



**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**  
**Kevin Bronson**  
Office of the City Administrator  
Westminster, South Carolina

February 13, 2026

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

#### **Fundraising for WP Anderson Park Playground Equipment and the William Bartram Statue**

Charitable donation accounts are set up with the Community Foundation of Greater Clemson for both projects. Donations made through these accounts are fully tax deductible. The Foundation will provide letters of acknowledgement directly to those making contributions.

The QR code to the donation page for the William Bartram Statue Project is below:



The QR code to the donation page for the playground project at WP Anderson Park is below.



#### **New Recreation Batting Cage and Practice Facility- *Westminster's Batters Box***

Signage was installed this week on the building. Once the re-programmable door keypad is delivered and installed, the facility will be open for use. Stay tuned for a Grand Opening Ribbon Cutting ceremony.

#### **Downtown Streetscape Update**

Construction is scheduled to begin the week of February 16, 2026 and run through mid-September 2026. The first portion of the construction will be on Grey Street and will then progress up to Main Street (in three separate portions) and then retreat Street. Signs are now posted alerting travelers of the closing of Grey Street. Attached is a design rendering of the project area.

#### **This Week in Rec: An Update from Recreation Director Herb Poole**

- The end of season Oconee County Basketball Tournament will be finishing up this weekend for all age groups with the exception of 6u.
- Volleyball registration has ended. We may be able to accept a few more players. Baseball, softball, and tball registration will end today. We may be able to accept a few late participants.
- Basketball Western District All Star Tournaments will be held February 27-28. We will be hosting the 12u boys division.

### **Horton Outdoor Recreational Area**

Mammoth Construction workers continued their work on punch list items. AMW Construction (the contractor for the concession stand/bathroom) plans to start framing the concession stand next week (February 16<sup>th</sup>).

### **SCIIP Sewer Improvements Phase I**

Tugaloo/McClam have finished all construction. Final clean up and fence removal has begun.

### **SCIIP Sewer Improvements Phase II**

No changes from last week: LW has completed the install of Line "A". Demolition of old manholes on the Line "A" has been approved. They have moved to Line "C" to begin inspecting and laying pipe.

### **Lucky Street, James Street, and Highland Avenue Water Improvements**

The project is advertised for bid on the City website, bids are due February 24, 2026:

[https://westminstersc.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/ADVERTISEMENT-FOR-BIDS\\_Lucky-St-James-ST\\_W-25-77.pdf](https://westminstersc.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/ADVERTISEMENT-FOR-BIDS_Lucky-St-James-ST_W-25-77.pdf)

### **Electric Undergrounding Project**

The contract has been awarded to UPA. Construction has not started.

### **SCADA Upgrade Project**

Several vendors attended the Pre-Bid meeting. Bids are due at 2:00 pm February 27, 2026:

<https://westminstersc.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/SCADA-RFP-v1.0.pdf>

### **Westminster Planning Commission**

Nothing to report.

### **Oconee Economic Alliance (OEA)**

The OEA met Friday, February 13, 2026; the agenda is attached. Also attached is an excerpt from the OEA's 2025 Annual Report. Of note: most of the highlights include business in Westminster.

### **OJRSA**

The Meeting Minutes of December 11, 2025, Reconstitution Committee are attached. The Reconstitution Committee met again on February 12, 2026; the agenda is attached. Board met, February 2, 2026; the draft meeting minutes are attached.

Past and future meetings are available on OJRSA's YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/@OconeeJRSA>

### **PMPA**

The PMPA Executive Committee met February 9, 2026; the agenda is attached.

The PMPA Board will meet February 13, 2026; the agenda is attached and the zoom link to the meeting is below.

