stations. Beyond useful life. (\$2,000,000 if replaced)	Conveyance	1	Growth/0&M	N/A	No	No	\$	\$.	5 -	\$	8 -	\$ -	s	8 -	5 -	8 -	\$.	8 -	8	8 -	8	5 -	8 - 5	s -	8 -	\$.	8 -
Perkins Creek PS Replacement	Approaching or beyond end of useful life	Conveyance	1	Growth/O&M	Primary Debt	YES	No	\$ 6,930,000	\$ 4,066,563	\$ 2,863,438	8 .	5 -	8 -	\$ -	8 -	s -	8 -	\$	8 -	\$.	8 -	8 8	5 -	8 - 5	s -	8 -	\$ -	8 -
Seneca Creek PS Upgrade POSSIBLE ELIMINATION BY DAVIS CREEK SEWER PROJECT	Beyond useful life, no remaining capacity available (if eliminated, save \$3,750,000)	Conveyance	1	Growth/O&M	Primary Debt	No	YES	\$ 3,750,000	\$ 2,200,521	\$ 1,549,479	\$.	5 .	\$.	\$.	8 -	\$.	\$ -	\$.	5 -	\$.	5 -	s .	5 -	8 - 5	s .	\$ -	\$.	\$ -
Shiloh Road Gravity Sewer	For future growth east of Seneca, install 8" gravity sewer	Conveyance	3	Growth	Cash &/or Debt	No	No	\$ 1,802,000	\$.	\$ -	\$	5 .	\$ -	\$.	8 -	\$	\$ -	\$.	\$ 304,338	\$ 1,497,662	5 .	8 -	5 .	8 - 5		\$ -	\$.	5 -
Speeds Creek Force Main Replacement	Frequent breaks, issues with soil causing degradation of DIP	Conveyance	1	Growth/O&M	Cash &/or Debt	YES	No	\$ 2,713,000	\$ 432.573	\$ 1,870,463	\$ 409,964	5 .	8 -	\$.	8 -	\$.	\$ -	\$.	\$ -	\$.	5 -	8	\$.	8 - 5	¢	8 -	\$.	5 -
Speeds Creek PS Replacement	Approaching or beyond end of useful life	Conveyance	3	Growth/O&M	Primary Debt	No	No	\$ 4,620,000	\$.	5 -	\$.	5 .	\$	\$	8	\$ -	\$ 2,711,042	\$ 1,908,958	5 -	\$	5 .		\$	8 - 8		\$.	\$.	5 -
Systemwide Improvements (Rehab 100% of System Plus Misc. Gravity Sever Improvements)		Conveyance	1	O&M	Primary Debt	YES	No	\$ 24,575,000	\$ 1.245.816	\$ 1.245,816	\$ 1.249.229	\$ 1.245,816	\$ 1.245.816	\$ 1.245,816	8 1.249 229		\$ 1,245,816	\$ 1.245,816	\$ 1.249.229	\$ 1,245,816	\$ 1,245,816	8 1.245.816	\$ 1.249,229	\$ 1.245.816 \$	1.245.818	\$ 1.245.816	\$ 1.249.229	\$ 887,431
US 123 / 76 West Seneca RR Bridge Crossing / Bottleneck	Issues with degradation due to H2S from SL&W system	Conveyance	2	Growth/O&M	Cash &/or Debt	No	No	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 586,806	\$ 413,194		5	\$	\$	8	s .	\$	\$	\$	\$	s .	\$	\$.	8	\$	\$	\$	\$
