



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

OJRSA Operations & Administration Building  
Lamar Bailes Board Room  
May 14, 2026 at 9:00 AM

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

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

### **Agenda**

- A. Call to Order** – Kevin Bronson, Committee Chair
- B. Approval of Minutes**
  - Ad Hoc Reconstitution Committee and Executive Committee Meeting of April 9, 2026
- C. Committee Discussion and Action Items**
  1. Receive Quarterly Progress Report No. 3 as submitted to South Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority, OJRSA Board, and Oconee County (Exhibit A) – Chris Eleazer, Committee Member
  2. Update on South Carolina Senate Bill 829 (Joint System Governance) – Lawrence Flynn, OJRSA Counsel
  3. Communication with elected officials and leadership: feedback and future memo requests – Angie Mettlen, Facilitator
  4. Introduction of teams and financial studies process overview/discussion – Melissa Levin/Will Kerr, Raftelis and David Cheatwood/Charles Habliston, First Tryon Advisors
  5. Future meeting scheduling – Angie Mettlen and Joel Jones, Facilitators
- D. Committee Member Discussion – Led by Kevin Bronson, Committee Chair**

Discussion can be related to matters addressed in this meeting or for future consideration by the Board or Committee. Voting is not permitted during this session.
- E. Adjourn**

### **Upcoming Meetings**

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

- Operations & Planning Committee – May 21, 2026 at 8:30 AM
- Finance & Administration Committee – May 26, 2026 at 9:00 AM
- Board of Commissioners – June 1, 2026 at 4:00 PM
- Reconstitution Committee and Executive Committee – August 13, 2026 at 9:00 AM *Per discussion on April 9, 2026, the next committee meeting will be August 13, 2026 at 9:00 AM; however, a called meeting will be scheduled if necessary.*

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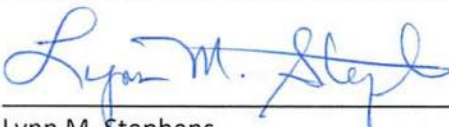
## Submittal Statement

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



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



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Lynn M. Stephens  
OJRSA Secretary/Treasurer

## Quarterly Progress Report: OJRSA Regional Feasibility and Reconstitution

### Report No. 3

April 10, 2026

## Background

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

The Planning Study was completed in August 2024 and adopted by the OJRSA Board of Commissioners (“Board”) in September 2024. A special Ad Hoc Regional Feasibility Study Implementation Committee (“Feasibility Committee”) was established by the Board in November 2024 to review, discuss, and evaluate the Planning Study’s primary recommendations and to provide independent recommendations for implementing this restructuring.

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

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

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

The final Feasibility Committee recommendations, which were presented to and accepted by the Board at a joint meeting with Oconee County Council in July 2025, included a list of specific tasks which were established by the Feasibility Committee with timelines associated with each function. These included:

1. Within 45 days (August 29, 2025)<sup>4</sup>, the current Board will dissolve the Feasibility Committee and

<sup>1</sup> RIA Grant Number RGRG-23-5006

<sup>2</sup> *Regional Feasibility Planning Study 2024* by W.K. Dickson, Bolton & Menk, and Willdan Financial Services. ([www.ojrsa.org/info](http://www.ojrsa.org/info))

<sup>3</sup> This committee was identified in the recommendations as the “Implementation Committee”

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

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establish the Reconstitution Committee for further implementation oversight.

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

## Summary of Current Actions

This section separately addresses each of the specific tasks identified in the Background section above.

### Committee Members

The following are members of the Ad Hoc Reconstitution Committee (also referred to herein as the “Committee”):

- Appalachian Council of Governments – Chip Bentley
- Oconee County – Glenn Hart
- OJRSA – Chris Eleazer
- OJRSA Legal Counsel – Lawrence Flynn
- Seneca – Scott Moulder<sup>5</sup>
- Walhalla – Celia Myers<sup>5</sup>
- Westminster – Kevin Bronson<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Also a member of OJRSA Executive Committee

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- Facilitator<sup>6</sup> – Katherine Amidon
- Facilitator<sup>6</sup> – Joel Jones
- Facilitator<sup>6</sup> – Angie Mettlen

Town of West Union Mayor Linda Oliver has also participated in the meetings as a nonvoting member.

**Committee Meetings**

The following events and meetings occurred during the reporting period:

- January 8, 2026 – *Meeting cancelled*
- February 12, 2026 – Ad Hoc Reconstitution Committee and OJRSA Executive Committee meeting
- March 12, 2026 – Ad Hoc Reconstitution Committee and OJRSA Executive Committee meeting

**Recommendation Item 1: Dissolve Feasibility Committee and Create New Committee**

**Target Date: August 29, 2025**

**Status: Complete**

See Report No. 1 for information.