<https://pmpa.zoom.us/j/84719996942?pwd=IHF9UJ5pDgUYA4DR6aRQQKmcXheo8t.1>

### **PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

**February 16, 2026 City Offices closed to observe Presidents Day**

February 19, 2026 at 8:30 am OJRSA Operations & Planning Committee at OJRSA

February 19, 2026 at 10:00 am PMPA Board Meeting at PMPA

February 24, 2026 at 9:00 am OJRSA Finance & Administration Committee at OJRSA

March 2, 2026 at 4:00 pm OJRSA Board Meeting at OJRSA

**March 10, 2026 at 4:00 pm City Council Budget Workshop #1 of 4**

**March 10, 2026 at 6:00 pm City Council Meeting at the Westminster Fire Department**

March 12, 2026 at 9:00 am OJRSA Ad Hoc Reconstitution Committee at OJRSA

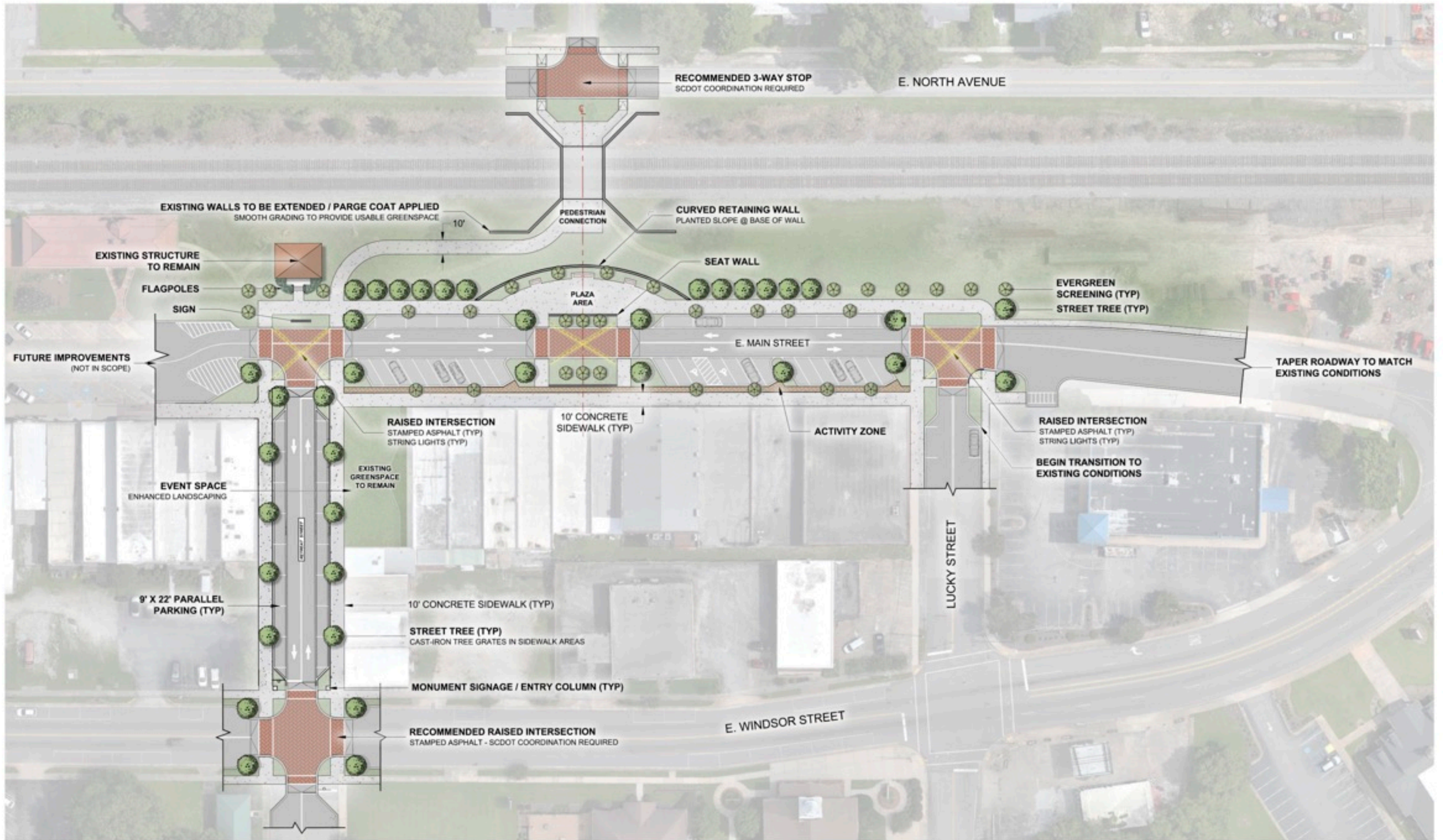
### **Special Events Calendar**

**Inaugural Westminster Police Foundation 5K Fun Run - May 16, 2026**

More information to come.

**Veterans Day Parade – November 11, 2026**

Time TBD. Main Street, Westminster.





**OCONEE  
ECONOMIC  
ALLIANCE**

OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, USA

## **Board of Directors Meeting February 13, 2026**

- I. Welcome and Introductions**
- II. Invocation**
- III. December 2025 OEA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**
- IV. December 2025, End of Year 2025 and January 2026 OEA Financial Report**
- V. Proposed 2026 OEA Budget**
- VI. OEA Economic Development Report**
- VII. Board Discussion**
- VIII. Adjourn**

## 2025 Announcements



**LIFT-TEK®**

Lift Technologies, Inc. (Lift-Tek) announced in April 2025 the expansion of its material handling manufacturing operations in Westminster. As a subsidiary of Cascade Corporation, this project is expected to create 41 new jobs and involve a capital investment of nearly \$20 million. Founded in 1999, Lift-Tek designs and manufactures masts, carriages, integral sideshifters, and fork positioners for the material handling market. The company's products are utilized in various applications, including industrial trucks, automated guided vehicles, telehandlers, and forklifts. Lift-Tek plans to expand its existing manufacturing facility at 7040 South Highway 11 in Westminster by adding 110,000 square feet and investing in updated production equipment. The Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA) assisted Lift-Tek in securing incentives at both the county and state levels for this expansion.

Cascade Corporation and Lift-Tek President and CEO Davide Roncari said, *"We are pleased to announce the expansion of the Lift-Tek manufacturing facility. This project will not only enhance operational capabilities but also reinforce Lift-Tek and Cascade's commitment to innovation and growth. We look forward to the positive impact this expansion will have on the team and the community."*



Ulbrich Specialty Wire Products (Ulbrich), a leading manufacturer of wire solutions, announced in October its expansion in Oconee County. This \$5 million investment is expected to create 15 new jobs. Ulbrich specializes in precision-engineered wire solutions for high-performance industries. The facility in Westminster focuses on the rolling, drawing, annealing, straightening, and precision winding of various round, flat, and square wire products. Located at 692 Plant Road in Westminster, Ulbrich will enhance its operations through building improvements, updated machinery and equipment, and advancements in automation and material handling technologies. The Oconee Economic Alliance (OEA) assisted Ulbrich in securing county incentives for this project.

Daniel Day, Ulbrich's General Manager of Operations said, *"Ulbrich Specialty Wire Products is proud to announce its continued commitment to growth and innovation with a new investment in the expansion of our manufacturing facility in Westminster, South Carolina. This strategic initiative represents a \$5 million capital investment dedicated to facility enhancements and the acquisition of advanced machinery and equipment to support ongoing production needs. Since acquiring the Westminster site in 2001, Ulbrich has invested over \$25 million in its development. This latest expansion underscores our long-term vision for operational excellence and reinforces our dedication to serving customers with precision-engineered wire solutions across a wide range of industries. We are grateful for the support of Oconee County and South Carolina and look forward to continuing our role as a key contributor to the region's manufacturing strength."*



In November 2025, Baxter Manufacturer announced the expansion of its plastics manufacturing operation in Westminster. The \$15.7 million investment is expected to create 36 new jobs. Baxter is a family-owned, full-service supplier to the plastics industry with 40 years of experience. The company's Oconee operation, established in 2017, serves as a Tier 1 supplier of manufactured plastic injection-molded parts for the automotive industry. To enhance production capabilities and better serve its automotive customers, Baxter will be adding 35,000 square feet of space and new machinery to its facility located at 1000 Innovation Way. Operations are anticipated to be online by the third quarter of 2026. The Oconee Economic Alliance (OEA) assisted Baxter in securing both county and state incentives for this expansion.

Bill Clark, President of Baxter Manufacturing said, *"We are thrilled to be expanding our operations in Oconee County for a second time in less than eight years, a testament to the quality workforce and pro-business environment we have found here. This expansion is a key part of our strategic vision, allowing us to better meet our customer demands and position ourselves for future growth. We deeply value the dedicated team members who have contributed to our success over the years and look forward to a bright future in the community."*



In December 2025, Horton announced the expansion of their manufacturing facility for Westminster cooling fans and fan clutches. This \$15 million project will double the manufacturing space at 301 Oconee Business Parkway, featuring the construction of an additional 100,000 square feet along with new production equipment. Founded in 1951, Horton is a global leader in thermal control for power systems, providing technologies that ensure optimal temperature management for transportation and industrial applications. The company operates 15 facilities and has a presence in 70 countries. The OEA assisted Horton in securing county and state incentives for this expansion.

Horton Vice President of Operations and Supply Chain Tony Niese said, *"Horton began operations in Oconee County, South Carolina, in 2020. Since that time, the team has expanded its capability and output to the point that additional manufacturing space is needed. The company is proud of the Horton team's achievements in Oconee County and looks forward to supporting its next significant stage of growth."*

## Product Development

Industrial real estate product development is critical to Oconee County's economic development success and in 2025 the OEA worked on several key real estate items.

