



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
- Seat 6 (Walhalla): Laramie Hinkle
- Seat 7 (Westminster): Scott Parris
- Seat 9 (Walhalla-Westminster At-Large): David Dial

Commissioners that were not present:

- Seat 8 (Westminster): Kevin Bronson, Board Chair
- Seat 4 (Seneca At-Large): Marty McKee

OJRSA appointments and staff present were:

- Lynn Stephens, Secretary/Treasurer to the Board and Office Manager
- Chris Eleazer, Executive Director

Others present were:

- Andrea Kelley, The Journal
- 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
- 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*):

1. **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.

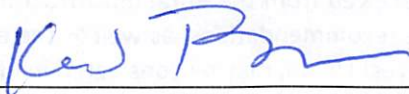
- ❖ Mr. Durham asked if the OJRSA received capacity back from the industries. Mr. Eleazer replied that the OJRSA requested it back from all the industries, but all of them realized if they ever needed to buy the capacity back, they would have to buy it back at the current rate. Back in 2022, the OJRSA 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 M. Stephens, 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, www.ojrso.org, 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 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** – 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**



Annual Members' Meeting Sign-in Sheet

Date: 1/6/25 Time: 5:00 Location: Westminster Depot

| NAME (Print) | POSITION/TITLE | ORGANIZATION |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Robert Royer | AGD | AGD |
| Kenneth Marshall | AGD | AGD |
| Amanda Brode | Administrator | Oconee Co. |
| Swat Paris | Utilities Dir | City of Westminster |
| Brian Ramey | Mayor | WESTMINSTER |
| Jimmy Powell | City Council | Westminster |
| Tommy James | D/Council Elect | WESTMINSTER |
| Matthew Durham | County Council | County |
| Glen Hart | County Council | County |
| Grant Klock | City Council (Wal.) | Walhalla |
| Riley Morrison | Couns. Manager | Blue Ridge Electric |
| Shanea Kelley | Reporter | The Journal |
| <i>[Signature]</i> | UTILITIES DIR. | WALHALLA |
| Jim Hall | Mayor | WALHALLA |
| Larry Brandt (did not sign in) | OJRSA Attorney | |
| Daby Snipes (did not sign in) | City Council | Westminster |
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Annual Members' Meeting

January 6, 2025

Chris Eleazer, Executive Director



OJRSA Board of Commissioners

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

Seat 1 Seneca *Bob Faires*

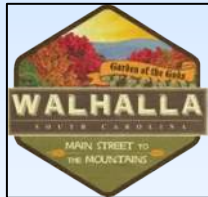


Seat 2 Seneca *Scott Moulder*

Seat 3 Seneca *Scott McLane*

Seat 4 Seneca (at large) *Marty McKee*

Seat 5 Walhalla *Celia Myers*

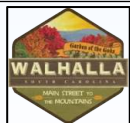


Seat 6 Walhalla *Laramie Hinkle*[^]

Seat 7 Westminster *Scott Parris*[^]