	For future growth east of Seneca, install 8" gravity sewer, PS/FM	Conveyance	3	Growth	Primary Debt	No	YES	\$ 5,459,000	\$	\$	* .	\$.	8 -	\$	8	\$	\$	\$	5	÷	8 .	÷	\$	\$		\$ 870,407	\$ 3,773,989	\$ 814,604
West Oak Sewer Extension	Remove West Oak HS WWTP, allow for growth with 8° gravity sewer	Conveyance		Growth	Primary Debt	No	YES	\$ 4,712,000	\$	\$		8		\$		\$	\$	\$	\$		8	2 S I	\$	8	\$ 751.302			\$
West Perkins Creek Gravity Sewer	Allows for growth on northern and western side of Seneca	Conveyance	3	Growth	Primary Debt	No	No	\$ 5,132,000	s	5	\$	\$		\$	8 494,293	\$ 1.636,206	\$ 2,801,502	\$	5		5		\$	3		\$	\$	
Wexford PS Replacement	Approaching or beyond end of useful life	Conveyance	1	O&M	Cash &/or Debt	No	No	\$ 1,155,000	\$	\$	8	5 -	8 .	\$	8 -	\$ -	\$ 677,760	\$ 477.240	8 -		8 -	8 8	\$ -	8	s	8 -	\$	8
Richland Creek Trunk Sewer Extension	Allows for growth on northern and western side of Seneca	Conveyance	2	Growth	Primary Debt	No	No	\$ 7,900,000	\$ 961 167	\$ 2,835,222	\$ 3.413.458	\$ 690,153	8	\$	8 -	\$	\$ -	\$	\$	e	8		\$	8		8	\$	5
Richland Road Gravity Sewer	Allows for growth on northern and western side of Seneca	Conveyance		Growth	Cash &/or Debt	No	No	\$ 2,100,000	\$	\$ 1.232,292	\$ 867,708	\$		\$	8	\$	\$	\$	\$	*	\$		\$	8		\$	\$	\$
CCTV/Cleaning	CMOM, inflow/infiltration, system maintenance/repairs	Conveyance	1	O&M	Annual (08M)	YES	YES	\$ 4,000,000	\$ 202,778			\$ 202,778	\$ 202.778	\$ 202.778	8 203.333	\$ 202,778	\$ 202,778	\$ 202,778	\$ 203,333	\$ 202,778	\$ 202,778	\$ 202,778	\$ 203,333	\$ 202,778 \$	\$ 202,778	\$ 202,778	\$ 203.333	\$ 144,444
Engineering/Flow Metering	CMOM, inflow/infiltration, system maintenance/repairs	Conveyance	1	OAM	Annual (0&M)	YES	YES	\$ 8,000,000	\$ 405,556	\$ 405,556		\$ 405,556	\$ 405,556	\$ 405,556	\$ 406,667	\$ 405,556		\$ 405,556	\$ 406.667	\$ 405,556	\$ 405,556	\$ 405,556	\$ 406.667	\$ 405,556 \$	\$ 405,566	\$ 405,556	\$ 406.667	\$ 285,889
GI5/Mapping	CMOM, inflow/infiltration, system maintenance/repairs	Conveyance		O&M	Annual (O&M)	YES	YES	\$ 591,000	\$ 29,960	\$ 29,960		\$ 29,960	\$ 29.960		\$ 30,043	\$ 29,960				\$ 29,960	100 CONTRACTOR	\$ 29,960	\$ 30,043		\$ 29,960		\$ 30.043	\$ 21.342