### **Collins Craft Building**

The OEA partnered with the Collins Family to bring the Collins Craft Building onto the market and make it available to new or expanding industrial companies. The 66,000 square foot building is located at 2313 Sandifer Boulevard in Westminster. Since its construction in 2012, the facility has had only one tenant. The building has 60,000 SF of production space, a floor thickness of 8", a ceiling height of 32', two loading docks and a drive-in door, which make it capable of accommodating a variety of industrial uses.



The OEA approached the Collins Family about its attractiveness to prospective industrial uses that could bring new jobs and investments to Oconee County. The Collins Family agreed and the OEA worked to assemble specs and pictures for the building. In February, the building was officially listed on the South Carolina Department of Commerce's LocateSC website and it soon drew strong interest from several international manufacturers. At the end of 2025, the building was a finalist location for two of the projects indicating its strength and attractiveness for industrial users.



### **Golden Corner Commerce Park at I-85 (GCCP)**

Throughout 2025, the OEA aggressively marketed GCCP's 40+ acre pad ready parcel located on the north side and 20+ acre roughly graded parcel on the south side of the park to prospective industry. In January the OEA met with a national site location consultant representing a major pharmaceutical project that would require acquisition of GCCP. While GCCP did not make the short list of locations for the project, it provided some invaluable insights into how GCCP could be better positioned for projects and our messaging for the park.



A revised marketing strategy that utilized Placer AI data for workforce availability, identified nearby employment centers (along with housing and retail amenities) in both South Carolina and Georgia, and provided greater flexibility in how the park could be developed was implemented in July. This new approach immediately resonated with prospects-changing the perception of GCCP. Its effectiveness was evident by the fourth quarter of the year at which time the OEA was notified that GCCP had made the short list for several significant industrial projects. These projects have Oconee County well positioned for business development growth in 2026.



# Oconee Joint Regional Sewer Authority

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

## OCONEE JOINT REGIONAL SEWER AUTHORITY Ad-Hoc Reconstitution Committee and Executive Committee December 11, 2025

The Ad-Hoc Reconstitution Committee and Executive Committee meeting was held at the Coneross Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Commissioners/Committee Members that were present:

- Katherine Amidon (Environmental Planner, Bolton & Menk)
- Chip Bentley (Appalachian Council of Gov'ts.)
- Kevin Bronson (City of Westminster) – Committee Chair
- Chris Eleazer (Oconee Joint Regional Sewer Authority)
- Lawrence Flynn (Pope Flynn - OJRSA Attorney) – *via Microsoft Teams*
- Glenn Hart, Oconee County Councilman
- Joel Jones (Consultant, JonesWater)
- Scott Moulder (City of Seneca)
- Celia Myers (City of Walhalla) - *via Microsoft Teams (arrived 9:45 a.m.)*

Committee Members that were not present:

- Angie Mettlen, (Vice President, Ardurra)

OJRSA appointments and staff present were:

- Lynn Stephens, Secretary/Treasurer to the Board and Office Manager

Others present were:

- Mayor Linda Oliver, Town of West Union – *via Microsoft Teams*
- Ms. Andrea Kelley, The Journal
- Tony Adams, Oconee Co. Citizen

**A. Call to Order** – Mr. Bronson called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

### **B. Approval of Minutes**

- **Ad Hoc Reconstitution Committee and Executive Committee Meeting of November 13, 2025**  
*Mr. Moulder made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, to approve the November 13, 2025 meeting minutes as presented. The motion carried.*

### **C. Committee Discussion and Action Items**

- 1. West Union Update Regarding the Support Resolution and Rate/Valuation Study** – Mr. Eleazer asked Mayor Oliver to give an update on this. Mayor Oliver stated that she signed the resolution and would've turned it in today had she not been under the weather. She reported that the Town Council still has questions including why the town cannot become a member of the new board and what compensation the town will receive for giving the sewer system away. She also stated that the town's attorney, Ms. Mary McCormick, feels it is unfair to pay for the rate study when the town has nothing to do with it and won't get anything from it.

Mr. Bronson stated he feels the Town of West Union's concerns are generally the same as the other members' concerns. He thanked Mayor Oliver for her feedback. He said it will be a process before the answers to these questions are nailed down and asked for continued patience as the process is worked through.

Mayor Oliver asked what other options the town will have. Ms. Amidon replied this will be addressed further in Item 4 of today's meeting.

Mr. Flynn stated he had a very good conversation with Ms. McCormick after she made major changes to the resolution which reflected what Mayor Oliver just said. He agreed that West Union has basically the same questions as the other members have.

In reference to compensation for the system, Mr. Flynn stated that he explained to Ms. McCormick that the OJRSA only has revenue generated from the customers it serves. The idea of paying for the collection systems must either be done on a rate base basis or turned over and administered appropriately. There is no pot of money for distribution. He explained how the Town of West Union has a very small sewer system. He said the cost of capital items or regulatory issues would go back on rate payers and that the town may benefit from being a part of a larger sewer system and not having to pay for these (as well as future maintenance costs).

In reference to becoming a member of the board, Mr. Flynn told Ms. McCormick that the town's system is too small in comparison to the other members. The idea of further diluting the interest of the existing members is not something the original Ad Hoc Committee thought made sense.

In reference to the cost of the Rate Study, he told Ms. McCormick that the request was this organization is going through the reconstitution process and is looking to do the necessary work to figure out where value lies in order to avoid getting left out even if the entity becomes a wholesale customer in the future.

Mayor Oliver asked if the rates would be changing at any point. Mr. Flynn stated he couldn't speak to that; the independent rate consultant would be determining that. He added that there is a requirement that the OJRSA pays for maintaining collection systems, and the only way to pay for it is by obtaining debt. Obtaining debt for capital improvements would raise the rate base, and it wouldn't be realistic to think sewer costs will get cheaper. This is regardless of whether consolidation occurs or not; there is a lot of capital needs to be done which will likely be manifested in the reports from the rate consultants.

Mayor Oliver spoke about adding fees to cover the town's maintenance workers for obtaining data for the current monthly flow reports and payments to the OJRSA; she stated she told her council that if the reconstitution occurs, the OJRSA would not put new meters on the town's system, and the town will still have to obtain this information each month. Mr. Eleazer replied that the cost would be placed on the existing customers if the OJRSA had to meter the sewer connections, so we do not foresee doing this.

Mr. Bronson thanked Mayor Oliver again for participating today and told her he hopes she feels better quickly. Mr. Eleazer said he would be happy to answer any questions that the Town of West Union may have after the meeting. Mr. Jones said the OJRSA will be able to provide more information about what a potential wholesale agreement would look like soon. He added that there are options, but they are not desirable options; it's all about who is going to own the risk.

