



Board of Commissioners Meeting
OJRSA Operations & Administration Building
Lamar Bailes Board Room
March 6, 2025 at 4:00 PM

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

Agenda

- A. Call to Order** – Kevin Bronson, Board Chair
- B. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance** – Led by Commissioner Scott Parris
- C. Public Session** – Receive comments relating to topics that may or may not be on this agenda. Session is limited to a maximum of 30 minutes with no more than 5 minutes per speaker.
- D. Approval of Minutes**
 - Board of Commissioners Meeting of February 3, 2025
- E. Committee and Other Meeting Reports**
 - Sewer Feasibility Implementation Meeting of January 9, 2025 – Lynn Stephens, Secretary/Treasurer
Minutes from the February 13, 2025 meeting to be considered at the April 7, 2025 board meeting
 - Operations & Planning Meeting of February 19, 2025 – Bob Faires, Committee Chair
 - Finance & Administration Meeting of February 25, 2025 – Celia Myers, Committee Chair
- F. Secretary/Treasurer's Report** (Exhibit A) – Lynn Stephens, Secretary/Treasurer
- G. Oconee County Government Update Regarding Matters Involving Wastewater** – Oconee County Administrator or Appointed County Representative
- H. Presentation and Discussion Items** *[May include vote and/or action on matters brought up for discussion]*
 - 1. Rate and cost of service study presentation – Daryll Parker, Willdan Financial Services
 - 2. Discuss rate and cost of service study – Led by Kevin Bronson, Board Chair
 - 3. Board of Commissioners to receive input from committees and establish organizational goals for 2025 (Exhibit B) – Led by Kevin Bronson, Board Chair
- I. Action Items**
 - 1. Consider an agency response to proposed South Carolina House Bill 3656 to amend South Carolina Code of Laws by adding Section 44-1-320 to prohibit the Department of Environmental Services from denying property owners the right to repair or replace a well or septic tank solely because of any other available water or sewer service, or both (Exhibit C) – Chris Eleazer, Director
 - 2. Consider making the following memorandums that were distributed to the Ad Hoc Sewer Feasibility Implementation Committee available to the public – Chris Eleazer, Director
 - a. "Summary of Reconstitution, including Acquisition of Sewer Collection Infrastructure" (February 2025; Pope Flynn, LLC); and
 - b. "Noted Issues and Recommendations Related to OJRSA Enforcement Authority" (March 2025; Maynard Nexsen, PC).
 - 3. Consider changing the date of Operations & Planning Committee meeting scheduled for March 21, 2025 due to a scheduling conflict – Chris Eleazer, Director
- J. Executive Director's Discussion and Compliance Matters** – Chris Eleazer, Director
 - 1. Environmental and regulatory compliance matters
 - 2. OJRSA Sewer Use Regulation
 - 3. Update to OJRSA Development Policy
 - 4. Miscellaneous *(if any)*

-
- K. Commissioners' Discussion** – Led by Kevin Bronson, Board 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.
- L. Executive Session** *NOTE: Board may act on matters discussed in executive session upon returning to open session*
- Receipt of Legal Advice – Agency responsibilities following sanitary sewer overflow [*Executive Session permissible under SC Law 30-4-70(a)(2), which states: Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements and proposed sale or purchase of property, the receipt of legal advice where the legal advice relates to a pending, threatened, or potential claim or other matters covered by the attorney-client privilege, settlement of legal claims, or the position of the public agency in other adversary situations involving the assertion against the agency of a claim.*]
- M. Upcoming Meetings** *All meetings to be held in the OJRSA Lamar Bailes Board Room unless noted otherwise.*
- Sewer Feasibility Implementation Ad Hoc Committee – March 13, 2025 at 9:00 AM
 - Operations & Planning Committee – TBD
 - Finance & Administration Committee – March 25, 2025 at 9:00 AM
 - Board of Commissioners – April 7, 2025 at 4:00 PM
- N. Adjourn**