Aeration: Gate Replacements	Incoerable	WRF		O8M	Cash &/or Debt	No	No	\$ 300,000	\$ 219,722	\$ 80,278		\$	4	\$	4	\$	\$	¢	\$	¢	5	e .	\$	e	6	\$	\$	\$
Aeration: Motor Repair / Replacement	Inoperable	WRF		O&M	Cash &/or Debt	No	No	\$ 107,620	\$ 78.822	\$ 28,798		\$	4	\$	8	\$	*	e	\$		\$		\$	8		*	\$	
Biological Reactor Basin: Valve / Gate Replacements	Inoperable	WRF		O&M	Cash &/or Debt	No	No	\$ 293,020	\$ 214.610	\$ 78,410		\$		\$		¢ .		¢			*			e	2 63	*	¢	
	For areawide growth and for operational service by FY 2032 (7-8 years)	WRF	-	Growth	Primary Debt	No	YES	\$ 52,000,000	e 214,010	\$ 2.965.625		\$ 6,998,403	\$ 13,788,889	£ 17 700 000	8 TT 484 444	e	¢	e					•	e		e 3		
Coneross Creek WPF Upgrade Phase 2 (Upgrade to 13.0 mgd)	For areawide growth and for operational service by FY 2032 (76 years)	WRF		Growth	Primary Debt	No	YES	\$ 52,000,000	e	¢ 2,000,020	\$ 2,070,700	¢ 0,350,405	¢ 13,785,685	¢ 10,700,000	¢ 11,404,444	e .	*	e		e i	e		\$ 2.973 750	\$ 2,965,625 \$	6 998 403	¢ 17 700 000	\$ 13 826 667	\$ 11,446.667
	Necessary due to frequent flooding and shutting down treatment plant	WRF		O&M	Cash &/or Debt	No	No	\$ 154,700	e	\$ 90.779	\$ 63.921	а к	e	¢			*	e .	e	2	4		\$ 2,373,730	e 2,000,020 a	s 0,000,400	\$ 13,769,665	¢ 10,020,007	\$ 11,440,007
Concross Influent PS Replace Soft Starts	Beyond useful life - to be funded during WRF Upgrade Phase 1 (\$104,650)	WRF	N/A	O&M	Annual (0&M)	No	No	s 154,700	0	\$ 30,775	\$ 65,321	8 8	0	e	0	*	0 #			0				0 0		0 0		
Digesters / Sludge Holding Tanks: Blower Room Repairs	Beyond useful life - to be funded during WRF Upgrade Phase 1 (\$14,950)	WBF	N/A	OSM	Annual (O&M)	No	No	1 O I			6				2 O I					5 G	2	S 8			2 83			
Digesters / Studge Holding Tanks: Mixer Replacement for #1	Incerable	WBF	in the second se	O&M	Cash &/or Debt	No	No	\$ 273,000	\$ 199.947	¢ 79.069					2 O		2		2			2 G I			1.100			2 3
Digesters / Studge Holding Tanks: Poler Reparcement of VI	Inoperable	WRF	÷.	O&M	Cash &/or Debt	NU AL-	No	s 149,500	¢ 100,047	\$ 73,000	2 S	\$ 109,495	\$ 40.005		2 O I		2 0		2	2 S I		: SI				2		2
Digesters / Studge Holding Tanks: Replace Blowers	Beyond useful life	WRF	- C	OaM	Cash &/or Debt	No	NO	\$ 560,300	\$ 410,369	\$ 149,932	2	a 109,495	¢ 40,005		P		¢ -			2	° .	2 O I	· ·	° ° °		° ·	2	