- 2. Oconee County Update Regarding the Support Resolution** – Mr. Bronson welcomed Mr. Hart to the committee. Mr. Hart said it was a pleasure to be here, and he took a moment to thank the Oconee County Council for appointing him to this committee.

Mr. Hart said he wouldn't be here if Oconee County didn't support the resolution; however, he added he cannot make any decisions without talking to the other council members first.

Ms. Amidon asked if Mr. Hart had a copy of the resolution; Mr. Hart replied no. Mr. Eleazer said he will email the resolution to Mr. Hart via his council email address and will also email it to Mr. Phil Shirley (interim Oconee County administrator). Mr. Eleazer added that if there are any questions, Mr. Flynn would be happy to speak to the county's attorney. Mr. Eleazer asked Mr. Hart if Mr. David

Root is still the county's attorney; Mr. Hart replied Mr. Root will continue as the attorney for four (4) more months.

- 3. Update on Amendment to Joint Authority Water and Sewer Systems Act (Exhibit A)** – Mr. Flynn stated that nothing has changed in the language of the Act. The OJRSA wanted to try to get this pre-filed; the pre-filing window is currently open at a month prior to the start of the 2026 season of the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) year legislative session.

Mr. Flynn said he reached out to Senator Alexander who expressed an interest in participating in the meeting today but ended up having another appointment conflict. Mr. Flynn stated that subsequent to this conversation, the senator's chief administrative drafting liaison reached out to him. Mr. Flynn said he sent a copy of the most up-to-date version of the legislation earlier this week to him and said he would be happy to answer any questions. Mr. Flynn said he assumes the Act will work through the drafting process and be cleaned up to conform with their protocols for introduction.

- 4. Communications with Elected Officials** – Ms. Amidon stated that the original Ad Hoc Committee recommended having a communication plan that will make sure the same messages comes from this committee and the OJRSA to all the council members to keep everyone on the same page. The consulting group (Mr. Jones, Ms. Mettlen, and Ms. Amidon) decided that it would be most valuable if this got started, because it encourages people to participate, and there have been articles coming out in the media that have been informative to the public. It is also beneficial that newly appointed council members that don't really know all that has transpired over the past several years are brought up to speed.

Ms. Amidon drafted the first communication memorandum (*made a part of these minutes*) which contains information that was previously made public; however, the new council members will probably not read the OJRSA Master Plan or Feasibility Study, so this will help communicate this information to them. This memo is a quick background of why the OJRSA is doing these memos, a background of the reconstitution process, the reconstitution recommendations (including the June 16, 2025 meeting that was presented during an OJRSA and Oconee County Council meeting), and some additional background information as to why the OJRSA exists in the first place.

Ms. Amidon asked if the committee supports this initiative, and if so, what process does the committee want to go through to approve the memos before they are made public. She added that, although this first memo is a recap, subsequent memos would include items like "Wholesale Options" (what that means and what it looks like). Ms. Amidon asked the committee to think about how the process should move forward and how to send it out (from the OJRSA board chair, Executive Director, or another person).

Mr. Bronson said he appreciates this being put together. He stated he likes the idea of the memos coming from Ms. Amidon, because she would make sure it's concise and readable. He said he is fine with however the majority of the committee want it communicated.

Mr. Moulder thanked Ms. Amidon for preparing the memo and said he feels the communication memo is an excellent idea to ensure everyone is getting the same information. He feels it is a good idea to have a central point to distribute the information to the mayors and councils but does not feel Mr. Bronson should distribute it as he works for the City of Westminster. Mr. Bronson agreed and said he wouldn't feel comfortable sending information to the other cities' councils; he said it should come from Mr. Eleazer or Ms. Amidon. Mr. Moulder said he felt it was better coming from Mr. Eleazer.

Ms. Amidon said the consulting group would do the legwork on drafting the memos. Mr. Moulder said Ms. Amidon asked if this committee had to approve the memos before they were sent out, and he was fine with that; Mr. Bronson said that the consulting group is working on OJRSA's behalf. Mr. Jones said there is an extra benefit for it coming from Ms. Amidon: It is not the work of the committee but is a summary of events; this committee would not be accountable for any discrepancies. Coming from Mr. Eleazer would make it look like an official document, and it is a lot

to ask this committee to read through the minutes and everything else and then approve the summary.

Mr. Moulder asked if it should be sent out without the committee's approval. Ms. Amidon said she feels good about this first memo, as it's just a recap. For future memos, she stated she would like some level of review to ensure nothing goes to council that isn't true in regard to logistics of how this moves forward. Ms. Amidon said Mr. Flynn or Mr. Eleazer could review it. Mr. Moulder suggested Ms. Amidon send it out to the committee five (5) days before sending it out, and it would be on the committee members to review it and voice any objections that can be brought back to the next committee meeting.

Mr. Bronson asked Mr. Hart if he had any thoughts on this process. Mr. Hart replied that his council told him to "come here and nod yes or no and keep my mouth shut." Mr. Bronson asked Mr. Bentley for his thoughts. Mr. Bentley said it is a good idea to do the memos so the cities can look at them. He said he would chime in more when the valuations are done.

It was agreed that Ms. Amidon would give the committee a five (5)-day heads up to review before it is distributed to the elected officials. Mr. Bronson added that he won't have the contact information for his new council members until after January 1, 2026.

Mr. Eleazer stated it is a public document now and will put it on the OJRSA website. Ms. Amidon stated she would send out a formal email in January, and she asked for all the email addresses.

Mr. Moulder asked if these memos could be sent to other city personnel like the utility directors. Mr. Bronson and Ms. Amidon both replied yes.

Ms. Amidon asked if there were any suggestions for the next memo. Mr. Moulder said the consolidation questions and answers should be in the next one. Mr. Eleazer said it should be grouped together the best it can.

- 5. Update on Financial Studies (Exhibit B)** – Ms. Amidon said she and Mr. Flynn will discuss this in Ms. Mettlen's absence. She stated that Raftelis was contacted and is happy to be part of the process. They feel that with the data that was already made available, it shouldn't be as involved as what they did for MetroConnects. She reminded the committee that it was agreed that sole sourcing would occur with no formal approval vote of the OJRSA board needed. She added that Raftelis will work on developing a Scope Fee and all the data from the Master Plan and Feasibility Study was cataloged and will be given to them. Mr. Flynn stated he spoke to First Tryon; they are up to speed and are ready to be engaged and just need direction on where to go.

Mr. Bronson asked if it would be reasonable to discuss the costs at the January committee meeting. He said it will take three (3) months from now for the City of Westminster to approve the cost. Once the committee learns the cost in January, it will have to be brought to the council meeting later that month, and then the council's decision will be brought back to this committee in February. Mr. Jones said he feels that is aggressive and that February would be more realistic.