Secretary/Treasurer's Report for Board of Commissioners

Prepared for the March 6, 2025 OJRSA Board of Commissioners Meeting

Cash and investment information stated herein come from bank and other financial records as of: February 28, 2025

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS CASH AND INVESTMENTS SUMMARY

Account/Fund Name	Cash (\$)	Investments (\$)	Total (\$)
Wholesale Operations & Maintenance (O&M)	600,538	2,695,000	3,295,538
Retail Operations & Maintenance (RO&M)	2,463,526	245,000	2,708,526
TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	3,064,064	2,940,000	6,004,064

RESTRICTED FUNDS CASH AND INVESTMENTS SUMMARY

Account/Fund Name	Cash (\$)	Investments (\$)	Total (\$)
Projects and Contingency (PCF)	815,917	0	815,917
Wholesale Impact Fund (WIF)	417,402	4,837,000	5,254,402
Retail Impact Fund (RIF)	3,400	0	3,400
TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS	1,236,719	4,837,000	6,073,719

Combined Total for All Funds

Cash 4,300,783 Investments 7,777,000 Combined 12,077,783

Account Notes:

DAYS CASH ON HAND

Financial & Accounting Policy Section 2.10(H) states the minimum balances established for OJRSA Wholesale O&M and Retail O&M funds are 120 Days Operating Cash on Hand.

$$\text{Formula for Cash on Hand} = \frac{\text{Cash} + \text{Cash Equivalents}}{(\text{Annual Operating Expense} - \text{Depreciation}) \div 365 \text{Days}}$$

	Cash on Hand (Days)	Annual Operating Expense minus Depreciation (\$)	Budget Amended During Fiscal Year?
O&M Fund	180.7	6,657,488	X NO YES
RO&M Fund	73.8	13,390,177	X NO YES

INDEPENDENT RECONCILIATION OF ACCOUNTS

All transactions for all funds have been satisfactorily reconciled by an independent accounting firm for the month of January 2025 (mark with an "X" on appropriate line): X YES NO See attached document(s) from accountant.

Reconciliation Notes:

Waiting on reconciliation letter from accountant's office.

See next page for more information

INVESTMENTS UPDATE

Maturing Investment	%age Rate	Fund Code	Maturity Date	Amount (\$)	To Be Reinvested?
Western Alliance	5.35	WIF	3/28/2025	245,000.00	X YES NO
Preferred Bank	5.35	WIF	3/31/2025	245,000.00	X YES NO
California Bank	5.30	WIF	4/3/2025	245,000.00	X YES NO
					YES NO
					YES NO
					YES NO
					YES NO
					YES NO
					YES NO
					YES NO
					YES NO
					YES NO
					YES NO
					YES NO
					YES NO
					YES NO
					YES NO

Investment Notes:

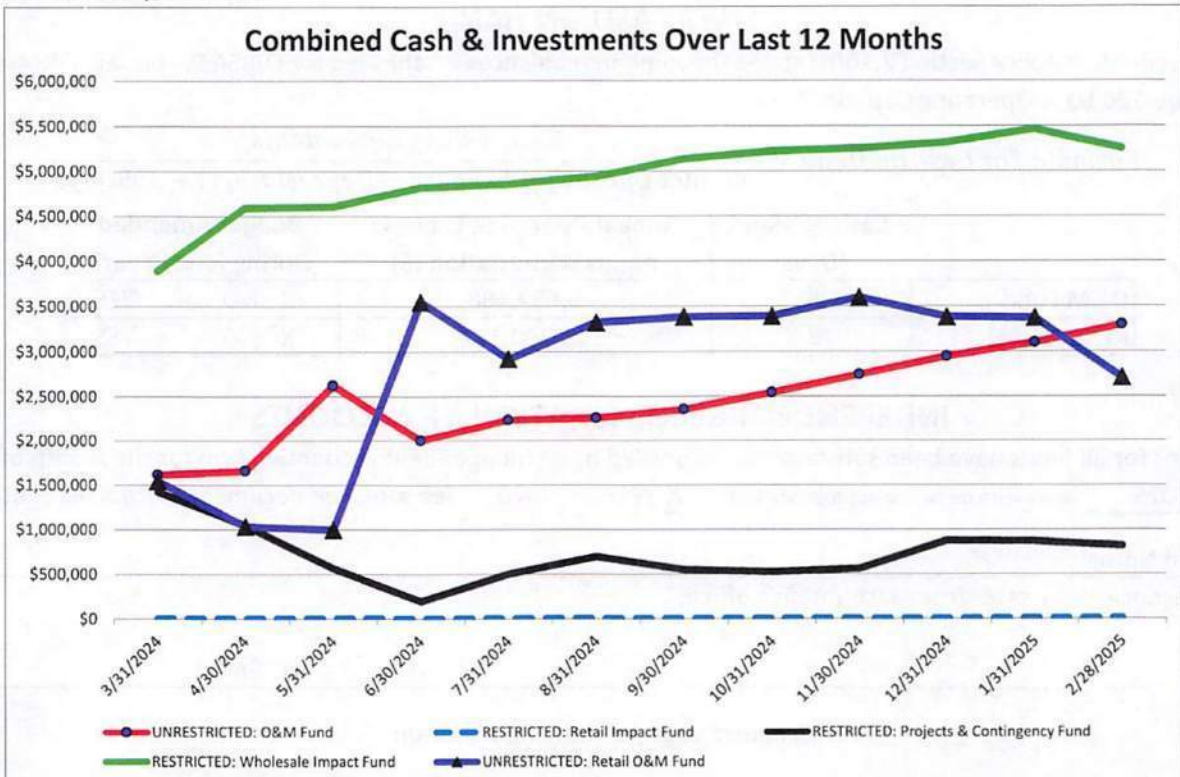
See additional sheets for investment information and trends

By my signature, to the best of my knowledge, I certify this report is accurate.

Lynn M. Stephens

Lynn Stephens

OJRSA Secretary/Treasurer





STANCIL
COOLEY ESTEP
& STAMEY, LLP

*Certified Public
Accountants*

631 ByPass 123
P. O. Drawer 1279
Seneca, SC 29679

(864) 882-3048
Fax 882-7489

602-5 College Avenue
Clemson, SC 29631

(864) 654-4945
Fax 654-9476

www.scescpa.com

March 3, 2025

Lynn Stephens
Oconee Joint Regional Sewer Authority
623 Return Church Road
Seneca, SC 29678

RE: Bank Reconciliations for OJRSA January 2025

Dear Lynn,

We have completed the bank reconciliations for the Oconee Joint Regional Sewer Authority for the month ending January 31, 2025. Copies of the bank reconciliations are attached for your review. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Susan M. Stamey, CPA
Enclosures

Oconee Joint Rsa

Bank Reconciliation SummaryPage 1 of 2
2/17/2025 at 10:11 am

Fund	Bank Code	Account Number
010-000	10	010-001-00101-01000

Reconcile to Bank Register	
Statement Date	01/31/2025
Opening Balance	0.00
Net Activity	3,400.00
Calc Ending Balance	3,400.00
Statement Ending	3,400.00
Out Of Balance	0.00

Reconcile to General Ledger	
Period	07
Fiscal Year	2025
G/L Balance	3,400.00
Outstanding Items	0.00
G/L Calc Ending Balance	3,400.00
G/L Out of Balance By	0.00

No Outstanding Items

Oconee Joint Rsa

Bank Reconciliation SummaryPage 1 of 3
2/17/2025 at 10:13 am

Fund	Bank Code	Account Number
010-000	20	010-001-00101-01020

Reconcile to Bank Register

Statement Date	01/31/2025
Opening Balance	3,135,151.74
Net Activity	(11,397.35)
Calc Ending Balance	3,123,754.39
Statement Ending	3,123,754.39
Out Of Balance	0.00

Reconcile to General Ledger

Period	07
Fiscal Year	2025
G/L Balance	3,118,954.39
Outstanding Items	(4,800.00)
G/L Calc Ending Balance	3,123,754.39
G/L Out of Balance By	0.00

Oconee Joint Rsa

Bank Reconciliation SummaryPage 1 of 2
2/17/2025 at 10:16 am

Fund	Bank Code	Account Number
010-000	40	010-001-00101-01040

Reconcile to Bank Register	
Statement Date	01/31/2025
Opening Balance	876,013.61
Net Activity	(8,009.66)
Calc Ending Balance	868,003.95
Statement Ending	868,003.95
Out Of Balance	0.00

Reconcile to General Ledger	
Period	07
Fiscal Year	2025
G/L Balance	868,003.95
Outstanding Items	0.00
G/L Calc Ending Balance	868,003.95
G/L Out of Balance By	0.00

No Outstanding Items

Oconee Joint Rsa

Bank Reconciliation SummaryPage 1 of 6
2/17/2025 at 12:50 pm

Fund	Bank Code	Account Number
010-000	60	010-001-00101-01060

Reconcile to Bank Register

Statement Date	01/31/2025
Opening Balance	495,377.54
Net Activity	(89,871.28)
Calc Ending Balance	405,506.26
Statement Ending	405,506.26
Out Of Balance	0.00

Reconcile to General Ledger

Period	07
Fiscal Year	2025
G/L Balance	380,633.27
Outstanding Items	(24,872.99)
G/L Calc Ending Balance	405,506.26
G/L Out of Balance By	0.00

Oconee Joint Rsa

Bank Reconciliation SummaryPage 1 of 2
2/17/2025 at 10:20 am

Fund	Bank Code	Account Number
010-000	80	010-001-00101-01080

Reconcile to Bank Register	
Statement Date	01/31/2025
Opening Balance	235,640.58
Net Activity	(97,835.43)
Calc Ending Balance	137,805.15
Statement Ending	137,805.15
Out Of Balance	0.00

Reconcile to General Ledger	
Period	07
Fiscal Year	2025
G/L Balance	137,805.15
Outstanding Items	0.00
G/L Calc Ending Balance	137,805.15
G/L Out of Balance By	0.00

No Outstanding Items



OJRSA Board of Commissioners' Goals for 2025

To be considered during the March 6, 2025 Board of Commissioners meeting.

Goals below were provided by members of the OJRSA Finance & Administration and Operations & Planning committees:

Operations & Planning Committee

1. Focus on completing the Ad Hoc Sewer Feasibility Implementation Committee review, recommendations, and implementation.
2. Determine how the OJRSA is to govern the cities and how it is to handle the enforcement of the sewer use regulations when a system is not in compliance.
3. Develop a consensus on how much we are going to approve capital improvement projects.
4. Consider replacing the Speeds Creek force main.
5. Have an open discussion about incorporating Oconee County government into the OJRSA board and what their financial obligation will be.

Finance & Administration Committee

- Continue with the projects and the feasibility study.

Board Chair and Others Discussed During Board Meeting (if any)

-



OCONEE JOINT REGIONAL SEWER AUTHORITY

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

March 6, 2025

**IDENTICAL LETTERS TO BE SENT TO:
REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE (HOUSE DISTRICT 1)
REPRESENTATIVE DUNCAN (HOUSE DISTRICT 2)
SENATOR ALEXANDER (SENATE DISTRICT 1)**

Submitted via email (EMAIL ADDRESS)
and South Carolina Legislative Messaging Portal

RE: Opposition to Proposed South Carolina House Bill 3656
Allowing Septic Systems on Any Property in South Carolina

Dear (TITLE AND NAME) :

We are writing on behalf of the Oconee Joint Regional Sewer Authority to strongly oppose South Carolina House Bill 3656, which is currently pending in the House Agricultural Committee. As a public sewer utility our specific issue regarding this bill is related to allowing septic systems on any property. We feel strongly that this would undermine our community's sewer utilities while allowing a proliferation of septic systems in the area. While we appreciate Chairman Hixon's efforts to find compromise language, we urge you to oppose this legislation.

Our primary concern is that the bill would allow landowners to abandon public sewer service in favor of septic systems. This undermines public investment in sewer infrastructure, weakens our ability to address failing septic systems through sewer expansion, and limits our capacity to support future growth. Septic systems have high failure rates and are often poorly maintained, making them an unreliable alternative where regulated public wastewater systems exist. This legislation would be a step backward for public health, environmental protection, and responsible growth management.

Where public sewer service is available, properties should be required to connect or pay benefit fees; otherwise, the financial burden of maintaining and expanding infrastructure falls on fewer customers, driving rates up drastically and creating inefficiencies in system operation. Instead of achieving economies of scale, fewer users mean higher costs per customer, increased maintenance issues, and difficulty in designing a properly sized conveyance system. Without a stable user base, designing and maintaining wastewater infrastructure becomes nearly impossible, leading to either oversized, inefficient systems or undersized facilities unable to meet demand.

Beyond these operational concerns, this bill could hinder affordable housing and economic development. Higher sewer costs make housing less affordable, and uncertainty in wastewater infrastructure discourages economic investment. A stable and predictable sewer system is critical to fostering economic growth and ensuring affordability for all residents, businesses, and industries in Oconee County.

We urge you to reject House Bill 3656 and support policies that promote sustainable wastewater management. Thank you for your service and for considering our concerns. We are available to discuss this matter further at your convenience.

Sincerely,
OCONEE JOINT REGIONAL SEWER AUTHORITY

Kevin Bronson
Chairman

Christopher Eleazer
Executive Director

C (via email) OJRSA Board of Commissioners

South Carolina General Assembly
126th Session, 2025-2026

H. 3656**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Reps. Ligon and Hardee

Document Path: LC-0112VR25.docx

Introduced in the House on January 14, 2025

Currently residing in the House

Summary: Wells and Septic Tanks

HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS

Date	Body	Action Description with journal page number
12/12/2024	House	Prefiled
12/12/2024	House	Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs
1/14/2025	House	Introduced and read first time (House Journal-page 282)
1/14/2025	House	Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs (House Journal-page 282)
2/4/2025	House	Member(s) request name added as sponsor: Hardee

View the latest [legislative information](#) at the website

VERSIONS OF THIS BILL

12/12/2024

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10

A BILL

11 TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING SECTION 44-1-320 SO AS
12 TO PROHIBIT THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES FROM DENYING
13 PROPERTY OWNERS THE RIGHT TO REPAIR OR REPLACE A WELL OR SEPTIC TANK IN
14 CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.
15

16 Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

17

18 SECTION 1. Chapter 1, Title 44 of the S.C. Code is amended by adding:

19

20 Section 44-1-320. The Department of Environmental Services shall not deny a property owner the
21 right to repair and replace any well or septic tank existing on the effective date of this act solely because
22 of any other available water or sewer service, or both.
23

24 SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

25
26

---XX---

27 **Received from South Carolina Water Quality Association by email on February 10, 2024:**

28

29 **The bill is being pushed by the SC Groundwater Association (well-drillers).**

30
31

3656 AMENDMENT 1

32 **ADD AN APPROPRIATELY NUMBERED SUBSECTION THAT READS:**

33 a. A county, municipality, or water authority shall not deny or prohibit the installation of a private
34 irrigation water well, regardless of whether the property is connected to, or served by, a public water
35 system.

36 b. The irrigation water well shall not be interconnected to plumbing that is connected to any public
37 water system and will be used for irrigation or other non-potable purposes only.

38 c. For purposes of this section, "irrigation water well" means a well that produces water for uses other
39 than human consumption, to include, but not be limited to, lawn and landscape watering.

40 d. A county, municipality, or water authority shall not deny or prohibit the installation of a septic system
41 on a parcel of land that meets Department of Environmental Services guidelines for a septic system,
42 regardless of whether the property is connected to, or served by, a public sewer system.