Electrical: Backup Power - Portable Generator Connection (inc. Engineering)		WRF		Growth/O&M	Cash &/or Debt	No	NO	S 212,875	\$ 155,911	\$ 149,932		° ·		3			a -		a .		° .					ф		
	Necessary to allow treatment plant to be powered by rented generator	WRF	1 B	08M		No	NO	\$ 232,473				° 1	P	3 .	e	3 -	8 ÷	*	2		a -			p - 3		P -	*	
Flow Equalization & Storage: Day Tank Mixing and Control Equipment Primary Clarifiers: Alkalinity Control	Inoperable Compliance issues and concernsWILL BE NEEDED ASAP IF BASE CHANGES PROCESS-	WRF		O&M O&M	Cash &/or Debt Cash &/or Debt	reo his	YES	5 232,4/3 5 694,850	\$ 170,265	\$ 62,208	-	\$ 506,923			2 3	2	2 -	2	2	2	° ·			2 2 3		a -	2	a -
		WRF	1	O6M O6M		No	TES	5 694,850	3	5 -	\$.	\$ 508,923	\$ 165,937	3	5 -	3 -	5 -	3 · · ·	3 -	\$ -	3 -	5 -	3	5 - 5		3 -	3	s
	Beyond useful life - to be funded during WRF Upgrade Phase 1 (\$30,000)	WRF	N/A	O6M O8M	Annual (O&M) Cash &/or Debt	140	No	5 86,710		0	ê 49.000		2				2	*	2		° ·			a - 5	1 68	ð -		2
Primary Clarifiers: Rehabilitate Distribution Box	Approaching end of useful life		2			NO	No		*	\$ 63,507							ð -		5					a - 5		2		
Primary Clarifiers: Soum Pump #2 Replacement	Beyond useful life	WRF	1	MAO	Cash &/or Debt	No	No	5 40,000	\$ 29,296	\$ 10,704		· ·	3 S I				9 -				· ·	1 3	1	5	1.1	ð -		
Secondary Clariflers: Rebuild / Replace Mechanical Equipment	Possibly inoperable-need to repair valve first	WRF	1000	MãO	Cash &/or Debt	No	No	\$ 375,800	\$ 275,239	\$ 100,561		3 -	ş -	3 -		5 -	5 -	3	3	š - 1	3 -	× •	3 -	\$ 5		\$ -	5 -	5
Secondary Clarifiers: Replace RAS Valves and Check Valves	Beyond useful life	WRF	N/A	06M	Cash &/or Debt	No	No	\$ 70,000	\$ 51,269	\$ 18,731	\$	5	\$	5 -	\$	5	2 -	\$	5 -	5	5 -	8	5 -	s - s	5	\$ -	5	5 -
Septage Receiving Station: Rehabilitation	Inoperable	WBF	3	MBO	Cash &/or Debt	No	No	\$ 85,000	\$ 85,000	5 -	5 -	5 -	5	5	5 -	\$.	\$ +	\$	5 -	5	5 -	5 +	5 -	5 - 5	*	\$ +	\$	\$ -
(BD)	Placeholder if needed Placeholder if needed	TBD (If needed)	N/A	TBD (If needed)	N/A	No	No	5	\$	\$ -	\$	5 -	\$	5	5 -	\$ -	\$ -	\$.	5 -	s i	5 -	5	5 -	\$ - \$	5	\$ -	\$.	\$ -
			N/A		N/A																							