Ms. Amidon asked if it was okay to share the catalog of files with Raftelis. Mr. Bronson and Mr. Moulder both said yes.

- D. Committee Member Discussion** – Mr. Moulder and Mr. Eleazer wished a Merry Christmas to everyone. Revisit Meeting Schedule, Oconee County's Long-Term Commitment, & Wholesale Agreement Options – Mr. Jones said that due to several new council members being appointed in January, it may be necessary to revisit the committee meeting schedule. In addition, it is important to get a long-term commitment from Oconee County as to where they want to concentrate on growth and how it relates to the consolidation. Mr. Jones also said it would be beneficial to speak about Wholesale Agreement options. Mr. Bronson asked Mr. Eleazer and Ms. Amidon to have this on the agenda for the January meeting.

Mr. Bronson said it would be helpful to know what needs to be answered for the critical path forward. Mr. Jones said the viable options should be discussed and questions answered.

Ms. Amidon said that there were conversations with Anderson County a couple years ago and asked Mr. Hart if these were still ongoing at the county level, and she asked Mr. Bentley if this is part of the 208. Mr. Bentley said the job of the 208 plan is to set up how regional services are provided and designate the regional providers. The Appalachian Council of Governments (ACOG) is the regional planner designated by the state management agencies. ReWa and OJRSA are established through that plan. If a new facility is being put in place, ACOG will determine who will be the provider and who will be the management agency, what it is going to serve, if it impacts anyone else from an environmental standpoint, and the economics of it (will it undermine the existing service of a provider by taking away a territory that they were expecting or receiving revenues from). From a plan standpoint, the principals won't support the idea. It depends on how it pans out. He added that he advocates for consolidation.

Mr. Eleazer said he asked Weston & Sampson and Bolton & Menk to look at a plant option at the southern part of the county that would serve Anderson County and another one at the eastern part of the county that would take some load off the Coneross plant. It was determined that the most economical option was to bring all the flow to the Coneross plant (even from the interstate). Ms. Amidon added that the receiving waters at the southern end of the county cannot handle a very large plant.

Mr. Hart said he received an email from the engineer on Exit 4 who said they are looking for one more permit for the SCDOT before they can do any more work. Mr. Eleazer said this has to do with the Master Plan to serve the parcel near Exit 4 to bring sewer to the existing infrastructure (Phase II). He said he provided the letter to Mr. Shirley at the SCDOT the other day saying the OJRSA is willing to do the operation and maintenance for the system.

Mr. Eleazer asked about the agreements Mr. Jones referred to earlier. Mr. Jones asked what the alternatives were. He said that West Union is currently not a member; their only option is to be a stand-alone entity. There are some questions with Seneca as well. These could be a wholesale agreement that needs a rate structure. There are a lot of things to go into it, and it does not have a simple answer to it.

Last Meeting Request - Ms. Amidon said it was requested at the last meeting to provide expected outcomes for the Feasibility and Collection System Rate studies, and she said it was agreed to get Raftelis and First Tryon going forward. She asked if the committee members need to review this with their respective councils and provide feedback on the outcomes. Mr. Bronson said the main question is what the cost is, and he will share this information with his council. He said that's enough for now.

Ms. Myers apologized for being late to the meeting and said she will share the information with her council and allow them to provide feedback. The city is still moving forward as of right now. Mr. Moulder asked Mr. Eleazer to email Ms. Myers and fill her in about the communication process since she missed the discussion in the meeting.

Award – Mr. Bronson congratulated Mr. Flynn and Pope Flynn on the recent award they received.

**E. Adjourn** – The meeting was adjourned at 9:59 a.m.

#### **Upcoming Meetings**

- 1. Finance & Administration Committee** – Tuesday, December 16, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.
- 2. Operations & Planning Committee** – Thursday, December 18, 2025 at 8:30 a.m.
- 3. Board of Commissioners** – Monday, January 5, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. *(Note: Special time and location: Walhalla Depot, 211 South College Street, Walhalla)*
- 4. Annual Members' Meeting** – Monday, January 5, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. *(Note: Special time and location: Walhalla Depot, 211 South College Street, Walhalla)*
- 5. Reconstitution Committee & Executive Committee** – Thursday, January 8, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

(SIGNATURES ON FOLLOWING PAGE)

Approved By: \_\_\_\_\_

Kevin Bronson  
Committee Chair

Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved By: \_\_\_\_\_

Lynn M. Stephens  
OJRSA Secretary/Treasurer

Notification of the meeting was distributed on December 5, 2025 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](http://www.ojrsa.org), and posted at the OJRSA Administration Building.



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

OJRSA Operations & Administration Building  
Lamar Bailes Board Room  
December 11, 2025 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 November 13, 2025
- C. Committee Discussion and Action Items**
  1. West Union update regarding the support resolution and rate/valuation study – Chris Eleazer, Committee Member/OJRSA Director (or Linda Oliver, West Union Mayor, if present)
  2. Oconee County update regarding the support resolution – Glenn Hart, Committee Member/Oconee County Council
  3. Update on amendment to Joint Authority Water and Sewer Systems Act (Exhibit A) – Lawrence Flynn, OJRSA Counsel
  4. Communications with elected officials – Katherine Amidon, Committee Facilitator
  5. Update on financial studies (Exhibit B) – Angie Mettlen, Committee 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.*

- Finance & Administration Committee – December 16, 2025 at 9:00 AM
- Operations & Planning Committee – December 18, 2025 at 8:30 AM
- Board of Commissioners – January 5, 2026 at 5:00 PM *Note special meeting time. Meeting to be held at Walhalla Depot, 211 South College Street, Walhalla*
- Annual Members' Meeting – January 5, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. *Note special meeting time. Meeting to be held at Walhalla Depot, 211 South College Street, Walhalla*
- Reconstitution Committee and Executive Committee – January 8, 2026 at 9:00 AM



TO AMEND CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF TITLE 6, CHAPTER 25 OF THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA 1976, TO AUTHORIZE CERTAIN CLARYIFYING AMENDMENTS REGARDING COMMISSIONERS, RECONSTITUTION, BOND APPROVAL AND DURATION.

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

**SECTION 1. Section 6-25-20 shall be amended to add the following defined terms:**

**§ 6-25-20. Definitions.**

(14) "Legislative Delegation" means all members of the South Carolina Senate and South Carolina House representing any county where a joint system is located.

(15) "Governor" means the Governor of the State of South Carolina.