**Recommendation Item 2: Submit Quarterly Report**

**Target Date: Within 14 days after completion of each calendar quarter**

**Status: Report #3 complete**

This quarterly report has been prepared and submitted in accordance with Recommendation Item 2. Best efforts will be made to submit quarterly reports to RIA within two (2) weeks of the conclusion of each calendar quarter<sup>7</sup> until the conclusion of this program.

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

**Target Date: August 29, 2025**

**Status: Target date of submittal In Progress**

Senate Bill 829 was introduced by Senator Thomas Alexander on January 20, 2026, and was referred to the Senate Committee on the Judiciary that same day. The committee adopted the amendment on March 17, and it received unanimous approval (40-0) on third reading by the Senate on March 19. The proposed legislation was then referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary on March 24.

Although out of the control of the OJRSA, the organization believes it is in a good position to see the bill passed into law before *Sine Die* on May 14, 2026.

**Recommendation Item 4: Adoption of Resolutions of Support**

**Target Date: October 13, 2025**

**Status: Complete**

The following resolutions of support for wastewater system consolidation/Authority reorganization have been adopted by the following as of December 31, 2025:

- Seneca – August 26, 2025
- OJRSA – September 8, 2025
- Westminster – September 9, 2025
- Walhalla – September 16, 2025
- West Union – December 9, 2025
- Oconee County – March 3, 2026

<sup>6</sup> Facilitators are nonvoting members

<sup>7</sup> The end of March, June, September, and December of each year

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

**Target Date: November 12, 2025**

**Status: In process**

The Committee was presented with proposals from Raftelis Financial Consultants and First Tryon Advisors on February 12, 2026. After review, the body unanimously approved recommending to the OJRSA Board of Commissioners that they execute agreements with both financial firms to conduct the following (summarized):

- Phase 1: Raftelis Financial Consultants
  - Gather and analyze current financial information for the OJRSA and member entities (OJRSA, Oconee County, City of Seneca, City of Walhalla, City of Westminster, and Town of West Union), hereafter referred to as “Member Entities.”
  - Project revenue requirements needed for operation and maintenance costs, capital costs (to include debt service payments and cash-financed capital), and reserve requirements for the consolidated system to include the Member Entities.
  - Examine billing records to determine customer demand for wastewater service and forecast billable units for next five-to-ten years.
  - Determine a retail rate for a combined sewer system for each year of the forecast period.
  - Develop a model for revenue requirements and perform operational and capital financial planning.
- Phase 2: First Tryon Advisors
  - Analyze the existing financial condition, credit profile, and debt portfolio of the OJRSA, and
  - Build a comprehensive financial planning model to assist in evaluating and establishing the consolidated system’s debt capacity for various capital projects.

Phase 1 of the project is projected to be completed by September 2026. The second phase does not yet have a projected completion date, as this phase is predicated on information from Phase 1 and an ultimate determination that consolidation is feasible and what entities remain open to it.

The OJRSA Board unanimously approved the execution of both proposals on March 2, 2026. All entities except the Town of West Union are contributing financially to cover the cost of these studies based on an agreed upon formula.

**Recommendation Item 6: Develop Communications Plan**

**Target Date: November 12, 2025**

**Status: Ongoing**

The following Reconstitution Progress Communication Memorandums were disseminated to the councils and leadership of the Member Cities, Oconee County, Town of West Union, and key stakeholders:

- January 19, 2026 – Memo #2 summarized frequently asked stakeholder questions and responses from the Committee.
- Memo #3 and #4 are being prepared for review by the Committee.

**Recommendation Item 7: Consider Initial Commissioners for New Authority**

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

**Status: Contingent on legislative approval**

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

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the Delegation soon thereafter (assuming the proper filing and reconstitution of the Authority).

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

**Target Date: February 27, 2027**

**Status: Study underway**

As noted in Recommendation Item 5, this study is underway.

**Recommendation Item 9: Develop Unified, Equitable Rate Structure**

**Target Date: May 12, 2027**

**Status: Not started**

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

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

**Target Date: July 15, 2027**

**Status: Not started**

This task will begin much later in the process.

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

**Target Date: August 16, 2027**

**Status: Not applicable at this time**

This contingency item will only apply if legislative amendments are not approved or if the Reconstitution Committee cannot reach consensus. That said, there are some questions from some of the entities regarding the proposed Board appointment process and voting allocations with the reduced number of members. The facilitators recognize that these issues are ones that could derail the process. As such, they are working to clarify the process/voting allocations and address other concerns from the entities as they arise to keep this effort moving forward. The importance of transparent and open communication has been conveyed to the committee as the facilitators feel this to be a key factor in successfully completing the reconstitution of the authority.

## **Past Actions**

See previous submittals for previous actions performed by the Reconstitution Committee.