Seat 8 Westminster *Kevin Bronson*



Seat 9 Walhalla/Westminster (at large) *David Dial*

[^] Newly appointed since last Annual Members' Meeting

Sewer South Phase II

**COMPLETE!
SCDES PERMIT TO
OPERATE ISSUED IN
DECEMBER.**

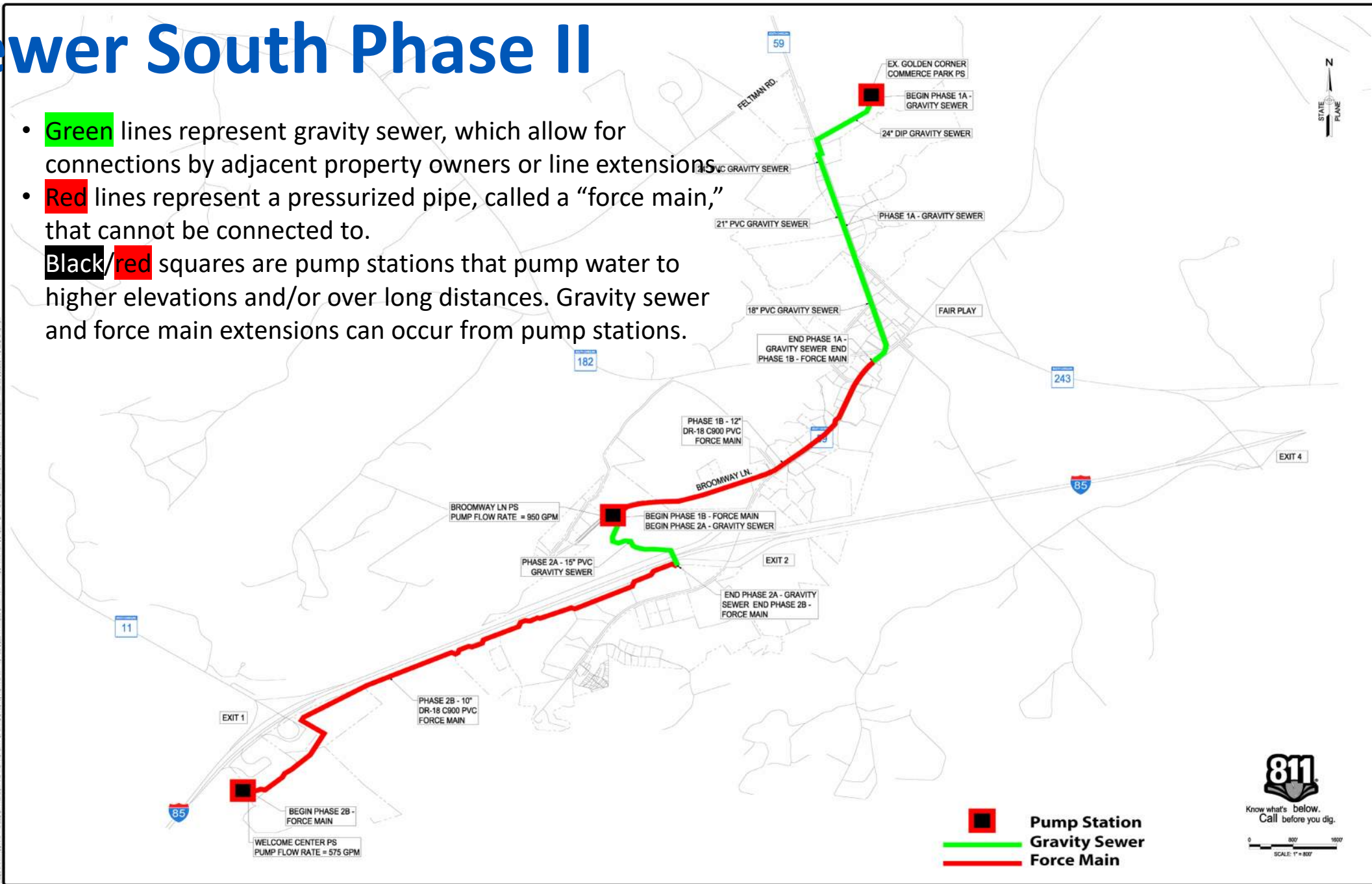
NOW NEED FLOW! OJRSA will begin contacting potential customers later this week with instructions for connecting.

Need at least 314,000 gallons per day in the areas of I-85 exits 1 and 2 and additional 591,000 gpd at GCCP Pump Station 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, oxidation-reduction potential, etc.).

Sewer South Phase II

- **Green** lines represent gravity sewer, which allow for connections by adjacent property owners or line extensions.
- **Red** lines represent a pressurized pipe, called a “force main,” that cannot be connected to.
- **Black/red** squares are pump stations that pump water to higher elevations and/or over long distances. Gravity sewer and force main extensions can occur from pump stations.



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 GREENVILLE, SC 29615
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OCOOEE JOINT REGIONAL SEWER
 AUTHORITY
 FAIR PLAY, SOUTH CAROLINA
 CURSA 185 CORRIDOR SEWER
 EXPANSION

OVERALL SEWER SYSTEM MAP

| NO. | DATE | BY | DESCRIPTION |
|-----|-----------|-----|-------------|
| 1 | JUNE 2023 | MAP | ISSUED |
| 2 | | MAP | |
| 3 | | MAP | |
| 4 | | MAP | |
| 5 | | MAP | |
| 6 | | MAP | |
| 7 | | MAP | |
| 8 | | MAP | |
| 9 | | MAP | |
| 10 | | MAP | |

EXHIBIT
 1 1





I-85 Phase II: Welcome Center Pump Station



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



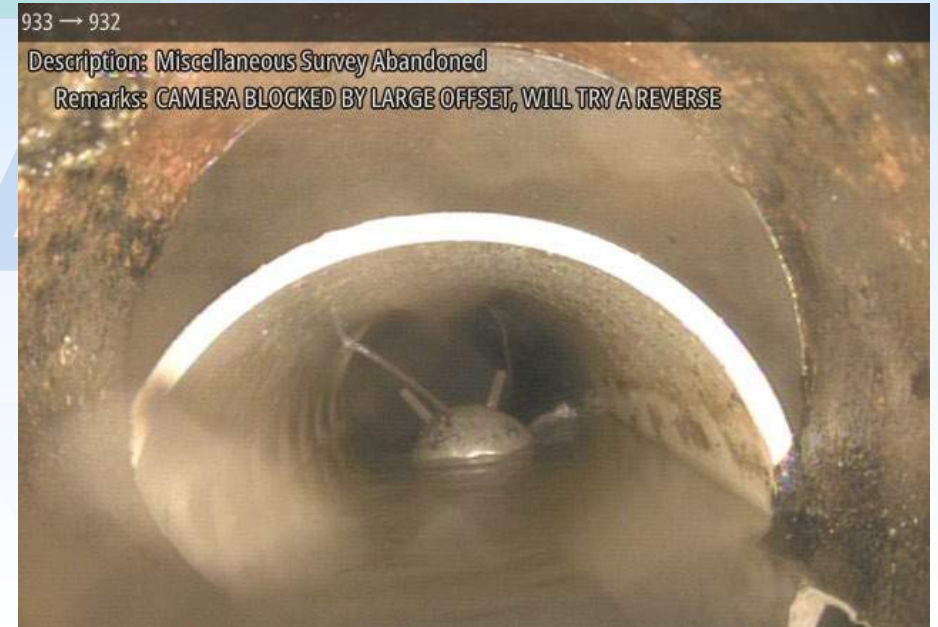
I-85 Sewer Phase II: Installing force main in right-of-way



I-85 Sewer Phase II: Broomway Lane Pump Station



Began fats, oils, and grease inspections



09 • Aug • 2024 CCTV footage showing offset pipe beneath US 123

110.3 ft



Flooding during Hurricane Helene – September 27



After Helene's floodwaters receded – September 28



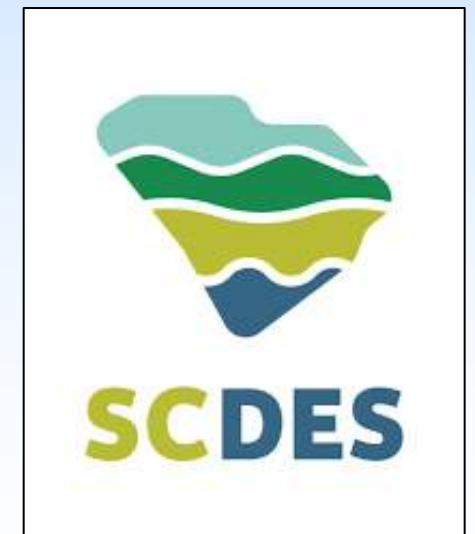
Point repair on broken line



Public meeting for creation of 20-year sewer master plan



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



South Carolina Department of Environmental Services replaces SCDHEC

OJRSA Compliance

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



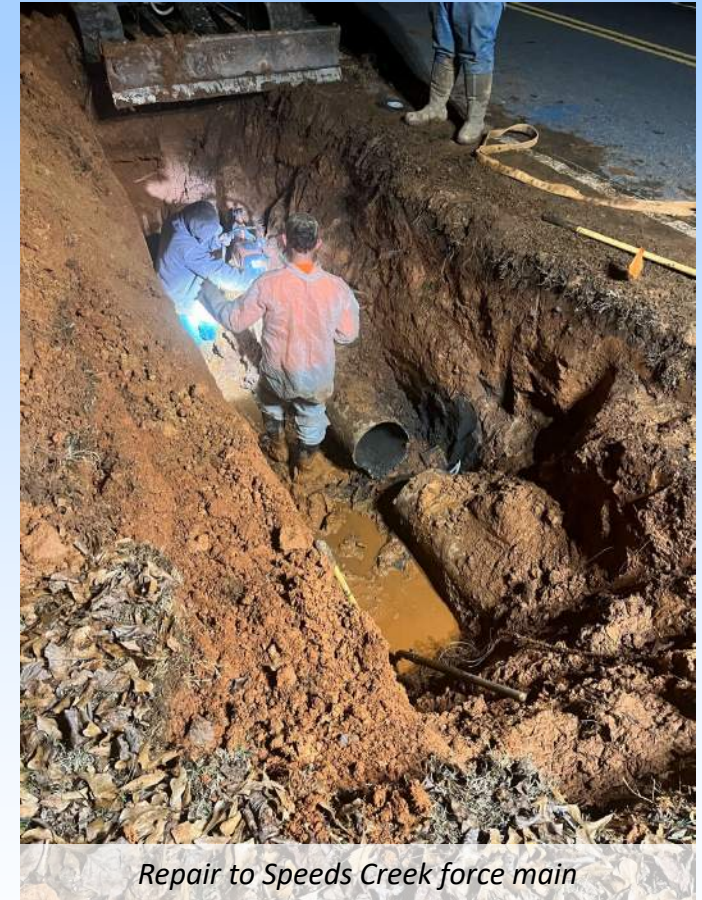
OJRSA Compliance

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)



Repair to Speeds Creek force main

OJRSA Compliance

OJRSA CONERROSS 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

OJRSA Compliance

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.
Comment from SCDHEC inspection report, April 2024

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

OJRSA Compliance

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)

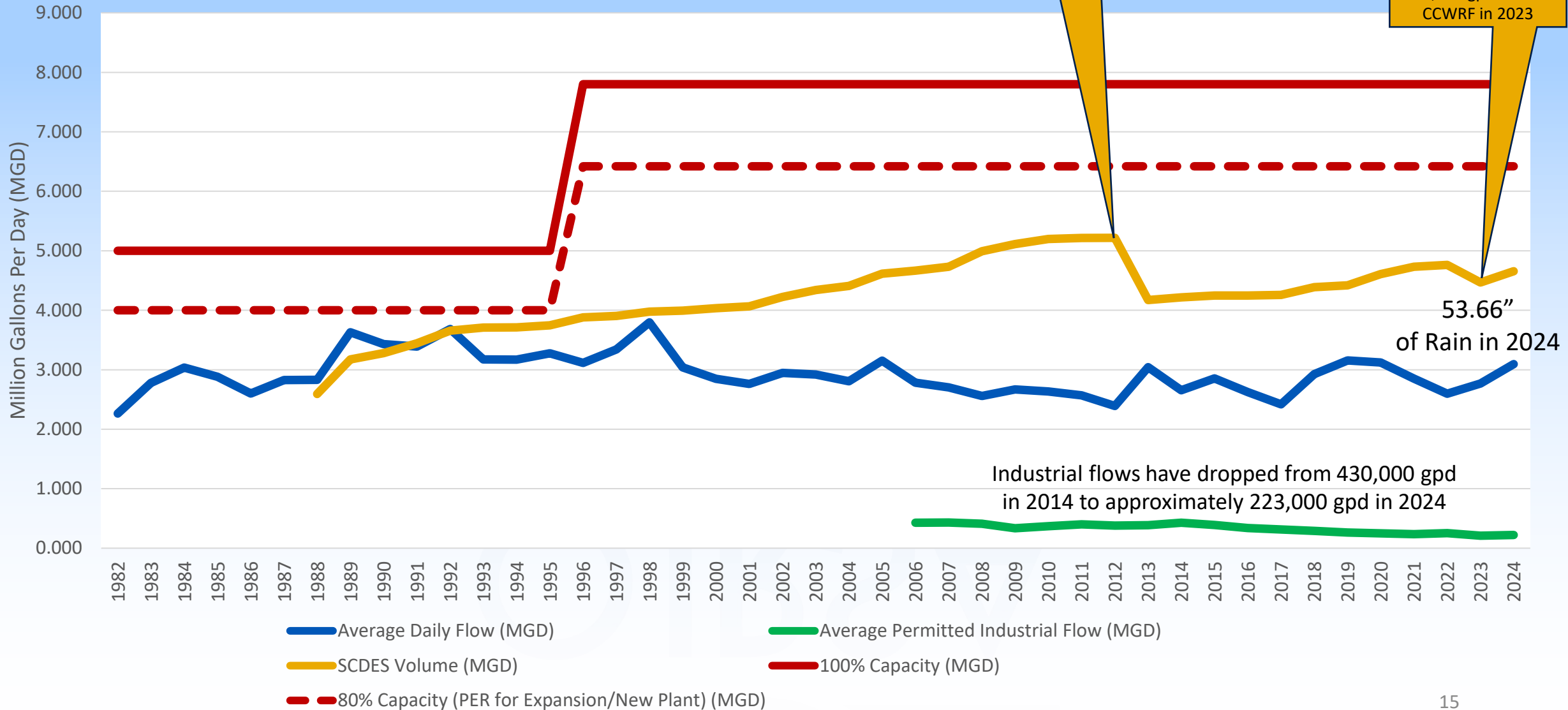
SCDES Enforcement Update

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 SCIP 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).***

Flows



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. Recommendations and 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 NONRESIDENTIAL

F&A Worksheet: November 21, 2022

| | |
|---|------------|
| Average TOTAL sewer gallons billed by cities FY 2022 | 56,457,682 |
| RESIDENTIAL sewer gallons billed by cities FY 2022 | 30,446,358 |
| Nonresidential sewer gallons billed by cities FY 2022 | 26,011,324 |

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| OJRSA Revenue/Year from Cities | \$5,077,763 |
| Includes Contingency % of | 0.00% |
| Months/Year | 12 |
| Revenue Needed/Month | \$423,147 |
| % Collected from Residential | 53.93% |
| % Collected from Nonresidential (w master) | 46.07% |

| | | |
|---|-------|--------|
| DATA COLLECTED FROM CITIES WEEK OF JUNE 20, 2022 | | |
| # Residential Customers | 7,938 | |
| # Commercial Customers | 888 | 81.17% |
| # Industrial Customers | 31 | 2.83% |
| # Institutional Customers | 175 | 16.00% |
| TOTAL NON-RES CUST | 1,094 | |
| TOTAL CUST | 9,032 | |

Residential User Rates

| | | |
|--|------------------------------|--|
| Residential Volume/Month | 30,446,358 gallons | = RESIDENTIAL sewer gallons billed by cities |
| Res 1,000 GAL/MONTH | 30,446 x 1,000 gallons | = Residential Volume/Month / 1,000 gallons |
| Revenue Needed/Month for Residential | \$228,193.61 | = Revenue/Month x % Collected from Residential |
| Base Residential Rate/Month | \$10.00 /month | = As set by OJRSA |
| Residential Total Fees Collected from Base Rate | \$79,380.00 | = Base Residential Rate/Month x # Residential Customers |
| Residential Volumetric Cost/1,000 GAL | \$4.89 /1,000 gallons | = (Revenue Needed/Month for Residential - Residential Total Fees Collected from Base Rate) / Res 1,000 GAL/MONTH |
| Amount Revenue Generated from Residential Volumetric | \$148,882.69 | = Res 1,000 GAL/MONTH x Residential Volumetric Cost/1,000 GAL |

Nonresidential User Rates

| | | |
|---|------------------------------|--|
| Nonresidential Volume/Month | 26,011,324 gallons | = Nonresidential sewer gallons billed by cities |
| Non-Res 1,000 GAL/MONTH | 26,011 x 1,000 gallons | = Nonresidential Volume/Month / 1,000 gallons |
| Revenue Needed/Month for Nonresidential | \$194,953.30 | = Revenue/Month x % Collected from Nonresidential |
| Base Nonresidential Rate/Month | \$15.00 /month | = As set by OJRSA |
| Nonresidential Total Fees Collected from Base Rate | \$16,410.00 | = Base Nonresidential Rate/Month x TOTAL NON-RES CUST |
| Nonresidential Volumetric Cost/1,000 GAL | \$6.87 /1,000 gallons | = (Revenue Needed/Month for Nonresidential - Nonresidential Total Fees Collected from Base Rate) / Non-Res 1,000 GAL/MONTH |
| Amount Revenue Generated from Nonresidential Volumetric | \$178,697.80 | = Non-Res 1,000 GAL/MONTH x Nonresidential Volumetric Cost/1,000 GAL |

TEST

| | | |
|---|------------------|---|
| Revenue Needed/Month | \$423,147 | = Revenue/Month |
| TOTAL RESIDENTIAL REVENUE RECEIVED/MONTH | \$228,263 | = Residential Total Fees Collected from Base Rate + (Res 1,000 GAL/MONTH x Residential Volumetric Cost/1,000 GAL) |
| TOTAL NONRESIDENTIAL REVENUE RECEIVED/MONTH | \$195,108 | = Nonresidential Total Fees Collected from Base Rate + (Non-Res 1,000 GAL/MONTH x Nonresidential Volumetric Cost/1,000 GAL) |
| TOTAL REVENUE/MONTH | \$423,370 | = TOTAL RESIDENTIAL REVENUE RECEIVED/MONTH + TOTAL NONRESIDENTIAL REVENUE RECEIVED/MONTH |
| TEST -- Balance Must Be ≤ \$0 | -\$223.58 | = Revenue Needed/Month - TOTAL REVENUE/MONTH |

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

| | Gallons of Wastewater Billed Per Month | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| | 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 |

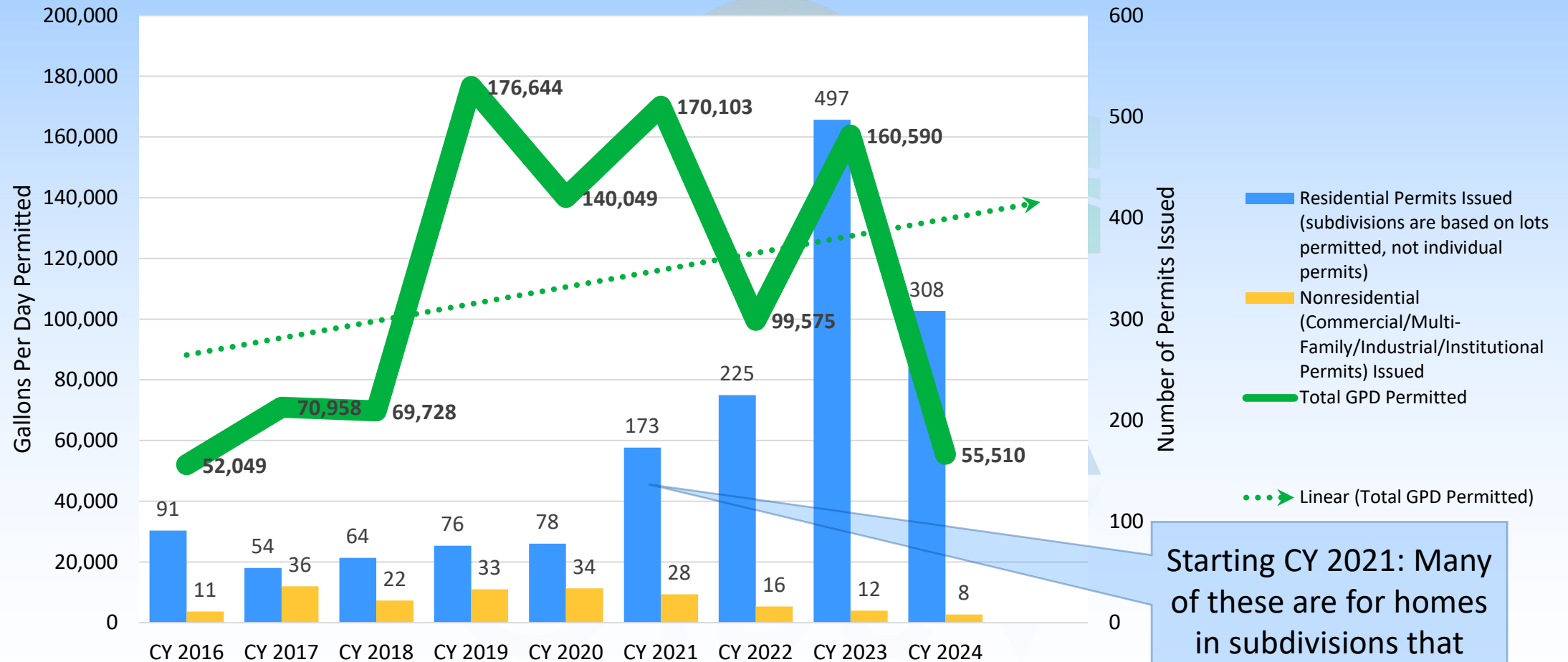
20-Year Sewer Master Plan

- 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)



Growth

Flow Permitted and Types of Permits Issued by Year

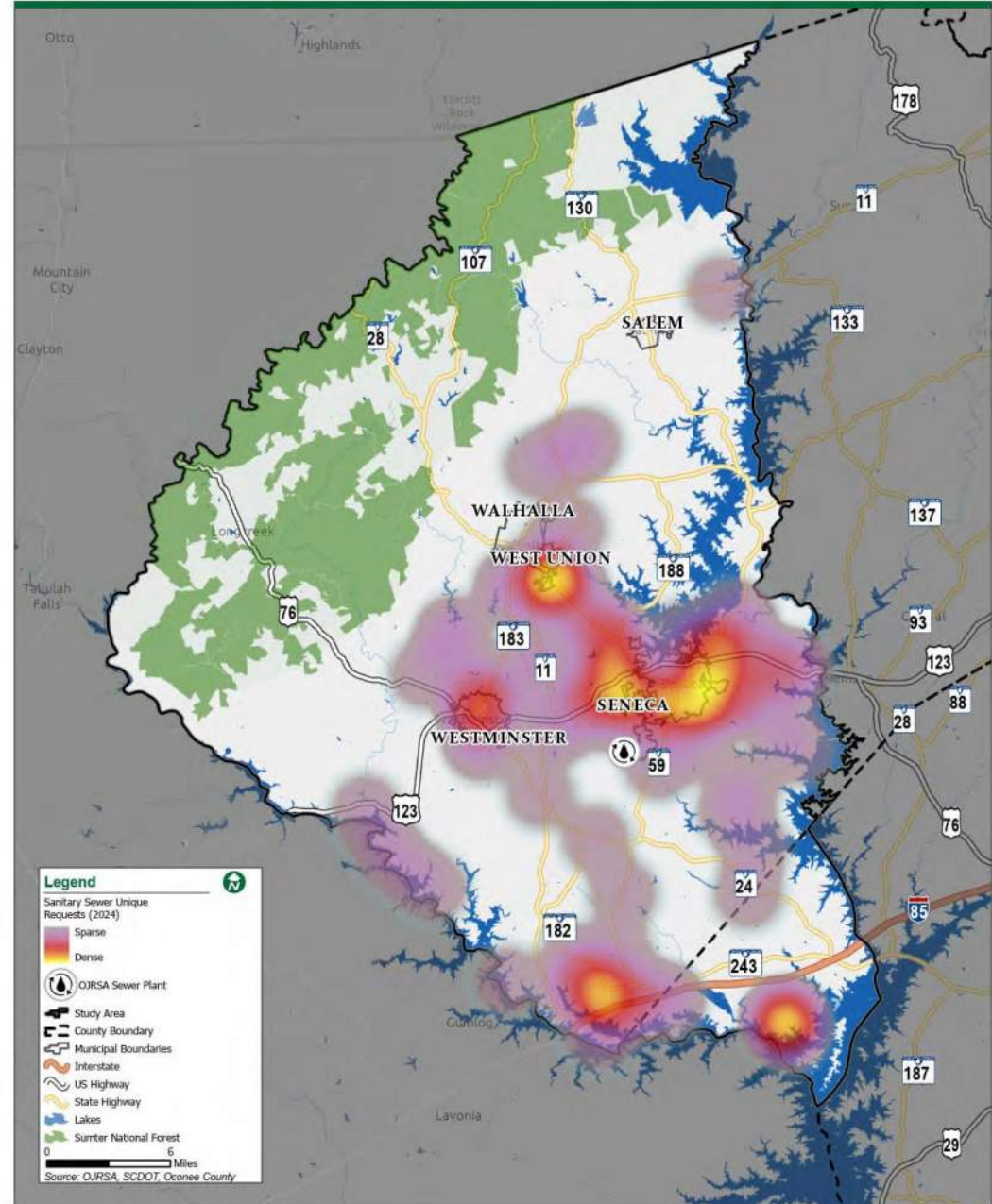


Starting CY 2021: Many of these are for homes in subdivisions that have not been built yet

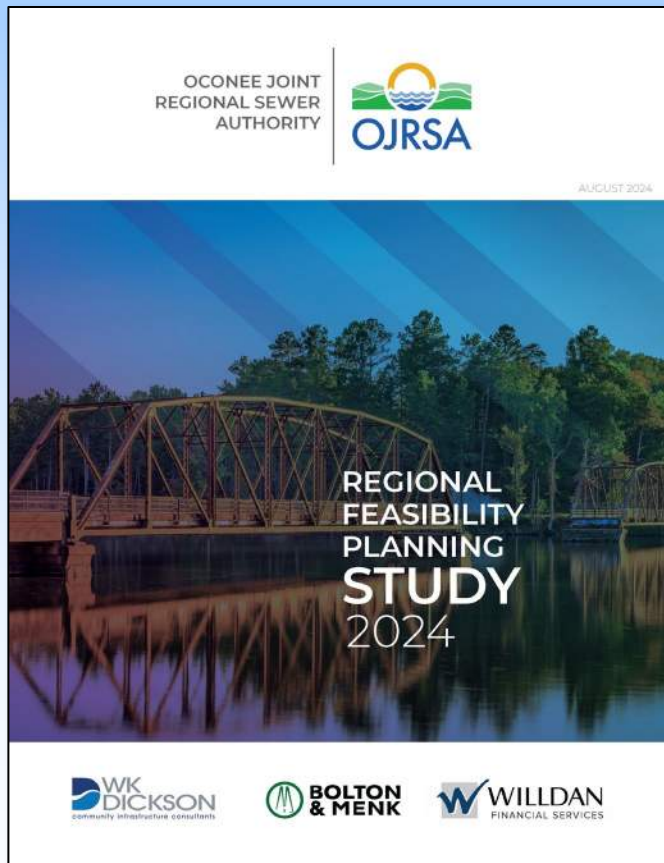
Growth

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



Regional Sewer Feasibility Study



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

Regional Sewer Feasibility Study

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



Regional Sewer Feasibility Study

RECOMMENDATIONS

Two Governance Options

1. Complete Revision to the Current OJRSA Agreement

includes 8 sub-recommendations

-or-

2. Consolidation with an Interested Multi-County Utility Organization

-and-

Consider Consolidation of Systems



Regional Sewer Feasibility Study

Primary: Complete Revision to the Current OJRSA Agreement

1. 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

Regional Sewer Feasibility Study

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

September 9, 2024

OJRSA Board of Commissioners accept study

November 13, 2024

Establish an 11-member ad hoc committee

December 6, 2024

Receive legal options on the two governance options provided in recommendations (revise current agreement vs. consolidation with another multi-county utility)

March 10, 2025

Complete a financial/rate cost of service study—to include 20-year master plan—by qualified utility financial consultant

May 13, 2025

Ad hoc committee to present to OJRSA Board and County next steps and recommendations

CITIES/COUNTY Action Items

December 6, 2024

Authorize the completion of individual sewer collection system capital improvement plan (CIP)

June 6, 2025

Complete a financial/rate cost of service study by qualified utility financial consultant. Study to be based on CIP and 2024 OJRSA 20-Year Sewer Master Plan.



Regional Sewer Feasibility Implementation

Key Satellite Sewer System Stakeholder Action Items

Harry M. Lightsey III
Chairman



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.

1. 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,

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.

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!

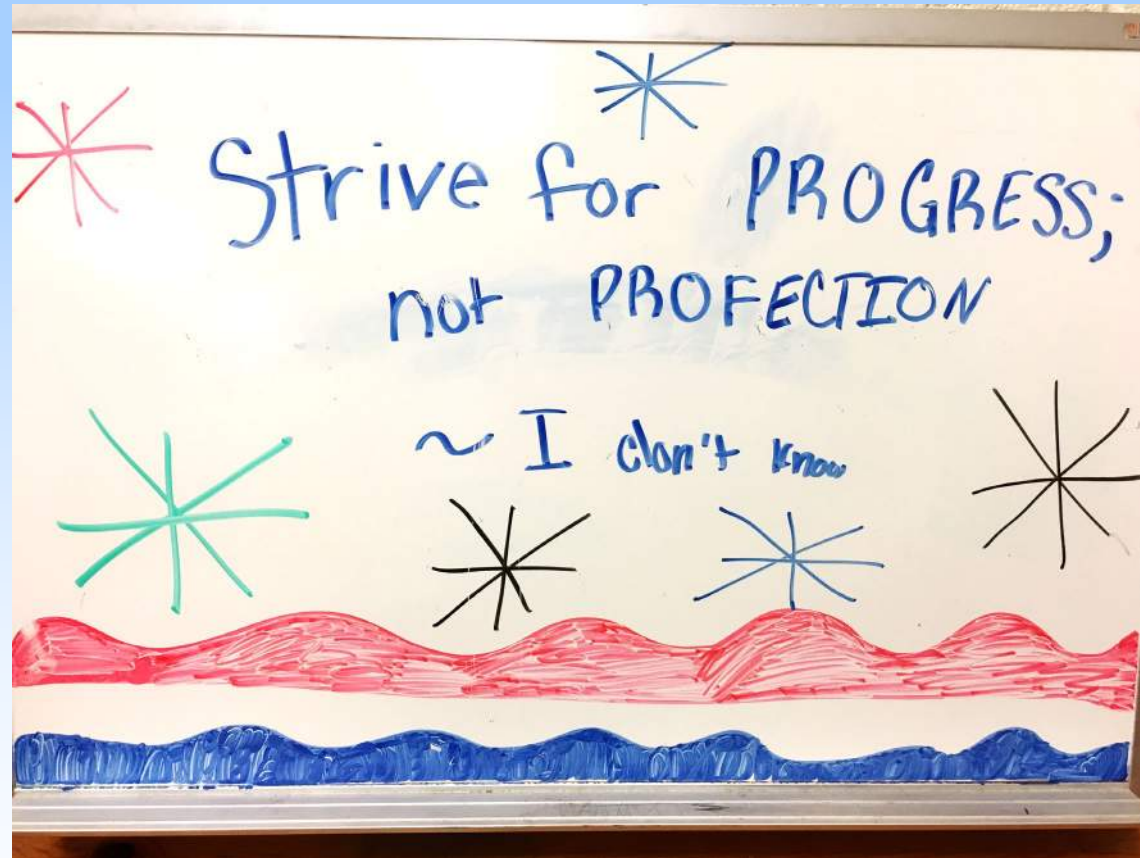
Contact us

chris.eleazer@ojrsa.org

kyle.lindsay@ojrsa.org

864-972-3900

Questions, Comments, and Closing



OJRSA Board Chair

Chris Eleazer
Executive Director