**SECTION 2. Section 6-25-50 shall be amended and restated as follows:**

**§ 6-25-50.** ~~Agreement as to number of commissioners each member may appoint; Application filed with Secretary of State; corporate certificate.~~

(A) The governing bodies of the members of a joint system shall form an agreement specifying the number of commissioners ~~each member may appoint to a commission created to govern the joint system pursuant to Section 6-25-60.~~

(B) ~~Two or more commissioners~~ The proposed members of a joint system shall jointly file an application with the Secretary of State ~~an application signed by the commissioner or each proposed member setting forth:~~

(1) ~~the names of~~ number of proposed members of the joint system, the number of proposed commissioners, and their respective appointed commissioners the method of appointment pursuant to Section 6-25-60(B);

(2) ~~(a) the a~~ certified copy of a resolution of each member determining it is in its best interest to participate in the proposed joint system; ~~and~~

~~(b) the resolution appointing the member's commissioner;~~

(3) the desire that the joint system be organized as a public body corporate and politic under this chapter;

(4) the name which is proposed for the joint system; and

(5) the purpose for creation of the joint system.

The Secretary of State shall file the application if after examining it and determining that it complies with the requirements in this section and that the proposed name of the joint system is not identical with that of any other corporation of the State or any agency or instrumentality or so nearly similar as to lead to confusion and uncertainty.

After the application has been filed, the Secretary of State shall issue a corporate certificate that must be filed with the application, and the joint system then must be constituted a public body corporate and politic under the name proposed in the application. The corporate certificate shall set forth ~~the names of all voting member~~ and the name of the joint system. There also must be stated upon the corporate certificate the purpose for which it has been created, as set forth in the application. Notice of the issuance of such corporate certificate must be given to all members of the joint system by the Secretary of State.

In any suit, action, or proceeding involving the validity or enforcement of, or relating to, contract of a joint system, the joint system in the absence of establishing fraud shall be conclusively

considered to have been established in accordance with the provisions of this chapter upon proof of the issuance of the certificate by the Secretary of State. A copy of the certificate, duly certified by the Secretary of State, is admissible in evidence in any suit, action, or proceeding and is conclusive proof of the filing and contents.

**SECTION 3. Section 6-25-60 shall be amended and restated as follows:**

§ 6-25-60. Joint system to be managed and controlled by commission; appointment of commissioners; oath; records; seal; quorum; vacancies; expenses.

(A) The management and control of a joint system is vested in a commission that may consist of no fewer than five members and no more than eleven members. A commissioner has one vote and may have additional votes as a majority of the members of the joint system determines. Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection requiring the commission managing a joint system to have no fewer than five members and no more than eleven members, a joint system in existence on this section's effective date and having fewer than five members or more than eleven members on this section's effective date may continue to maintain the number of members serving on the section's effective date and may add additional members as its commissioners determine.

(B) As contemplated by the initial application to the Secretary of State, commissioners serving on the commission may be appointed under one of the following procedures:

(1) Appointment by member. The governing body of each voting member of a joint system shall appoint one or more a commissioner~~s~~, pursuant to ~~Section 6-25-50(A)~~, to serve as a commissioner of the joint system. ~~A commissioner has one vote and may have additional votes as a majority of the members of the joint system determines.~~ A commissioner serves at the pleasure of the governing body by which he was appointed. A commissioner, before entering upon his duties, shall take and subscribe to an oath before a person authorized by law to administer oaths to execute the duties of his office faithfully and impartially, and a record of each oath must be filed with the governing body of the appointing authority.

~~Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection requiring the commission managing a joint system to have no fewer than five members and no more than eleven members, a joint system in existence on this section's effective date and having fewer than five members or more than eleven members on this section's effective date may continue to maintain the number of members serving on the section's effective date and may add additional members as its commissioners determine.~~ Further, and notwithstanding the appointment requirements above, in the event there are an even number of members of a joint system (i.e. 4, 6, 8, 10), the project contract, bylaws or other similar agreement for the joint system may authorize one additional member of the commission; such additional commissioner shall be recommended by the legislative delegation from each county where the joint system is located, and upon receipt of such recommendation, such additional commissioner shall appointed by the Governor. Any gubernatorial appointment shall be for a term of four years and shall serve until a duly appointed successor is appointed and qualified. Any commissioner appointed by the Governor hereunder must reside within a household receiving utility services from the joint system or a member of the joint system. Any vacancy of such member must be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term in the same manner as the original appointment. If a new member of a joint system is added under the provisions hereof such that there becomes an odd number of members of a joint system, any gubernatorial appointed commissioner shall be deemed to automatically vacate his position as a commissioner as of the date of the admission of such new member of a joint system and their respective appointment of a new commissioner.

(2) Appointment by Governor. The commissioners may be appointed by the Governor in accordance with the following procedures:

(a) The Governor, based upon the recommendation of the legislative delegation from each county that the joint system operates, shall appoint each commissioner. Each appointed commissioner must reside within a household receiving utility services from the joint system or a member of the joint system. In making such appointments, there shall be at least one commissioner appointed by the Governor from the service area of each member of the joint system.

(b) Excepting the initial appointments as necessary to create a staggered commission which may be two or four years, respectively, each commissioner must be appointed and serve for a term of four years and until his successor is appointed and qualified, provided that the terms of the commissioners must be staggered such that approximately one-half of the total members appointed by the Governor must be appointed or reappointed every two years. A vacancy must be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term in the manner of the original appointment. Respecting the initial commission appointed herein, the minority portion of the staggered membership, representing those authorities with the lowest number of customers of the joint system, shall serve for an initial two-year term.

~~(B)~~ (C) The commissioners of the joint system shall annually, or biennially, if provided in the bylaws of the joint system, elect, with each commissioner having one vote, one of the commissioners as chairman, another as vice chairman, and other persons who may, but need not be commissioners, as treasurer, secretary and, if desired, assistant secretary. The office of treasurer may be held by the secretary or assistant secretary. The commission may also appoint such additional officers as it deems necessary. The secretary or assistant secretary of the joint system shall keep a record of the proceedings of the joint system, and the secretary must be the custodian of all books, records, documents, and papers filed with the joint system, the minute book or journal of the joint system, and its official seal.

~~(C)~~ (D) A majority of the commissioners of the joint system shall constitute a quorum. A vacancy on the commission of the joint system shall not impair the right of a quorum to exercise all rights and perform all the duties of a joint system. Any action taken by the joint system under the provisions of this chapter may be authorized by resolution at any regular or special meeting held pursuant to notice in accordance with bylaws of the joint system, and each resolution shall take effect immediately and need not be published or posted. Except as is otherwise provided in this chapter or in the bylaws of the joint system, a majority of the votes which the commissioners present are entitled to cast, with a quorum present, shall be necessary and sufficient to take any action or to pass any resolution. No commissioner of a joint system shall receive any compensation solely for the performance of duties as a commissioner, but each commissioner may be paid per diem, mileage, and subsistence expenses, as provided by law for state boards, committees, and commissions, incurred while engaged in the performance of such duties.

(E) All commissioners shall hold the qualifications of an elector.

(F) Commissioners appointed under subsection (B)(2) above may not be an officer or employee of a member of a joint system, and no commissioner shall be permitted to serve on an ex officio basis. Separately, for commissioners appointed under subsection (B)(1) above, the members of the joint system may include a restriction in the project contract, bylaws or other agreement for the joint system that no commissioner may be an officer or employee of a member of a joint system, and no commissioner shall be permitted to serve on an ex officio basis.

(G) Any commissioner appointed hereunder shall be deemed to forfeit his respective position if such person (1) lacks, at any time during his term of office, any qualifications for the office prescribed by general law and the Constitution, or (2) is convicted of any crime, other than civil infractions or misdemeanors for which no imprisonment is imposed.

**SECTION 4. Section 6-25-70 shall be amended and restated as follows:****SECTION 6-25-70.** Change in membership of joint system.

(A) After the creation of a joint system, any other authority may become a member *of the joint system* upon:

- (1) adoption of a resolution or ordinance by the governing body complying with the requirements of Section 6-25-40 including publication of notice;
- (2) submission of an application to the joint system; and
- (3) approval of the application by resolution of the governing body of each member of the joint system except in the case of a joint system organized for the purpose of creating a financing pool, in which case the application must be approved by resolution of the commission.

(B) A member may withdraw from a joint system by resolution or ordinance of its governing body. A contractual right acquired or contractual obligation incurred by a member while it was a member remains in full force and effect after the member's withdrawal.

(C) Notice of a change in membership must be filed in the Office of the Secretary of State. No change is final until this filing occurs. The filing is not required if a joint system is organized only for the purpose of creating a financing pool.

(D) If a new member of the joint system is added hereunder, the approval documentation required under subsection (A)(3) above shall determine whether any new commissioners shall be added to the commission as necessary to support such new member of the joint system. If a new commissioner is added, either by the member of the joint system or the Governor, as applicable, each such commissioner shall be appointed immediately.

**SECTION 5. Section 6-25-80 shall be amended and restated as follows:****§ 6-25-80.** Dissolution of system.

Whenever the commission of a joint system and the governing body of each of its members shall by resolution or ordinance determine that the purposes for which the joint system was formed have been substantially fulfilled and that all bonds issued and all other obligations incurred by the joint system have been fully paid or satisfied, the commission and members may declare the joint system to be dissolved. On the effective date of the resolution or ordinance, the title to all funds and other income and property owned by the joint system at the time of dissolution must be disbursed to the voting members of the joint system according to its bylaws.

In the discretion of the members of a joint system for the proper and efficient operation of any joint system, an existing joint system may be reconstituted by following the procedures for the creation of a new joint system, mutatis mutandis.

**SECTION 6. Section 6-25-110 shall be amended and restated as follows:****§ 6-25-110.** Authorization to incur debt and issue bonds.

A joint system may incur debt for any of its purposes and may issue bonds pledging to the payment as to both principal and interest the revenues, or any portion, derived or to be derived from all or any of its projects and any additions and betterments or extensions or contributions or advances from its members or other sources of funds available to it. A joint system may not undertake a project required to be financed, in whole or in part, with the proceeds of bonds without the approval of the governing bodies of each member which is obligated or to be obligated under any contract for the payment of amounts to be pledged as security therefore and a favorable vote of two-thirds of all commissioners. Notwithstanding the foregoing, when a commission is

appointed under Section 6-25-60(B)(2), no separate approval of the governing bodies of each member shall be required for the issuance of any bonds, and such bonds shall be authorized and approved by a simple majority of the commissioners. Any project may be preauthorized, preapproved or otherwise permitted under the terms of the project contract for the joint system, and such authority, approval or permission shall constitute all necessary approval of the respective governing bodies of each member herein. A joint system formed only for the purpose of creating a financing pool may issue notes in anticipation of the issuance of bonds by its members to the government.

**SECTION 7. Section 6-25-128 shall be amended and restated as follows:**

**§ 6-25-128.** Contracts between authority and joint system; duration.

An authority may contract to buy from the joint system water required for its present or future requirements, including the capacity and output, or a portion or share of one or more specified projects. An authority also may contract for the collection or treatment of wastewater, including present or future capacity, or a portion or share of another project. The creation of a joint system is an alternative method whereby an authority may obtain the benefits and assume the responsibilities of ownership in a project, so a contract may provide that the authority forming the contract is obligated to make a payment required by the contract whether or not a project is completed, operable, or operating notwithstanding the suspension, interruption, interference, reduction, or curtailment of the output of a project or the water contracted for, and that the payments under the contract are not subject to reduction, whether by offset or otherwise, and are not conditioned upon the performance or nonperformance of the joint system or any other member of the joint system under the contract or any other instrument. A contract with respect to the sale or purchase of capacity or output, or a portion or share of them, of a project entered into between a joint system and its member authorities also may provide that if an authority or authorities default in the payment of its or their obligations with respect to the purchase of the capacity or output, or a portion or share of them, in that event the remaining member authorities which are purchasing capacity and output under the contract are required to accept and pay for and are entitled proportionately to and may use or otherwise dispose of the capacity or output which was to be purchased by the defaulting authority.

A contract concerning the sale or purchase of capacity and output from a project may extend for a period not exceeding fifty years from the date of the contract and may be renewable and extended upon terms as the parties may agree for not exceeding an additional fifty years; and the execution and effectiveness is not subject to any authorizations or approvals by the State or any agency, commission, or instrumentality or political subdivision of them. Additionally, the contract may further provide that bonds or other indebtedness of the joint system may exceed the term of an initial or existing contract between or among the joint system and the respective members of the joint system, and in such event the contract, or at least the payment obligations of each member, shall be automatically extended to a period commensurate with the term of the bonds or other indebtedness.

Payments by an authority under a contract for the purchase of capacity and output from a joint system may be made from the revenues derived from the ownership and operation of the water system of the authority or from such other sources of funds as may be available, including any amounts received as payments in lieu of taxes. An authority may not pledge its full faith, credit, and taxing power to secure its obligations to the joint system or the bonds of the joint system. An authority is obligated to fix, charge, and collect rents, rates, fees, and charges for water or sewer services, facilities, and commodities sold, furnished, or supplied through its water or sewer system sufficient to provide revenues adequate to meet its obligations under any contract and to pay any

and all other amounts payable from or constituting a charge and lien upon the revenues, including amounts sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on general obligation bonds, if any, heretofore or hereafter issued by the authority for purposes related to its water or sewer system.

An authority that is a member of a joint system may furnish the joint system with money derived from the ownership and operation of its water or sewer system or facilities and provide the joint system with personnel, equipment, and property, both real and personal, and from any other sources legally available to it for such purposes. An authority also may provide services to a joint system.

A member of a joint system may contract for, advance, or contribute funds derived from the ownership and operation of its water or sewer system or facilities or from another legal source to a joint system as agreed upon by the joint system and the member, and the joint system shall repay the advances or contributions from the proceeds of bonds, operating revenue, or other funds of the joint system, together with interest as agreed upon by the member and the joint system.

**SECTION 8. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.**



## AD HOC RECONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

December 2025

# Financial Feasibility Study: Expected Outcomes for Entities

## Overall Outcomes

Based on a scope similar to the MetroConnects/Sewer Districts Financial Feasibility Study provided to the Committee as an example, the following overall outcomes can be expected for each entity if participating in a similar study. It would be expected that only the initial phase of the study would be completed at this time. The actual deliverables will be based on the negotiated scope after discussions with the selected consultant.

Below are the expected outcomes that each entity could expect from a similar study:

**Strategic Financial Roadmap:** Clear understanding of debt capacity, affordability, and long-term capital planning.

**Decision Support:** Data-driven insights to guide prioritization of projects and potential mergers/consolidations.

**Enhanced Governance:** Transparent communication tools for boards, committees, and stakeholders.

## Example Phase I: Financial Analysis & Consolidation/Merger Evaluation

### Planning Work Deliverables

- Financial Condition & Debt Portfolio Analysis
- Detailed report on current financial health, credit profile, and debt obligations.
- Identification of strengths, risks, and opportunities in existing financing.
- Capital Planning Model
- A comprehensive, customized financial model projecting debt capacity and affordability.
- Scenario testing for different project timelines, funding structures, and revenue sources.



## AD HOC RECONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

- Sensitivity analyses to show how changes in assumptions (revenues, costs, growth) affect affordability.

### **Consolidation/Merger Evaluation Deliverables**

- Comparative analysis of existing and proposed cash flows for entities under consideration.
- Impact assessment on financial ratios, coverage levels, and long-term sustainability.
- Pro forma projections to evaluate merger/consolidation feasibility.
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Participation in board meetings, workshops, and committees to refine assumptions.
- Presentation materials to communicate findings clearly to governing boards and staff.

## Example Phase II: Financial Transaction Support

This phase will come at a later date if consolidation moves forward and will not be a part of the initial scope. However, this is provided as information for the Committee to understand the expected outcomes of this work should it be necessary.

### **Transaction Execution Deliverables**

- Plan of Finance Document
- Tailored financing strategy aligned with short- and long-term objectives.
- Recommended structures (fixed vs. variable rate, term lengths, call provisions).
- Credit Package
- Comprehensive lender/bond counsel package including financials, projections, and supporting schedules.
- Quantitative Schedules
- Sources and uses of funds.
- Debt service schedules.
- Escrow cash flow projections.

### **Financing Calendar Deliverables**

- Detailed timeline of milestones (board approvals, hearings, closing dates).



## AD HOC RECONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

- Market Advisory Report
- Current bond market conditions and interest rate outlook.
- Timing recommendations for issuance.
- Closing Documentation
- Coordinated checklist of closing requirements.
- Drafts of legal documents prepared with counsel.
- Final executed agreements.
- Board/Stakeholder Presentation
- Clear explanation of financing terms, risks, and expected outcomes.
- Visuals to support decision-making.

### **Post-Closing Support Materials**

- Closing summary report.
- Q&A documentation for staff and stakeholders.



## AD HOC RECONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

# Collection Systems Rate Study: Expected Outcomes for Entities

## Overall Outcomes

Based on a scope similar to the MetroConnects/Sewer Districts Collection Systems Rate Study provided to the Committee as an example, the following overall outcomes can be expected for each entity if participating in a similar study. It would be expected that this rate study would follow the Financial Feasibility Study and utilize its results combined with capital improvements information from each entity and developed through the OJRSA Regional Feasibility Planning Study. In addition, if any entity has undertaken a recent rate study, that information will also be used in this effort. The actual deliverables will be based on the negotiated scope after discussions with the selected consultant.

Below are the expected outcomes that each entity could expect from a similar study:

**Clear Understanding of Financial Needs:** Insight into revenue requirements for both individual subdistricts and a consolidated system.

**Equitable and Sustainable Rate Structure:** Rates aligned with industry best practices and financial objectives.

**Customer Impact Transparency:** Analysis of how proposed changes affect affordability and fairness.

**Decision Support Tool:** A robust model to guide future rate adjustments and capital planning.

**Strategic Recommendations:** Guidance on policy considerations, economies of scale, and long-term financial sustainability.

## Example Rate Study Key Deliverables

### Detailed Data Request and Collection Task

- A comprehensive list of required data (budgets, billing data, financial reports, growth forecasts, ordinances, contracts).
- Organized and validated datasets for analysis.



## AD HOC RECONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

### Revenue Requirement Forecast Task

- Multi-year projections of operating and maintenance costs, capital costs (including debt service), and reserve requirements.
- Separate forecasts for each subdistrict and an aggregated forecast for the entire system.

### Billable Units of Service Forecast Task

- Analysis of customer demand using water usage and GIS data.
- Five-year forecast of billable units based on growth assumptions.

### Rate Calculations Task

- Proposed rate structures for each subdistrict and consolidated system.
- Annual rate projections for the forecast period.
- Customer impact analysis to show how changes affect different customer classes.

### Financial Model Task

- A customized, Excel-based interactive rate model.
- Ability to test scenarios, perform sensitivity analyses, and update assumptions easily.
- Dashboard for visualizing financial and operational metrics.

### Recommendations & Presentation Task

- Summary report with findings, recommended rate structures, and financial strategies.
- One formal presentation to stakeholders (with potential for additional sessions if needed).



## AD HOC RECONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

### Reconstitution Process Communication Memorandum #1

Date: December 10, 2025

To: Member Councils and leadership, Oconee County Council and leadership, West Union Council and leadership

From: Ad Hoc Reconstitution Committee

#### **Purpose:**

This memorandum is intended to be the first of many communications to each of the OJRSA Member Councils, Oconee County Council, and West Union Council and associated leadership to provide clear and consistent communication about the current status and proposed next steps for the OJRSA Reconstitution Project. The goal of these memos is transparency and to increase understanding so that each affected party is provided with the same foundational information.

#### **Reconstitution Process Background:**

In 2024 a study to consider the governance structure of OJRSA completed the Regional Sewer Feasibility Planning Study (Feasibility Study) which included the following:

- