



Ad Hoc Reconstitution Committee and Executive Committee

OJRSA Operations & Administration Building
Lamar Bailes Board Room
September 10, 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.

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, Committee Chair
- B. Approval of Minutes**
 - Ad Hoc Reconstitution Committee and Executive Committee Meeting of August 13, 2026
- C. Committee Discussion and Action Items**
 - 1. Status Update on Financial Studies – Angie Mettlen, Facilitator
 - 2. Discussion of Continued County Participation: Funding for Studies and Role on Reconstitution Committee (Exhibit A) – Lawrence Flynn, OJRSA Counsel and Katherine Amidon, Facilitator
 - 3. Next Steps for Reconstitution – Lawrence Flynn, OJRSA Counsel and Katherine Amidon, Facilitator
 - 4. Communications with Elected Officials and Leadership: Feedback and Future Memo Requests – Katherine Amidon, Facilitator
- D. Committee Member Discussion** – Led by Kevin Bronson, Committee Chair
Discussion can be related to matters addressed in this meeting or for future consideration by the Board or Committee. Voting is not permitted during this session.
- E. Adjourn**

Upcoming Meetings

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

- Board of Commissioners – September 14, 2026 at 4:00 PM
- Operations & Planning Committee – September 17, 2026 at 8:30 AM
- Finance & Administration Committee – September 22, 2026 at 9:00 AM
- Board of Commissioners – October 5, 2026 at 4:00 PM
- Reconstitution Committee and Executive Committee – October 8, 2026 at 9:00 AM



OCONEE JOINT REGIONAL SEWER AUTHORITY

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

August 14, 2026

Stewart Jones, County Administrator
Oconee County, South Carolina
415 South Pine Street
Walhalla, South Carolina 29691

Via U.S. Mail -and- Email to
sjones@oconeesc.com

RE: Oconee County Participation in OJRSA Reconstitution; Payment of Agreed Study Costs

Dear Mr. Jones:

The Oconee Joint Regional Sewer Commission (the "Commission"), as the governing body of the Oconee Joint Regional Sewer Authority ("OJRSA"), has concerns about Oconee County's (the "County") ongoing participation in the OJRSA's reconstitution process, particularly in light of the County's recent refusal to pay its share of the cost for agreed-upon technical and financial studies that are essential to finalize the terms of the anticipated restructuring or reconstitution of OJRSA.

For many years the County has expressed a desire to be involved in OJRSA governance, and OJRSA has structured its proposed reconstitution process to include the County as an integral participant. The Ad Hoc Regional Feasibility Study Implementation Committee (the "Implementation Committee") was established by the Commission in November 2024, met monthly from December 2024 through June 2025, and was staffed with ten members, including County representation through former County Administrator Amanda Brock. The Implementation Committee's purpose was to review, discuss, and evaluate plans for restructuring OJRSA; in keeping with that mission, it issued a recommendation report in June 2025 with five major recommendations (the "Report").¹ Among those recommendations were that the County be added as a member of the reconstituted organization and that governance be reconstituted with representation involving the County.

Following dissolution of the Implementation Committee and as contemplated by the Report, OJRSA established an Ad Hoc Reconstitution Committee (the "Reconstitution Committee") to guide the initial implementation steps, and the County has continued to be represented on that committee—initially by Ms. Brock and more recently by Councilman Glenn Hart. Over more than a year of meetings, the parties have worked in alignment with the Report recommendations and with the County Council's subsequent support resolution. County Resolution 2026-04, dated March 3, 2026 ("Resolution 2026-04"), expressly acknowledges the need to evaluate potential coordination or consolidation opportunities, asset transfers, intergovernmental agreements, operational restructuring, or financial commitments, and further recognizes that technical evaluations and financial valuations of the collection systems, including debt, asset viability, and immediate capital, are essential to finalize the terms of systems transfers to OJRSA. The Report similarly emphasizes that technical and financial studies should be completed as soon as possible.

In this context, OJRSA is deeply troubled by the County's recent rejection of payment requests associated with the proposed studies to be performed by Raftelis and First Tryon, the consultants engaged to perform the required studies. On February 12, 2026, the Reconstitution Committee approved the initial Raftelis financial study invoice by unanimous vote, including the affirmative vote of Councilman Glenn Hart as the County's representative. The County has since declined to pay its share of the Raftelis invoice (and generally declined to provide any financial

¹ Note, the Report was publicly released at a meeting held at Tri-County Technical College on June 15, 2025. County Council attended the presentation and participated in a discussion about the findings of the Report.

support for the required studies).² We understand from recent communications between you and OJRSA's undersigned Executive Director that County Council was not aware of the financial obligation and that Councilman Hart lacked authority to commit the County. These developments are at odds with the collaborative framework the parties have followed and with the commitments espoused by the various reconstitution participants.

The Commission has discussed the practical implications of the County's nonpayment. The Commission prefers continued full participation and a voting role for the County, consistent with the Report and Resolution 2026-04, but we must ensure that voting members are aligned on the funding and execution of essential work products. If the County is unwilling to share in the costs of the studies necessary to advance the reconstitution work, the County's voting seat on the Reconstitution Committee will be eliminated by the Commission and the County will be shifted to an advisory-only role, similar to the current posture of the Town of West Union.

Accordingly, please provide a written response confirming the County's commitment to pay its allocated share of the Raftelis invoice, and future costs of both the Raftelis and First Tryon studies by Friday, September 11, 2026, so that the Commission may consider the County's position at its Monday, September 14, 2026 board meeting. If the County declines to pay its share, the County will be moved to an advisory-only role on the Reconstitution Committee (no voting seat) effective at or after the September 14 meeting. Further, if the County is moved to a non-voting position on the Reconstitution Committee, the Commission will deem such action to constitute the County's election not to be considered for future membership or participation in the reconstituted OJRSA and as the County's acknowledgment that it will not participate in the reconstituted Commission.

We value the County's partnership and invite its continued participation in all aspects of the reconstitution process, including consultant coordination, technical review, and the development of governance documents. The Reconstitution Committee's consultants, coordinated through Ms. Angie Mettlen of Ardurra, remain available to meet with County Council to present the study scopes, cost allocations, and anticipated deliverables, and to answer any questions regarding the proposed reconstitution of OJRSA. As you know, Ms. Mettlen and her team have made multiple attempts to coordinate such a meeting with County Council.

We appreciate your prompt attention to this letter and look forward to your written response by Friday, September 11, 2026.

Sincerely,

OCONEE JOINT REGIONAL SEWER AUTHORITY



Kevin Bronson,
Chairman



Christopher Eleazer,
Executive Director

C (via email) Mr. Glenn Hart, Oconee County Council
Ms. Bonnie Ammons, South Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority
Sen. Thomas C. Alexander
Mr. Lawrence E. Flynn III, Esquire

² Note, it is anticipated that the County's share of the studies would be \$12,972.

**Oconee County
Administration****Stewart Jones
Administrator**

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District I

Matthew Durham
Chairman
District II

Don Mize
District III

Thomas James
District IV

J. Glenn Hart
District V

August 26, 2026

Kevin Bronson, Chairman
Chris Eleazer, Executive Director
Oconee Joint Regional Sewer Authority
623 Return Church Road
Seneca, South Carolina 29678

RE: Oconee County Participation in OJRSA Reconstitution; Payment of Study Costs

Dear Chairman Bronson and Mr. Eleazer:

I am writing in response to your August 14, 2026 letter regarding Oconee County's participation in the Oconee Joint Regional Sewer Authority ("OJRSA") reconstitution process and the requested payment of the County's share of the costs associated with the Raftelis and First Tryon studies. Oconee County appreciates the work that OJRSA and the Reconstitution Committee have undertaken and recognizes the importance of evaluating the future structure, governance, assets, financial obligations, and operational considerations associated with OJRSA. However, I believe it is important to clarify the County's understanding of the matters raised in your letter.

First, the County's participation on the Reconstitution Committee should not be construed as authorization for the County Administrator, or any individual County representative serving on the Committee, to incur an expenditure or otherwise commit County funds without appropriate authorization from Oconee County Council.

As your letter acknowledges, OJRSA understands that Oconee County Council was not aware of the financial obligation associated with the studies at the time the Reconstitution Committee approved the initial Raftelis invoice. The County Administrator nor any individual representative therefore does not have the authority to unilaterally commit County funds to that obligation.

Second, Oconee County Council's adoption of Resolution 2026-04 expressed support for evaluating potential coordination and consolidation opportunities and recognized the need for technical and financial evaluations as part of that process. That resolution should not be interpreted as an independent appropriation or authorization for the County Administrator to obligate County funds for expenditures that were not previously approved through the County's budget or other appropriate County authorization process.

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Administrator**

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Accordingly, I am not in a position to provide the requested commitment that Oconee County will pay the approximately \$12,972 referenced in your letter. Any commitment of County funds will need to be considered and authorized through the appropriate County process.

That position should not be interpreted as a withdrawal from the reconstitution process. Oconee County remains interested in participating in discussions concerning the future of OJRSA and in evaluating potential governance, operational, financial, and infrastructure arrangements that may benefit the participating communities.

I also believe it would be beneficial for the County Council and OJRSA to have a clear understanding of the scope, cost, authorization, and expected deliverables associated with the studies before the County is asked to commit public funds. Oconee County would welcome the opportunity for the consultants and OJRSA representatives to meet directly with County Council to provide that information and answer questions regarding the work performed, the remaining scope of work, the allocation of costs among participating entities, and the anticipated use of the resulting reports.

With respect to the County's representation on the Reconstitution Committee, Oconee County would prefer that the County's voting status not be altered while these matters are being reviewed by County Council. Removing the County's voting representation before County Council has had an opportunity to consider the financial and substantive issues would, in my view, be premature.

I appreciate OJRSA's continued communication and its stated desire to maintain Oconee County's participation in the reconstitution process. I look forward to working with OJRSA, the Reconstitution Committee, and County Council toward a clear and mutually understood path forward.

Sincerely,

Stewart O. Jones, Administrator
Oconee County, South Carolina