Does not include costs for cities/county to rehab or replace existing system due to age or extend pipes and pumps for growth

Growth

200,000 600 180,000 176,644 497 170,103 500 160,000 160,590 Gallons Per Day Permitted 140,000 140,049 Residential Permits Issued Permits Issued 400 (subdivisions are based on lots permitted, not individual 120,000 permits) 308 Nonresidential 100,000 300 99,5**75** (Commercial/Multi-.... Family/Industrial/Institutional of 225 Permits) Issued Number 80,000 Total GPD Permitted 69,728 200 173 60,000 55,510 52,049 ••• > Linear (Total GPD Permitted) 40,000 91 78 100 76 64 54 Starting CY 2021: Many 20,000 36 34 33 28 22 16 12 11 8 of these are for homes 0 0 in subdivisions that CY 2016 CY 2017 CY 2018 CY 2019 CY 2020 CY 2021 CY 2022 CY 2023 CY 2024

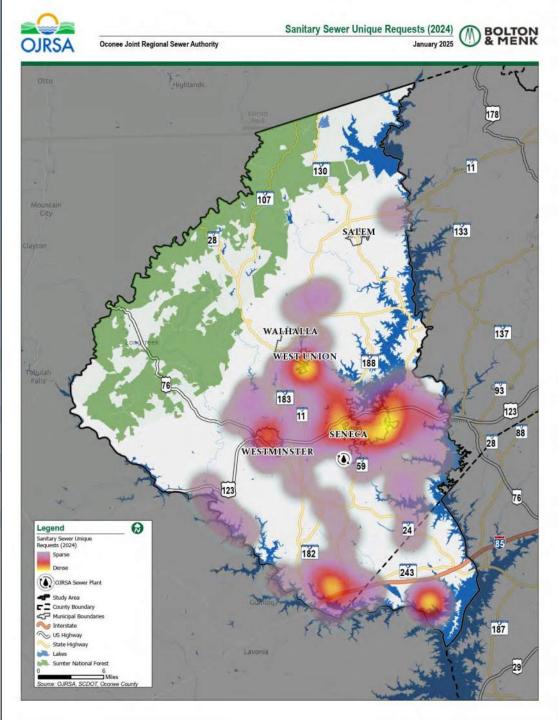
Flow Permitted and Types of Permits Issued by Year

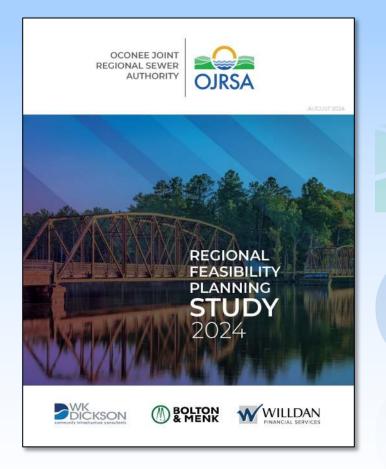
have not been built yet

Growth

REQUESTS FOR SEWER AVAILABILITY TO SPECIFIC PARCELS DURING 2024...

- 127 inquiries answered by OJRSA Executive Director (some may be to the same parcel)
- Inquiries covered 4,134 total acres
- Requests per general area of sewer provider
 - Seneca 50
 - Walhalla 26
 - Westminster 15
 - Fair Play / I-85 Corridor 15
 - Not In Defined Service Area or Unknown 11 (e.g., Tokeena Crossroads, Salem, etc.)
 - Anderson County 9
 - West Union 1





Completed July 2024. This project consisted of the development of a comprehensive feasibility study to determine if regionalizing sewer collection, conveyance, and treatment in Oconee County, South Carolina and a portion of Anderson County* will streamline service delivery and enhance the success of the community and its quality of life.

* Area west of Seneca River portion of Lake Hartwell to Exit 4/Oconee County line

EVALUATED

- Governance structures
- Revenues and finances
- Environmental compliance
- Utility resources
- Efficiency in operations

SYSTEM OWNER

OJRSA

KEY STAKEHOLDERS

- City of Seneca
- City of Walhalla
- City of Westminster
- Oconee County
- Town of West Union



RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Complete Revision to the Current OJRSA Agreement

includes 8 sub-recommendations

Two Governance Options

-or-

2. Consolidation with an Interested Multi-County Utility Organization

-and-

Consider Consolidation of Systems



RECOMMENDATIONS

OIRSA

This feasibility study has discussed many of the elements that are the apparent causes of the problems and issues involving the provision and/or governance of sever in Oconee County. Some are not necessarily unique to the county but many of the specific circumstances are. The historical (and current) divisions between stakeholders, the roadblocks put in place by the current agreements, and the blurred lines of responsibility among all stakeholders has resulted in the lack of significant investment in sever, both within the regional and individual systems. Rate concerns and the small sever customer bases have only exacerbated this.

All Oconee County sewer stakeholders are now at a point that inaction is not an option. Failure to work collaboratively to resolve the issues that surround sewer will ultimately result in negative impacts to the things that all county citizens prioritize – quality of life and protection of the abundant natural resources. Sewer systems that are effectively operated and maintained when combined with effectively managed growth not only protect natural resources but also provide for economic prosperity for citizens. This is ultimately what is at stake lif stakeholders fail to act now.

It is important to note that while significant work was done through this initial feasibility study, it is just the beginning and additional work will be necessary to fully yet how these recommendations can be successfully implemented.

Through this process, there may be other options identified and/or necessary, especially when the court issues its ruling on the current lawsuit over the county's 252 million bond issuance⁶⁰. However, the recommendations presented are those that were determined to be the most feasible and have the best chance of securing the required consensus of the stakeholders. The sewer treatment/trunk line recommendations, while presented as primary and secondary, need to be discussed and vetted in parallel in order to truly determine the best and most expeditious path forward. The stakeholders cannot afford to delay necessary changes as investment in sewer must occur now, and in the future, without significant reliance on grant funding.

¹⁶The initial ruling form the Oconee County Court of Common Pleas points to the need for the county to create a special tax district in order to use tax revenues to fund infrastructure only serving a portion of the county.

Primary: Complete Revision to the Current OJRSA Agreement

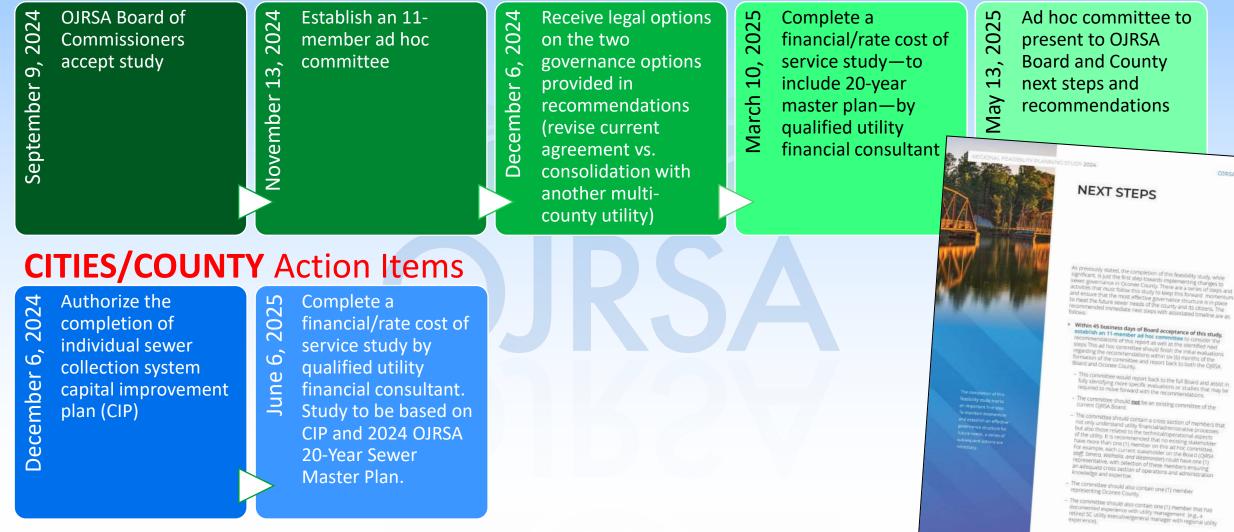
- Modify the OJRSA Board composition Five members to include one representative from Oconee County, Seneca, Walhalla, Westminster. The final one is TBD.
- 2. Establish Board member vote allocation/weighing policy
- 3. Establish debt approval policies, as allowed by the governing state statute.
- 4. Establish triggering action(s) and process for adding new members.

Continued next slide

- 5. Establish processes and procedures that would allow OJRSA to own, operate, and maintain retail sewer collection assets or assets from other sewer entities in the county, if desired by stakeholders.
- 6. Establish equitable rate structure(s).
- 7. Establish how growth will be funded.
- 8. Establish the term of the new agreement.

Regional Sewer Feasibility Implementation

OJRSA Action Items



Regional Sewer Feasibility Implementation *Key Satellite Sewer System Stakeholder Action Items*

Harry M. Lightsey III Chairman Bonnie Ammons Executive Director

South Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority

September 30, 2024

via email

Mr. Chris Eleazer Executive Director Oconee Joint Regional Sewer Authority 623 Return Church Road Seneca, South Carolina 29678

Re: Grant #RG-23-5006 – Reorganizational Models for Oconee Joint Regional Sewer Authority– Grant Monitoring

Dear Mr. Eleazer,

In September 2024, a desk monitoring was conducted to review the activities carried out by the Oconee Joint Regional Sewer Authority under the above-referenced SC Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) grant.

The purpose of this review was to determine if activities are being implemented in accordance with the Grant Agreement and RIA's Project Management Procedures and to provide technical assistance as necessary.

- Staff person conducting the review: Sophia Mazza
- 2. Areas reviewed:

Program Progress, Program Accomplishments, Procurement and Project Management, Financial Management, Project Management and Record Keeping

Attached is a report of the results of this review. Should you require further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at (803)760-9907 or smazza@ria.sc.gov.

Sincerely,

Sordhia Mazza Sophia Mazza

Sophia Mazza Grant Manager

5. PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The project prepared a Regional Feasibility Planning Study that evaluated the existing conditions of the collective sewer operations in Oconee County, specifically the key stakeholders' technical, operational, financial, and environmental compliance. This evaluation informed recommendations around sewer governance structures for Oconee County to promote viability now and in the future. The project benefitted the 9,032 customers of the OJRSA and participating sewer systems. The participating sewer systems include Oconee County, City of Seneca, City of Walhalla, City of Westminster, and Town of West Union.

The draft study was submitted to RIA for review in August 2024. Upon review, the study was determined to be consistent with the approved scope of the grant and the professional services contract. The Authority was notified of this in August 2024.

The final study recommended a complete revision to the existing organizational agreement for Oconee Joint Regional Sewer Authority and offered consolidation as a secondary recommendation should the former be ineffective or unfeasible. It also encouraged continued conversations and studies surrounding this issue to vet the implementation of these recommendations. The efforts to act on the recommendations and reorganizational efforts outlined in this plan may be a consideration in evaluations of future funding requests for Oconee Joint Regional Sewer Authority and the participating systems.

1201 Main Street, Suite 1600, Columbia, SC 29201 | P: 803-737-0390 | F: 803-737-0894

OJRSA Requests for Satellite Systems

PARTICIPATE IN

- Regional Sewer Feasibility Implementation program as requested by RIA
- Corrective Action Plan as requested by OJRSA as part of agency's Consent Order requiring enforcement of OJRSA Sewer Use Regulation

CONTINUE WITH

- Seeking inflow and infiltration (I&I) sources and take appropriate corrective actions
- Budgeting for future repairs and growth
- Gathering GPS/GIS information for mapping, hydraulic model, and asset management purposes More information to be sent to cities soon
- Assisting OJRSA with enforcement regulation
- Seeking ways to eliminate hydrogen sulfide (H₂S) gas from being discharged to OJRSA system – OJRSA and SCDES has received numerous complaints
- Refraining from pushing debris into OJRSA lines when cleaning pipes. Remove it using baskets, vac truck, or other such methods.

COMPLETING

- Capital Improvement Plan (per Feasibility Study and Corrective Action Plan)
- Biannual reviews requested by OJRSA to submit to SCDES per OJRSA Consent Order (due to OJRSA each April 30 and October 31 until Consent Order closed)
- Financial/rate cost of service study requested in Feasibility Study



Grease build up on an OJRSA line that was "jetted" from a Member City line into the trunk sewer

Schedule a Tour!



The Coneross Creek Water Reclamation Facility provides an essential service that powers our community's economic engines and improves our quality of life!

Contact us chris.eleazer@ojrsa.org kyle.lindsay@ojrsa.org 864-972-3900

Questions, Comments, and Closing



OJRSA Board Chair

Chris Eleazer Executive Director