



ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT
Kevin Bronson
OFFICE OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR
WESTMINSTER, SOUTH CAROLINA

December 15, 2023

GENERAL INFORMATION

Drought Conditions are improving.

The City is continuing to monitor the drought conditions through the Upstate of South Carolina and Blue Ridge Mountains with our partners at DNR, DHEC, SC Rural Water, and USGS. Recent rain has improved the water plant's ability to draw normal levels of water off the Chauga River. The City DOES NOT expect to request voluntary restrictions in the near future.

****City Hall will be Closed January 3, 2024****

City Hall be closed all day January 3, 2024 for financial software updates and staff training. Customers may pay bills online or drop payments in the City Hall drop box.

Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Grant for Downtown Streetscape Improvements

Last week staff was notified by the South Carolina Department of Commerce that Westminster's pre-application for a \$300,000 grant to fund a portion of the downtown streetscape project was accepted and the city is now invited to submit a full application for the grant. The deadline for the grant application is February 2024. The grant is a 50/50 grant, meaning the city will match each dollar granted with a dollar.

Police Chief Search

The search for a new Police Chief continues. The position in the City's website and the Municipal Association of South Carolina's website. The deadline for application is January 16, 2024. The position posting may be viewed here; <https://westminstersc.org/careers/>

USDA-RD Water System Projects

Two contractors are being utilized to install the water system improvements funded by the USDA-RD. Both contractors are on schedule.

Arrowood General Contracting is responsible for a grouping of projects entitled Division 1.

- The project areas for Division 1 are: Dawn Drive; Dixon Rd; Phillip Lear; and Dr. Johns Rd.
- Dawn Drive is complete
- Dixon Road is awaiting delivery of material to begin installation of water taps. They are hoping for delivery early next week.
- Work is progressing on the Dr. John's Road section. Chauga Road section has been laid and the turn onto Phillip Lear Road is complete. They are now moving down Phillip Lear toward Dr. John's Road.

Payne, McGinn and Cummins is responsible for a grouping of projects entitled Division 2.

- The project areas in Division 2 are: two sections of Highway 76; Welcome Church Rd to Berry Farm Rd; and Berry Farm Rd to Cleveland Pike Rd.

- The two sections of Highway 76 are close to completion. The hanging of the new line across the Chauga River Bridge is complete. They are working on making the connections from both sides of the bridge to the new line. This same crew will then complete the road crossing at Horseshoe Bridge Road. This was originally to be a bored crossing, but substantial rock was encountered during the bore causing it to go off course. This bore will be filled and then the roadway will have to be cut and dug to place the casing and the pipe.
- The other two crews are laying pipe along Welcome Church Road. They have gone just over three-quarters of a mile as of Thursday afternoon.

Westminster Planning Commission

Westminster City Council appointed members of the Planning Commission at its last meeting. Returning are commissioners Mrs. Sandra Powell, Mr. Jerrod Brucke, and Mr. Ben Lewis. Commissioner-elect Lacey Moore was appointed to her first term. Truman Holbrooks will continue to serve in his unexpired term. Members will be sworn in at their January 22 meeting, beginning at 6:00pm at City Hall.

OJRSA

The draft minutes from the December 4, 2023 Commission Meeting are attached.

PMPA

The agenda for the December 19, 2023 Board Meeting is attached.

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS

December 18, 2023 at 3:00 pm Finance & Administration Committee at OJRSA

December 20, 2023 at 8:30 am Operations & Planning Committee at OJRSA - *rescheduled*

December 22, 25 & 26, 2023 City Offices closed to observe Christmas Eve and Christmas

January 1, 2024 City Offices closed to observe New Years.

January 4, 2024 at 4:00 pm OJRSA Board Meeting at Seneca Water Plant (630 Northampton Road, Seneca) *(new date)*

January 4, 2024 at 5:00 om OJRSA Annual Meeting at Seneca Water Plant (630 Northampton Road, Seneca) *(new date)*

January 9, 2024 at 1:00 pm City Council Planning Workshop at City Hall Conference Room

January 9, 2024 at 6:00 pm City Council Meeting at Westminster Fire Department

January 10, 2024 at 9:00 am City Council Planning Workshop at City Hall Conference Room.

January 15, 2024 City Offices closed to observe Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

February 6, 2024 Municipal Association Hometown Legislative Action Day in Columbia, SC

Special Events Calendar

February 3, 2024 *(new date)* at time TBD – TreesUpstate Tree Planting Event at Yousef Mefleh Memorial Fields

March 9, 2024 Tree Giveaway sponsored by TreesUpstate at City Hall

– more details to come – trees of various species to be given away for free to the public



Oconee Joint Regional Sewer Authority

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

OCONEE JOINT REGIONAL SEWER AUTHORITY

Commission Meeting

December 4, 2023

The Oconee Joint Regional Sewer Authority Commission meeting was held at the Coneross Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Commissioners that were present:

- Seat 7 (Westminster): Brian Ramey, Board Chair
- Seat 6 (Walhalla): Scott Parris, Board Vice-Chair
- Seat 1 (Seneca): Bob Faires, III
- Seat 3 (Seneca): Scott McLane
- Seat 4 (Seneca At-Large): Marty McKee
- Seat 5 (Walhalla): Celia Myers
- Seat 8 (Westminster): Kevin Bronson
- Seat 9 (Walhalla-Westminster At-Large): David Dial

Commissioners that were not present:

- Seat 2 (Seneca): Scott Moulder

OJRSA appointments and staff present were:

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

Others present were:

- Larry Brandt, OJRSA Attorney
- Norm Cannada, [Seneca Daily Journal](#)
- Dick Mangrum, WGOG Radio
- Angie Mettlen, WK Dickson
- Michael Traynham, Maynard Nexsen
- Teresa Spicer, Oconee Co. Planning Commission
- Reagan Osbon, Westminster Asst. City Administrator
- Adrienne Hennes, Remax Realty Professionals
- Gwen McPhail, Oconee Co. Citizen
- Tony Adams, Oconee Co. Citizen
- Sam Shirley, Oconee Co. Citizen & Farmer
- John Shirley, Oconee Co. Citizen & Farmer
- Charlie Whiten, Oconee Co. Citizen & Farmer
- Andy Whiten, Oconee Co. Citizen & Farmer
- Tim Donald, Oconee Co. Citizen & Farmer & SC Farm Bureau Fed.
- Rachel Moore, Oconee Co. Citizen

A) Call to Order – Mr. Ramey called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. and stated Mr. Moulder was absent.

B) Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance – By Mr. Dial.

C) Public Session:

Tim Donald – Mr. Donald stated he is a farmer in the southern part of Oconee County and serves on the Executive Committee of the SC Farm Bureau Federation that represents the Piedmont District. He stated he is concerned about the \$25 million sewer expansion in southern Oconee County, which is a farming community. After seeing the buffer zone increases, with ten (10) poultry farms inside and another ten (10) more just outside the zone, it is concerning. Agriculture is the #1 industry in South

Carolina, with poultry being the #1 commodity in agriculture, and Oconee County has been a top producer of poultry in the last two (2) decades. This is a thriving industry in Oconee County without sewer in the area.

The last study showed that Oconee County has already exceeded the five-to-ten (5-10)-year projected growth without sewer. Residents are concerned this is going to be the beginning of the end of the rural landscape. Most of the residents relocated to Oconee County because of the landscape and ran away from what Oconee County is proposing to do. In addition, there is not a big workforce down there for industries. It is a mistake to spend this kind of money with a hope and a dream of industry coming in to provide the income to cover this.

Sam Shirley – Mr. Shirley is a farmer in the southwestern part of Oconee County in the Pine Grove Community. He stated he attended a meeting not too long ago where it was stated that a sewer treatment plant would be placed on the Shirley Farm. If this is true, he does not understand how eminent domain can be claimed, as his parents put the farm in a conservation easement program and the farm has been in use since 1785. If the county starts obtaining properties with conservation easement programs, it won't be long until places like Stumphouse Tunnel, that are also in a conservation easement, can be taken away.

Mr. Shirley also stated that he does not understand how Oconee County Council, without any input from the citizens of the county, can just state that a sewer plant is needed down there. Also, two (2) of the county councilmen have property in southwestern Oconee County and stand to profit from it. That is unethical; they should not be able to vote on that if they have property there that they can benefit on. One of the councilmen purchased his property strictly for investment. How can a group of people decide to put in a big sewer line and improve on what God created? The area should remain agricultural land and timber land.

Mr. Shirley added that without food, there are hungry people. Our farms contribute to the food supply, and it is our livelihood. Mr. Shirley spoke of how hard it is currently with navigating his combine and other farm equipment in traffic, and if industry comes in and creates more, he won't be able to.

He said that he understands Oconee County is trying to increase their tax base, but he asked where the money they have right now is going. He said that some areas of Oconee County are falling apart and the money spent to address that now.

Charlie Whiten – Mr. Whiten is a farmer who, with his two (2) sons, farms wheat, soybeans, corn, and poultry on 1,200-1,300 acres from Westminster to Townville. If this sewer system proceeds, it will put his farm and industry in jeopardy. He stated that rather than bring in industry, the county should take care of what we already have. Bring in grain elevators, cotton gins, cotton spinning, greenhouses, and other stuff for agriculture.

Mr. Whiten also stated he spoke to a few people who work at the sewer plant, and when there is a 3-4 inch rain, the sewer plant is already overflowing now without adding more people. He added that the plant stinks, which he smells when he farms on his field across the road, and if you drive the beltline, it stinks there as well.

Mr. Whiten added that he recently attended a Farm Bureau Federation convention in Myrtle Beach and said he and Mr. Donald noticed how the land is gone and is nothing but houses now. It will never be what it used to be, and this is what Oconee County is looking forward to. He does not want to move to another county to continue to farm. He said everyone needs food to eat, and someone must grow it.

Mr. Ramey stated that the board will be discussing the sewer expansion a bit later in the meeting and will acknowledge these concerns at that time.

D) Approval of Minutes:

- **November 6, 2023 Board Meeting**

Mr. Dial made a motion, seconded by Mr. McKee, to approve the November 6, 2023 Board Meeting minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously by 8 yea – 0 nay based on the results of the roll call vote, which were (in order of vote):

Kevin Bronson:	Yes	Celia Myers:	Yes	Bob Faires:	Yes
Marty McKee:	Yes	Brian Ramey:	Yes	Scott McLane:	Yes
Scott Parris:	Yes	David Dial:	Yes		

E) Committee and Other Meeting Reports:

- **Central Oconee County Sewer Planning Stakeholder Meeting of November 8, 2023** – Mr. Eleazer stated this meeting was required to be publicly advertised since a quorum of commissioners were expected to attend (which five (5) did attend). This meeting was just information; no votes were taken. **There was no vote on this item.**

- **Operations & Planning Meeting of November 15, 2023** – Mr. Faires presented the report to the Commission. **See attached minutes.*

Mr. Bronson said the November 15, 2023 O&P agenda, Item C1, states “There were extensive matters found last year on pipelines in the Westminster area...” and said the last flow report Mr. Eleazer sent out showed one meter had a significant reduction (nearly 600,000 gallons) from the previous report. He asked if there had been work on the lines that corrected that, because the City of Westminster has done some small things, but not enough to create such a significant reduction.

Mr. Eleazer replied that he isn’t aware of anything yet. Tugaloo Pipeline was supposed to have mobilized last week, and he does not know if they started working at that time. The OJRSA had a crew out between Westminster and the Choestoea Pump Station resealing a few manholes, but it is unlikely that this repair work would’ve kept out that much volume. Mr. Eleazer will investigate this and added that there should be some improvements soon as Tugaloo completes the repair and rehab work.

Mr. Faires made a motion, seconded by Mr. McLane, to approve the November 15, 2023 Operations & Planning Meeting minutes as presented. The motion carried.

- **Finance & Administration Meeting of November 28, 2023** – Ms. Myers presented the report to the Commission. **See attached minutes*

Mr. Ramey asked what the firm doing the impact fee study was paid. Mr. Eleazer did not know off at the time and Mr. Ramey asked for an estimate. Mr. Eleazer replied that Weston & Sampson was estimated to be paid around \$3,000-\$4,000. The firm updated the numbers from the first time it was done with the Ad Hoc Committee in 2020-2021. Mr. Ramey asked if the OJRSA is paying for the legal questions being asked, or if the County is paying for it as they are trying to change what the OJRSA is going to do. Mr. Eleazer replied that currently the OJRSA is paying for it. Mr. Ramey asked if the County should be asked to pay for it. Mr. Eleazer replied he could do that if that is what the board felt should be done. Mr. Ramey said that if the OJRSA already paid for the study, and Oconee County is trying to change it, he feels it should be Oconee County’s responsibility to pay for the additional legal fees. He asked the board members if they disagreed, and there were no disagreements.

Mr. Ramey asked how long it will take to get the answers back. Mr. Eleazer replied that attorney Lawrence Flynn is putting together a memo, and it will be forwarded to the board. In addition, Mr. Flynn will be on call at the December F&A meeting.

Ms. Myers made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dial, to approve the November 28, 2023 Finance & Administration Meeting minutes as presented. The motion carried.

F) Secretary/Treasurer’s Report (Exhibit A) – Ms. Stephens presented the Secretary/Treasurer’s Report

(made a part of these minutes) to the board. Ms. Stephens reported that a few of the bank accounts were beyond the \$250,000 FDIC-insured threshold due to: 1) \$1.4 million in CDs in the O&M account were traded in and the money transferred on November 30, 2023 to the Contingency account to pay for future contingency projects, 2) \$346,000 was received from the RIA grant money and deposited into the RO&M account on 11/28/23, and 3) Seneca’s monthly payment and maturing CDs were deposited towards the latter part of November into the O&M account. Ms. Stephens stated that she

will be purchasing new CDs from these accounts in the next couple of weeks to get the balances back down.

Mr. Eleazer added that according to Wells Fargo, and acknowledged by Lawrence Flynn, all funds in the OJRSA accounts are covered by collateral anyway.

Ms. Stephens also stated that the bank accounts were reconciled by the outside accountant for October; however, there is a discrepancy of \$1,440 to the General Ledger (GL) that she believes has to do with issues with the Publiq accounting program (the accounting system does balance to the bank statements). She is hoping that the GL discrepancy will balance out when more checks clear in the November reconciliation.

G) Oconee County Government Update Regarding Matters Involving Wastewater – There were no representatives from Oconee County government present.

H) Presentation and Discussion Items:

1. Update on DHEC Consent Order and Work Plan – Ms. Mettlen stated that the OJRSA is 2-1/2 years into the Consent Order and has been making excellent progress. Out of eleven (11) total requirements, six (6) have been completed, three (3) are on-going reporting work, and two (2) items are in-progress. One of the in-progress projects has to do with a work plan to eliminate excess inflow & infiltration (I&I) and will coincide with the SCIIP project, and the other project is looking at where the I&I is coming from and working with the Satellite Sewer Systems (SSS) to address them.

Ms. Mettlen stated the good news is that the work that has been done has correlated with studies done previously by other engineering firms, and so the I&I has been located and Mr. Eleazer will work with the SSS's to address them.

Ms. Mettlen also stated there was a meeting with SCDHEC on November 28, 2023 to give them a status report on the Consent Order. They are very happy with how the OJRSA is progressing and stated they wished everyone else was as responsive and attentive as the OJRSA has been.

One of the last remaining items specified in the Consent Order is that OJRSA must work with the SSS's to have CMOM-type activities completed where needed to identify where improvements in the satellite systems need to occur to further reduce I&I.

Mr. Traynham agreed that SCDHEC is very pleased with the progress and added that the primary thing to point out is the importance of the next steps with the OJRSA working with the Member Cities to locate and fix the I&I issues. SCDHEC made it very clear in the enforcement order that the obligation falls on the OJRSA to make sure that I&I coming from outside the OJRSA's collection system is addressed through the provisions of the Sewer Use Regulation. He added that the OJRSA will be exposed to further liability to civil penalties if this is not addressed.

Mr. Bronson asked what a CMOM-type activity is as related to the collection systems. Ms. Mettlen replied that CMOM (Capacity, Managerial, Operations, and Maintenance) is all the different facets of the wastewater system that EPA has determined impacts the operational efficiency. A "CMOM-light" program is a technical evaluation to determine where I&I flows are coming from including collection system assessment.

Mr. Bronson said the City of Westminster has done some of this work already and is under a Consent Order, and asked if Westminster only needed to communicate that information back to the OJRSA. Ms. Mettlen replied that Westminster needs to relay where the issues are and how these issues will be addressed.

Mr. Eleazer added that the OJRSA will continue to look for issues on the OJRSA lines before approaching the Member Cities to find their issues. He stated that the evaluation report in October showed excessive run times in two (2) of four (4) pump stations (Choestoea, Coneross, Martin Creek, and Perkins) that were evaluated. The other pump stations have not been evaluated at this time, so it is not determined whether they are in good or bad condition. Ms. Mettlen added that the Consent Order project was meant to determine the worst of the worst areas. Mr. Eleazer explained how this

will be a three (3)-year process: the budget process, the identification and investigation process, and the fund and fix process.

Mr. Ramey thanked all the OJRSA staff for making good progress. Mr. Bronson asked that Mr. Eleazer set up coordinated events with the Member Cities. Mr. Eleazer replied that this should be discussed and determined at the O&P Committee meeting and he will add it to the agenda.

- 2. Oconee County's \$25 Million Planned Sewer Expansion into Southern Oconee Area** – Mr. Ramey explained he wanted this added to the agenda for today's meeting for several reasons: 1) As the OJRSA is looking at what the impact fees need to be, the big question is how soon the plant will reach capacity and need to be expanded; 2) Oconee County is not giving the OJRSA enough information to be able to provide, manage sewer, and treat future sewer needs, and Mr. Ramey feels the OJRSA needs to figure out a way to get this information from the County; and 3) If there is \$25 million planned right now, based on what came out of the F&A Committee meeting it is all for southern Oconee County?

Mr. Faires asked if Oconee County has a \$25 million planned sewer expansion, what is the plan? Mr. Ramey replied that is what the OJRSA needs to know and said that it was reported in the F&A Committee meeting that it was for increasing sewer in the southern part of Oconee County. Mr. Parris asked if any part of that \$25 million is being considered for upgrades at the Coneross treatment plant. Mr. Ramey replied no, it was all going to the southern part of the county. Mr. Ramey asked what Ms. Brock said at the F&A meeting. Mr. Eleazer replied that he understood that it was entirely to go to the southern part of Oconee County and asked Mr. Bronson if that was what he understood. Mr. Bronson said it was captured in the (F&A) meeting minutes well.

Mr. Bronson said he wished Ms. Brock were attending today, as there are many questions about procedure, capacity, size, location, and design. He stated the farmers and residents of southern Oconee County don't seem to know any more than the OJRSA does at this time. He asked what right would Oconee County have to connect into the system. As an example, he said in order for the Cooper Mills subdivision on Mountain Road to connect to sewer, the City of Westminster had to sign off that they would manage the system and that Westminster has the right to dispose of effluent to this system because of the Intergovernmental Agreement. He asked, again, what right does Oconee County have to dispose of any effluent into this plant? He also asked how much capacity would that \$25 million use, and when, and where? Mr. Bronson said he wrote down questions about this such as: What's the design? What's the location? What about the Intergovernmental Agreement? What's the timing? What's the intention?

Mr. Bronson reported that Ms. Brock spoke about sewer going down as far as Sanctuary Point and the Blue Ridge Property. Mr. Bronson said a lot of this information was new to him, and he could imagine that citizens in the boardroom today are very blind as to these plans that will impact them greatly. He said he is very concerned that Oconee County has leveraged/pledged something to repay the \$25 million, and there is disconnect between what the OJRSA can do here and what the property owners, farmers, and residents want, and Oconee County's ability to deliver on it. He said speaking about the cart before a horse, it doesn't seem like the cart is even put together yet. Mr. Bronson said he doesn't know how the OJRSA is going to obtain the information, but it looks like the OJRSA will have to beg.

Mr. Dial said it has always been presented as sewer and infrastructure in all the County Council meetings, so when the F&A minutes came out and said it was all for sewer, that was a surprise. Mr. Ramey said the County reported, at first, that the \$25 million was going to be used to extend sewer up to I-85, Exit 4 at a cost of around \$3-4 million. Mr. Eleazer replied he wasn't sure it was all the way to Exit 4 or to the property in question that's a potential economic development project.

Mr. Eleazer said Mr. Shirley spoke earlier about a treatment plant being placed on his farmland and stated the OJRSA did not know anything about this even with the study that was completed in May. There was talk about a possibility of placing a treatment plant down in the area to help pump

the future sewer up to the Coneross plant, but it was a large overview of an area to place it. It wasn't narrowed down to any specific area or parcel as far as he knew.

The Director added that the OJRSA is currently putting in essentially a straight-line pipe to get from the Golden Corner Pump Station to the Welcome Center at I-85 Exit 1. There are no lines coming off this pipe at this time. No streets or adjacent parcels will be served by this line unless they are in direct contact with the gravity or pump station portions of the project. It is not only a matter of extending a line to Exit 4, but it is also installing the infrastructure to come off that line to serve properties that may be nearby. The OJRSA does not know the specifics of where infrastructure is going down there; the OJRSA only knows it is the goal to get sewer to Exit 4. From there, it is not known if it is going to follow Weston & Sampson's recommended plan that is on the OJRSA website. That is not a master plan of what is going to be built, but rather a basin plan for what might be built as the area grows. Weston & Sampson was given a large part of Oconee County to assess, and that is what they did with no constraints to it; however, Ms. Katherine Amidon (part of the W&S study team) investigated conservation easements and marked those as being off limits. She made comments as to what looked like prime farming soils and assumed those would stay in agricultural use, so that was taken into account. As previously discussed numerous times in these board meetings, it is not the OJRSA's job to be a planning agency as far as how land is used and where growth occurs.

Mr. Ramey said that is what the problem is. The OJRSA cannot provide the service if it is unknown what Oconee County wants to do, and good decisions cannot be made now when it is unknown what is coming.

Mr. Faires said the most frustrating thing for anyone, but especially utilities, is hypotheticals. This can be discussed all night long, but there is no plan. It is just hypothetical. Until there is a plan, all that can be discussed are the questions of what is going on.

Mr. Ramey said the reason he wanted this on the agenda is that he originally believed Oconee County was going to expand sewer up to Exit 4 at a cost of approximately \$3 million and then the \$21 million left was going to be used towards other sewer projects spaced around the county, helping with the OJRSA Consent Order, or for sewer expansion. Now with Ms. Brock saying this is all for Sewer South, what is that extra \$21 million going to be used for? How does the OJRSA decide on the impact fees and what the OJRSA needs to do, when Oconee County is looking at adding \$21 million more worth of sewer down there?

Mr. Eleazer said the OJRSA is providing sewer to the Welcome Center to eliminate the treatment plant; however, that does not do anything to help potential development on the other side of the interstate at Exit 1. Infrastructure will have to be installed to get it over there (which will require a pump station over on the developed side of Exit 1 to get it to the Welcome Center pump station). In addition, there will be sewer in the general vicinity of Exit 2, but that is only one (1) of the four (4) quadrants of that interchange. That will require additional infrastructure around there to make it developable. Mr. Eleazer assumes some of the money will go to that, but he has no idea as to what the cost of that would be.

The Director stated, from his standpoint, the vagueness of the ordinance for this \$25 million goes into the vagueness of what will be done down that way. He added that it was probably done this way intentionally to give some leeway as sewer material costs rise and for flexibility later where lines should need to go that are not locked in. The initial basin study for Exit 1 did not have lines going up Highway 11 very far at all, and it may be decided later that they need to go farther up from Exit 1; or they may decide that both sides of East Fairplay Boulevard at Exit 4 are served.

Mr. Faires said the OJRSA is just playing a guess game right now. Oconee County had to come up with \$25 million somehow. Someone knows the details and put the numbers together. The OJRSA needs to know what team of people to speak to and get more information.

Mr. Eleazer explained that some of the money will go to gravity sewer costs, which are more to install than a pump station and force mains; however, the gravity sewer allows customer

connections to help offset the cost of maintaining the system. He added that a chunk of the money may also go to theoretical I-85, Exit 3 (which doesn't exist right now).

Mr. Dial said another thing to consider is this is for a \$25 million bond, and there is interest on that bond. No one is going to give the County that money unless they are getting paid back for it. Mr. Faires agreed and said there must be a plan for it. Mr. Ramey said that if the OJRSA is the sewer provider, you would think the OJRSA would know what the plan is. Mr. Faires agreed with that, thanked Mr. Ramey for putting this on the agenda to shed some light on it, and then said to continue talking about this any further tonight is getting nowhere.

Mr. Ramey said the OJRSA needs to make decisions, and good decisions at that, and cannot make them without knowing the specifics. He said the OJRSA is not here to encourage or discourage growth, nor fight Oconee County, but the OJRSA needs to know what the direction is to make the good decisions.

Mr. Ramey said that Mr. Bronson mentioned the Intergovernmental Agreement and asked what the County would need to do to tie into the plant. Mr. Eleazer replied that it will require a letter from the OJRSA to SCDHEC that would accompany the construction application stating that the OJRSA will treat flow associated with that project. As soon as that happens, the flow is considered as coming to the plant, even before anything is built down that way. Whatever is done down there will have to be built in accordance with OJRSA's standards as adopted by the board.

Mr. Parris asked if they could put a zero flow on the application until something gets built. Mr. Eleazer replied that he needs to see where that will go. Years ago, SCDHEC used to assign capacity with pump stations. Recent permits have shown zero flow with the flow assigned with the gravity component; however, when you have a project that you don't know what may connect to it over time, it is unknown how that will work. Mr. Eleazer added that recently an engineer applied to relocate a line with one manhole in West Union, and SCDHEC would not issue the construction permit as a flow was not attached to the project application.

Mr. Dial said that the agenda for Tuesday night's County Council Meeting shows a first and final reading for a "resolution authorizing the acceptance by Oconee County of certain easement and/or other rights related to property located in Oconee County in position at/or adjacent to SC Highway 11 and US Interstate 85 and other matters related thereto" and said he is not sure this is related to this discussion. Mr. Eleazer replied that he is aware of this and it is regarding the Charles Kormelink property. The Director said Ms. Brock contacted him to ask questions about it and Mr. Kormelink has an easement down there and wanted to transfer the easement to the County or somebody else for the purpose of development and sewer. He added the OJRSA was aware of this years ago when there was discussion years ago (before his time) about getting sewer to Exit 1.

Mr. Bronson said this went from a conceptual idea to hearing a detailed plan at the F&A Committee while the OJRSA was trying to determine impact fees. Mr. Bronson said the way Ms. Brock explained it, there were definite ideas of where the lines would go: Ms. Brock included specific property names; Ms. Brock was asked how the lines would connect to the plant here and she replied, "Many lines;" and Ms. Brock was asked where, and she replied, "The I-85 corridor." Mr. Bronson said it went from a vague, conceptual idea to having \$25 million more in sewer lines. That changes the dynamics of what the impact fees should be and how quickly this plant needs to be upgraded. There is a plan somewhere, and it would be nice to know, because they could build the line but the OJRSA could refuse to serve it for treatment. Shouldn't they come to the OJRSA to get that approval first? Mr. Eleazer replied that he believes that is correct.

Mr. Bronson added that Oconee County has put the OJRSA in a strange place. The residents of southern Oconee County were not involved in the decision to put sewer down there and were not asked their opinions. The OJRSA is now hearing that these residents are happy with their current situation and don't want the change. In addition, the OJRSA needs to plan for the future of plant expansion and impact fees doesn't have the necessary information to make that decision. This causes a lot of concern.

Mr. Eleazer said that he doesn't know if OJRSA thought it was a possibility or had the intent, at the time the study was performed, that wastewater service would be looked at in that area (the agricultural areas near the southern part of the county). The OJRSA thought it was only going to be the direct I-85 corridor. He added that brings the question up of what is the I-85 corridor? Is it a half (1/2) mile on each side of the interstate, one (1) mile on each side, or does it stretch into the area that Mr. Donald has concerns about? This area was only included in the study from the standpoint that the OJRSA was looking at the south side of the existing service system (northern part of the area below Westminster and Seneca) and not in the central part near Tokeena and the heartland of the farming community.

Mr. Donald showed Mr. Eleazer a map from the Oconee County Administrator after the Stakeholder Meeting. It is showing a one (1) mile and two-and-a-half (2.5) mile buffer. He pointed out all the poultry farms in the two-and-a-half (2.5) mile buffer. Mr. Donald said he stated earlier about the impact on the poultry farms and didn't mention cattle and row crops. Mr. Eleazer asked to have that map emailed to him. Mr. Donald will email a screenshot. Mr. Ramey asked if that was the overlay that Ms. Brock mentioned had changed. Mr. Eleazer said he hadn't seen the map, so he doesn't know, and he was not aware that Oconee County was changing the overlay.

Mr. Ramey added that he is also concerned because 1) Ms. Brock stated this project is for industrial, commercial, and residential and includes pressurized (force main) lines and gravity flow lines. Developers are going to seek out gravity lines for developing four (4) homes per acre, and they are already looking at Oconee County. That means that the seven (7)-year capacity bank may drop down to three (3) years; and 2) The OJRSA is doing the Feasibility Study which won't be completed until June. Is the OJRSA making huge plans right now that are going to get flipped over come June?

Mr. Ramey asked if Mr. Eleazer could write a letter to Ms. Brock and ask her for more specifications/information. Mr. Bronson asked if Mr. Ramey shouldn't write the letter to the County Council Chairman and ask.

Mr. Bronson asked when Oconee County did the bond ordinance, was the OJRSA asked to provide any information in terms of debt repayment or a pledge of a revenue source. Mr. Eleazer replied no and added he learned about it when everyone else did when it was put on the county council agenda in July.

Mr. Ramey said that he feels most people are agreeable with sewer at the interstate, providing it stays at the interstate and doesn't end up going into the agricultural community. Those residents deserve to know as much as the OJRSA does.

Mr. Eleazer said it was asked many times about the Intergovernmental Agreement and what the OJRSA can and cannot do. Should Mr. Brandt investigate this - and possibility Mr. Traynham for environmental law issues? Mr. Ramey said the OJRSA should have verification of what Oconee County wants to do first, as Mr. Brandt shouldn't do something for nothing.

Mr. Eleazer asked Mr. Brandt if there was anything he could add to the conversation at this time. Mr. Brandt said he didn't know if Oconee County could force the OJRSA to hook up anybody. There was an agreement with the County to fund us through 2042, but they didn't like that agreement and wanted out of it. Mr. Brandt said his advice at that time was to let them out of the agreement, and then the OJRSA would become the sole vendor. Now Oconee County must come to the OJRSA for every deed. Regardless, the OJRSA must try to keep peace with Oconee County, and both need to walk hand-in-hand regarding all sewer operations.

Mr. Brandt added that this board will see people who are for a project and people who are against it, and then Oconee County will be on one side. The OJRSA may be required to determine if something is in the best interest for Oconee County. There is a joint responsibility between the OJRSA and Oconee County to ensure smart, responsible growth occurs. It is good that there is now some communication between the two entities.

Mr. Brandt said it sounds like Oconee County wants to appropriate money and then tell OJRSA where to spend it. They cannot do that unless the OJRSA agrees to it. Mr. Brandt said he may start

to attend some County Council meetings to determine what is going on, as he only gets his information from The Journal.

Ms. Mettlen said from the Feasibility Study standpoint, this information would be monumental to have. Mr. McKee said he wondered if the OJRSA had some more time with Oconee County in a meeting if more information could be obtained. Mr. Ramey said that Mr. Eleazer now has a list of questions and should draft a letter to ask for answers to these questions.

Mr. Eleazer introduced a visitor, Ms. Teresa Spicer of the Oconee County Planning Commission, and asked her if she could elaborate on any of the plans. Ms. Spicer said she knew that the money doesn't go anywhere until Oconee County Council says it does, and currently there has been no vote, so the rumors will float. Mr. Ramey said this isn't based on rumors; it's based on what Ms. Brock stated in the F&A meeting.

Ms. Spicer said she understood a developer (originally from Dallas) has been giving advice on how to do sewer and even offered to do the sewer work, as he did a student housing project in Clemson (which didn't go so well – the pipes froze). Ms. Spicer added that Homeland Security failed the Oconee County voting machines, and she thought some of this money was going to that. She was surprised to hear it was all for Sewer South.

Mr. Ramey said Oconee County Council needs to be contacted to let them know we are on one team, and everyone needs to know what is going on. Mr. Eleazer asked how this should be done and by who. Mr. Bronson replied that it should be put on paper asking what the intent is. Mr. Ramey added that all the questions asked tonight should be answered. Mr. Faires added we need to know what the plan is. Ms. Myers recommended that the letter be signed by both Mr. Eleazer and Mr. Ramey, and the board members agreed.

Mr. Donald asked if Anderson County was going to help pay for the part of the sewer that will be in their county. Mr. Ramey replied the OJRSA doesn't know. It was agreed that this needs to be addressed as well. Mr. Bronson asked if the 208 Plan allows for that part of Anderson County to be served by the Coneross wastewater plant. Mr. Eleazer said the OJRSA spoke to Chip Bentley of the Appalachian Council of Governments about this, and the OJRSA would be an eligible provider; however, whether it can be done statutorily by expanding the service area or whatever it takes to do it, that is unknown at this time. Mr. Bronson asked how far the 208 Plan goes. Mr. Eleazer replied it covers the whole Savannah River basin so that entire area would be covered.

I) Action Items:

- **Select Date for January 2024 Board of Commissioners and Annual Members' Meetings and Approve Board and Committee Meeting Schedule for 2024 as Shown in Exhibit B** – Mr. Eleazer reported that he distributed the 2024 meeting schedule which shows all the meeting dates except for the January Board and Annual Members' meetings. He stated that for the past few years, the January meetings have been rescheduled due to holidays or national championship football games. The football game coincides with the upcoming January 2024 meeting date, and he asked if the board wants to move it to another day. It was agreed to move the date of the Board and Annual Members' meetings to Thursday, January 4, 2024 at 4:00pm and 5:00pm respectively.

Mr. Faires made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bronson, to move the date of the January Board and Members' meetings to Thursday, January 4, 2024 at 4pm and 5pm respectively. The motion carried.

Mr. Bronson made a motion, seconded by Ms. Myers, to approve the 2024 meeting schedule as presented with the addition of the new date of the board and members' meetings. The motion carried.

J) Executive Director's Discussion and Compliance Matters – Mr. Eleazer reported on the following:

1. **Environmental and Regulatory Compliance** – The OJRSA received a complaint late Friday afternoon from SCDHEC for the Davis Creek Road area. When the OJRSA originally received complaints for this area back six to eight (6-8) weeks ago, the OJRSA deployed hydrogen sulfide meters (odor loggers)

into the manholes around the area where Seneca Light & Water's (SL&W) force main discharges into the OJRSA system to record data. In the manhole, the levels are ten to forty-five (10-45) parts per million (PPM) when the pump station is discharging into that manhole. The OJRSA requires one (1) or two (2) special monitors that are meant to be used outside in an open area to gain better information.

The CDC says that you can smell hydrogen sulfide from 0.00005 (500 thousandths) up to 0.3 (3 tenths) PPM, and OSHA states it to be offensive at 3-5 PPM range. SL&W operates a sodium hypochlorite chemical feed to help control the odor.

The Director added that the person(s) calling in the complaints apparently has not been happy with OJRSA's response and no longer calls the OJRSA; they call SCDHEC directly. OJRSA Operations Director, Kyle Lindsay, reached out to SL&W to see if they need to adjust the drip on the chemical feed. The OJRSA is also looking at possible improvements on its system to alleviate this issue.

Mr. Traynham added that if this is coming from a satellite sewer system (SSS), this is probably something SCDHEC will take interest in as a potential issue with the general permit for SSS's. All the SSS's that adopted the OJRSA's Sewer Use Regulation that have discharges causing a public nuisance are an expressly prohibited discharge under the regulation, and SCDHEC could enforce against the user causing the issue.

Mr. Eleazer asked would this go against the OJRSA, SL&W, or the user. Mr. Traynham replied that if it can be specifically pinpointed to a certain user, it can go against them. If it's a maintenance issue within the SSS itself, it could go against SL&W. Mr. Eleazer asked who SCDHEC's disciplinary action would be taken to, and Mr. Traynham replied that SCDHEC would look first to the source of the complaint, so if it's a complaint against the OJRSA's system, that is where the investigation will begin.

2. Miscellaneous (If Any):

Sewer South – Mr. Eleazer said he had a handout about Sewer South that he had planned to print and hand out today, but he forgot to print it. He stated he will email it out to the board, media, and any of the public who contact the OJRSA and request it.

The Director added that he and Ms. Brock are working with Willdan to create a rate for the retail system. The rate will require the board's approval when it's developed. Mr. Brandt has made it very clear that wholesale cannot subsidize retail nor vice versa.

Annual Members' Meeting – The meeting will be held at 5:00 p.m. on January 4, 2023, and the bylaws and Intergovernmental Agreement do not specify state a time for the meeting.

Board Meeting – The only thing currently known to be on the January Board Meeting agenda will be the bi-annual chair, vice-chair, and committee formation and appointing the chairs for those committees (who become the Executive Committee).

K) Commissioners' Discussion – None.

L) Upcoming Meetings:

- **Finance & Administration Meeting** – Monday, December 18, 2023 at 3:00 p.m.
- **Operations & Planning Meeting** – Wednesday, December 20, 2023 at 8:30 a.m.
- **Board of Commissioners Meeting** – TBD at 4:00 p.m. *(meeting to be held at Seneca Light & Water Lake Keowee Treatment Plant, 630 Northampton Road, Seneca, SC)*
- **Annual Members' Meeting** – TBD at 5:00 p.m. *(meeting to be held at Seneca Light & Water Lake Keowee Treatment Plant, 630 Northampton Road, Seneca, SC)*

M) Adjourn – Mr. Ramey adjourned the meeting at 5:50 p.m.

Approved By: _____
Brian Ramey, 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 November 13, 2023 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.ojrsa.org, and posted at the OJRSA Administration Building.

***ATTACHMENTS STARTING NEXT PAGE**



Board of Commissioners Meeting
OJRSA Operations & Administration Building
Lamar Bailes Board Room
December 4, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.

Agenda

- A. Call to Order** – Brian Ramey, Board Chair
- B. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance** – Led by Commissioner David Dial
- 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**
- November 6, 2023 Board of Commissioners Meeting
- E. Committee and Other Meeting Reports**
- Central Oconee County Sewer Planning Stakeholder Meeting of November 8, 2023 – Chris Eleazer, Executive Director
 - Operations & Planning Meeting of November 15, 2023 – Bob Faires, Committee Chair
 - Finance & Administration Meeting of November 28, 2023 – 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 *This standing agenda item was added by Board of Commissioners during the September 11, 2023 meeting*
- H. Presentation and Discussion Items** *[May include Vote and/or Action on matters brought up for discussion]*
1. Update on DHEC Consent Order and work plan – Angie Mettlen, WK Dickson and Michael Traynham, OJRSA Outside Environmental Counsel
 2. Oconee County’s \$25 million planned sewer expansion into southern Oconee area – Brian Ramey, Board Chair
- I. Action Items**
- Select date for January 2024 Board of Commissioners and Annual Members’ meetings and approve Board and Committee meeting schedule for 2024 as shown in Exhibit B – Chris Eleazer, Director
- J. Executive Director’s Discussion and Compliance Matters** – Chris Eleazer, Director
1. Environmental and regulatory compliance
 2. Miscellaneous *(if any)*
- K. Commissioners’ Discussion** – Brian Ramey, 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. Upcoming Meetings** *All meetings to be held in the Lamar Bailes Board Room unless noted otherwise.*
- Finance & Administration Committee – December 18, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. *Note date and time change made by Committee*
 - Operations & Planning Committee – December 20, 2023 at 8:30 a.m.
 - Board of Commissioners – TBD at 4:00 p.m. *Meeting to be held at Seneca Light & Water Lake Keowee Water Treatment Plant, 630 Northampton Road, Seneca, SC*
 - Annual Members’ Meeting – TBD at 5:00 p.m. *Meeting to be held at Seneca Light & Water Lake Keowee Water Treatment Plant, 630 Northampton Road, Seneca, SC*
- M. Adjourn**



Secretary/Treasurer’s Report for Board of Commissioners

Prepared for the December 4, 2023 OJRSA Board of Commissioners Meeting

Cash and investment information stated herein come from bank and other financial records as of: November 30, 2023

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS CASH AND INVESTMENTS SUMMARY

Account/Fund Name	Cash (\$)	Investments (\$)	Total (\$)
Wholesale Operations & Maintenance (O&M)	547,613	735,000	1,282,613
Retail Operations & Maintenance (RO&M)	1,174,723	495,000	1,669,723
TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	1,722,336	1,230,000	2,952,336

RESTRICTED FUNDS CASH AND INVESTMENTS SUMMARY

Account/Fund Name	Cash (\$)	Investments (\$)	Total (\$)
Projects and Contingency (PCF)	1,536,476		1,536,476
Wholesale Impact Fund (WIF)	1,141,393	3,100,000	4,241,393
Retail Impact Fund (RIF)			0
TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS	2,677,869	3,100,000	5,777,869

Combined Total for All Funds

Cash Investments Combined

See additional sheets for investment information

Account Notes:

\$1.4 million transferred from O&M to Contingency for contingency projects on 11/30/23. \$346,000 received from RIA for grant into RO&M account on 11/28/23. Seneca payment + (2) matured CDs raised balance in O&M account. All accounts will have CDs purchased at the beginning of December to bring below \$250,000 FDIC threshold.

INDEPENDENT RECONCILIATION OF ACCOUNTS

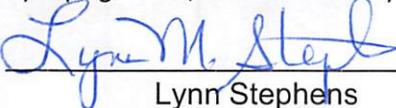
All transactions for all funds have been satisfactorily reconciled by an independent accounting firm for the month of October 2023: YES NO

See attached document from independent accountant.

Reconciliation Notes:

There is a discrepancy with the O&M account balancing to General Ledger by amount of \$1,440.00 in October. It is expected to balance out in November, as it seems to be due to Publiq software having issues with some payments that materials were received in September but invoices paid in October. (Reconciliation balanced to bank statements.)

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


 Lynn Stephens
 OJRSA Secretary/Treasurer

INVESTMENTS UPDATE

Maturing Investment	Fund Code	Maturity Date	Amount (\$)	To Be Reinvested?	
NO CDS MATURING UNTIL 1/31/24				<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
				<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
				<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
				<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
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				<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
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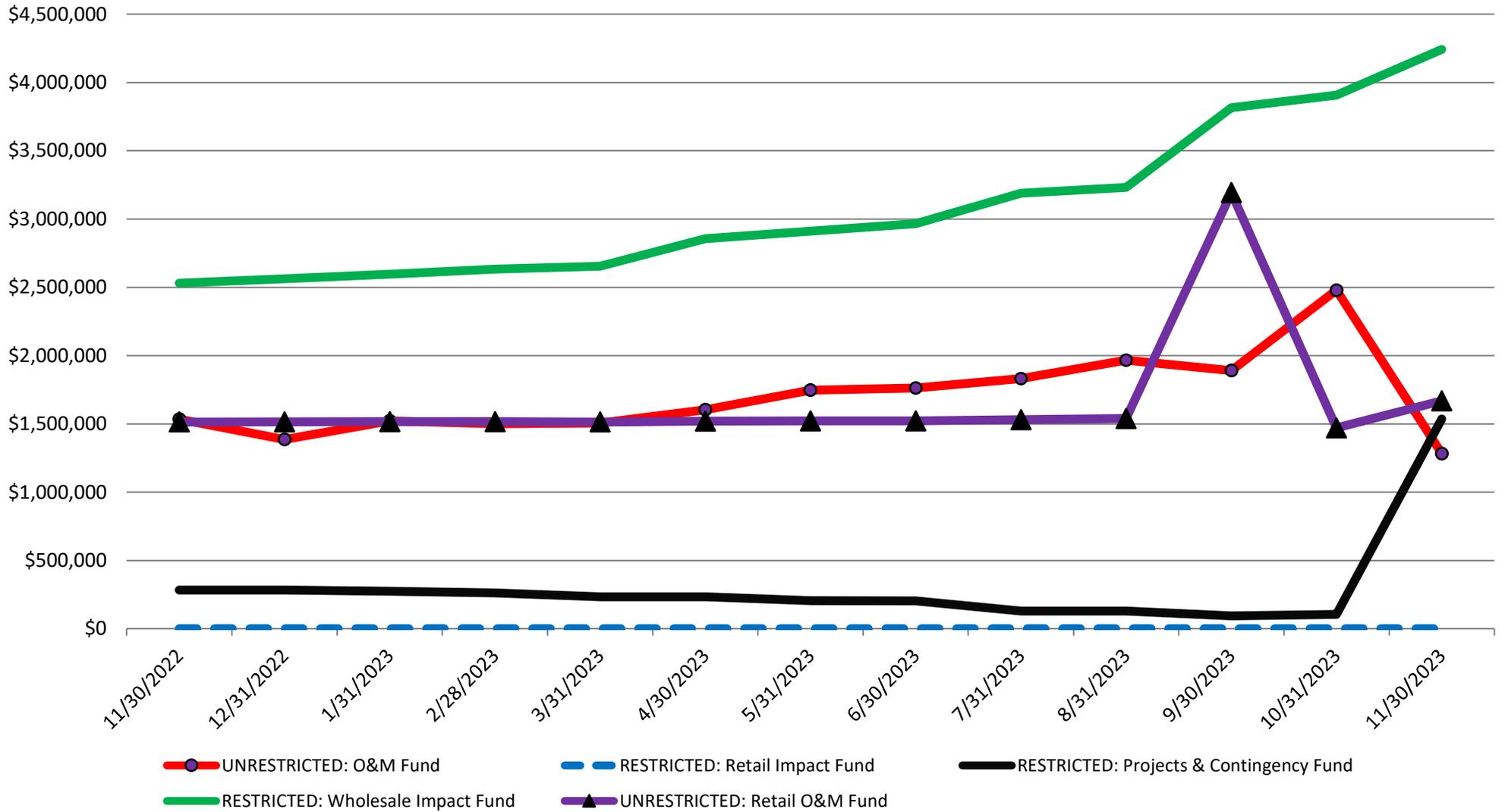
See additional sheets, if necessary

Investment Notes:

See additional sheets for 12-month cash and investment trends and other information.

[Handwritten Signature]
Date: _____

Combined Cash & Investments Over Last 12 Months





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

December 1, 2023

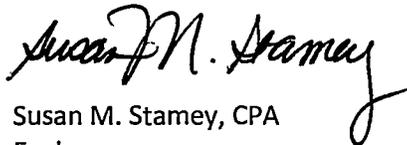
Lynn Stephens
Oconee Joint Regional Sewer Authority
623 Return Church Road
Seneca, SC 29678

RE: Bank Reconciliations for OJRSA October 2023

Dear Lynn,

We have completed the bank reconciliations for the Oconee Joint Regional Sewer Authority for the month ending October 31, 2023. Copies of the bank reconciliations are attached for your review. There are several old outstanding checks in the operating account that you may want to review. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Stamey, CPA
Enclosures

Schedule of OJRSA Public Meetings for 2024

Approved by OJRSA Board of Commissioners December 4, 2023

SC Code of Law Section 30-4-80(a) requires public bodies to publish all scheduled meetings at the beginning of each calendar year. Executive Committee, ad hoc committee(s), or other meetings may be scheduled during the year as necessary. **Meeting dates, times, and locations are subject to change or cancellation.**

All meetings are held in the Lamar Bailes Board Room at the OJRSA Operations & Administration Building, 623 Return Church Road, Seneca, South Carolina unless otherwise noted below. Call the OJRSA at 864-972-3900 for updates.

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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

- Board of Commissioners Meeting 4:00 pm
- Finance & Administration Committee Meeting 9:00 am
- Operations & Planning Committee Meeting 8:30 am
- Board of Commissioners Meeting 4:00 pm & Annual Members Meeting 6:00 pm. *Both meetings at SL&W Lake Keowee Water Treatment Plant, 630 Northampton Road, Seneca*
- OJRSA Holiday per *Employee Handbook* (Office Closed)
- Weekend (Office Closed)

Board and Committee Meeting Dates 2024

Commissioners (4:00 pm) & Annual Members' (5:00 pm): **TBD at 12/4/2023 Board Meeting*** at SL&W Lake Keowee Water Treatment Plant, 630 Northampton Road, Seneca

Commissioners (4:00 pm): Feb 5, Mar 4, Apr 1, May 6, June 3, July 1, Aug 5, Sept 9*, Oct 7, Nov 4, Dec 2

Finance & Administration (9:00 am): Jan 23, Feb 27, Mar 26, Apr 23, May 28, June 25, July 23, Aug 27, Sept 24, Oct 22, Nov 26, and Dec 17*

Operations & Planning (8:30 am): Jan 17, Feb 21, Mar 20, Apr 17, May 15, June 19, July 17, Aug 21, Sept 18, Oct 16, Nov 20, and Dec 18

* Rescheduled due to holiday/adjacent to holiday

I-85 CORRIDOR SEWER EXPANSION PROJECT-OJRSA

CONTRACTOR: MOORHEAD CONSTRUCTION COMPANY

ENGINEER: DAVIS & FLOYD, INC.

DATE: DECEMBER 1, 2023

COUNCIL BRIEFING/UPDATE -

CONTRACTOR HAS INSTALLED A PORTION OF THE PHASE 1A 24" GRAVITY SEWER FROM THE GOLDEN CORNER PUMP STATION TO THE BORE LOCATION UNDER SC HWY. 59, EXCEPT THE PORTION CROSSING THE CREEK ON PIERS (AERIAL CROSSING). STATION. CONTRACTOR HAS BORE PIT SET UP FOR THE 12" FORCE MAIN CREEK CROSSING ON BROOMWAY IN PHASE 1B.

THE 1080 LINEAR FOOT DIRECTIONAL BORING 20' BELOW LAKE HARTWELL HAS COMMENCED AND THE DRILLING SUB HAS COMPLETED THE PILOT HOLE FOR THE BORE. THEY WILL BE REAMING THE PILOT HOLE OUT FOR THE NEXT FEW WEEKS.

ORIGINAL CONTRACT AMOUNT: \$12,311,447.00

ISSUED CHANGE ORDER NO. 1: (\$467,994.79)

CURRENT CONTRACT AMOUNT: \$11,843,452.21

APPROXIMATE VALUE OF WORK INSTALLED TO DATE: \$4,590,893 OR APPROXIMATELY 39% OF TOTAL PENDING CONTRACT AMOUNT.

THEY APPEAR TO BE ON SCHEDULE WITH THIS WORK. DEPENDING UPON FINAL DELIVERY SCHEDULES FOR THE PUMPS, THE PROJECT IS CURRENTLY SCHEDULED TO BE COMPLETED IN THE EARLY SUMMER OF 2024.







**Piedmont Municipal Power Agency
121 Village Drive • Greer, SC 29651
Board of Directors Meeting
December 19, 2023
10:00 a.m.**

1. Call to Order; Roll Call for Virtual Attendees, Invocation; Declaration of Quorum
2. Approval of Minutes
 - a. November 16, 2023
3. Acceptance of Financial Report
 - a. November 2023
4. Reports
 - a. Engineering
 - b. Catawba
 - c. Finance
 - d. Management
5. Action Items
 - a. Approval of 2024 Operating Budget *
 - b. Resolution 23-02: Approval of Master Power Purchase and Sale Agreement Confirmation Letter with Duke Energy
 - c. Approval of PMPA 2024 Board Meeting Schedule
6. Executive Session
 - a. Discussion of matters pertaining to ongoing litigation
 - b. Discussion incident to contractual provisions.
7. Action to be taken based on discussion in Executive Session
8. Participant Discussion and Other Business
 - a. Appointment of Nominating Committee for Board Officers for 2024
9. Adjourn



Blake Stone, Chairman

* to be sent when available

***Board of Directors Meeting
Piedmont Municipal Power Agency***

***November 16, 2023
Greer, South Carolina***

**VOTING
DIRECTORS
PRESENT:**

Blake Stone	Abbeville
Tom Brooks *	Clinton
Eric Goodwin	Easley
Donnie Hardin	Gaffney
Mike Richard	Greer
John Young	Laurens
Foster Senn	Newberry
Jimmy Bagley	Rock Hill
Joe Nichols	Union
Kevin Bronson	Westminster

OTHERS:

Ronnie Roth	Clinton
Steve Bratton	Gaffney
Marc Regier	Greer
Keith Wood	Laurens
David Vahaun	Rock Hill
Lance Davis	Union
Brian Ramey	Westminster
Reagan Osbon *	Westminster
Joel Ledbetter	PMPA
Tracy Quinn	PMPA
Lynn Price	PMPA
JulieAnne London	PMPA
Will Blanton	PMPA
Kenny Bradley	PMPA
Mike Frazier	PMPA
Dennis Cameron	PMPA
Gary Brunault *	GDS Associates, Inc.
Rion Foley	Burr Forman
Austin Reed *	Smith Robinson
Tom Gressette *	Walker Gressette & Linton
Andrea Kelly *	The Journal
Mark White *	Spencer & Spencer

* Virtual Attendance

Call to Order

Chairman Stone called the meeting to order, and Mr. Ledbetter gave the invocation.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Young, seconded by Mr. Bagley, to approve the Minutes of September 21, 2023, and October 25-27, 2023, as submitted. Motion approved.

Financial Report

A motion was made by Mr. Bronson, seconded by Mr. Hardin, to accept as submitted the Financial Reports for September 2023 and October 2023. Motion approved.

Reports

Engineering

The standard engineering reports for September and October were included in the agenda packet.

Mr. Frazier provided an update on the Laurens Transmission Line and Net Billing Agreements.

Mr. Frazier also discussed an event from Christmas Eve 2022 that required Duke Energy to curtail load. Duke is working on putting notification procedures in place to provide information to its wholesale customers on the status of its Balancing Area during extreme system events. These notification procedures will allow Duke to request load reduction from its wholesale members. Mike stated that each participant should review and update their load shedding plan or create one if one doesn't exist.

Catawba

The Catawba and McGuire report was included in the agenda packet. Mr. Cameron reviewed the report.

Finance

Ms. London advised the Board that the Bond Resolution compliance issue that was raised by the bond trustee US Bank has been resolved. As the Treasurer of the Agency, Ms. London will annually certify compliance with the Bond Resolution along with the submittal of the annual audit to US Bank each year.

Management

Mr. Ledbetter advised the Board that Highland Lake Inn in Flat Rock, NC is available for the Annual Planning Meeting, October 23 – 25, 2024. Unless the Board had any objections, he would sign the contract for those dates.

Mr. Ledbetter noted that the APPA Legislative Rally will be held February 25-28, 2024. The staff will send an email with more details soon.

Mr. Ledbetter also advised the Board that Mr. Bradley would be sending an email to the Board this week with information on accessing the new PMPA Members Only Site.

Consideration of 2024 G&A Budget

A motion was made by Mr. Hardin, seconded by Mr. Brooks, to adopt the 2024 G&A and Capital Budgets as presented (copy attached).
Motion approved 9 to 1 with Mr. Richard dissenting.

Consideration of Working Capital Policy

A motion was made by Mr. Richard, seconded by Mr. Bagley, to move this item after the Executive Session.
Motion approved.

Executive Session

A motion was made by Mr. Young, seconded by Mr. Bagley, to enter Executive Session.
Motion approved.

A motion was made by Mr. Nichols, seconded by Mr. Hardin, to exit the Executive Session.
Motion approved.

No action was taken in the Executive Session.

Matters pertaining to settlement of legal claims

A motion was made by Mr. Young, seconded by Mr. Bagley, to authorize the general manager to negotiate the final terms and provisions applicable to PMPA in the Settlement and Release for the litigation involving rates and to execute, and deliver the Settlement and Release on behalf of PMPA when in final form.
Motion approved.

Consideration of Working Capital Policy (continued)

A motion was made by Mr. Bronson, seconded by Mr. Hardin, to adopt the Working Capital Policy as submitted (copy attached).
Motion approved.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Bronson, seconded by Mr. Bagley, to adjourn the meeting.
Motion approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Joel D. Ledbetter
General Manager
Secretary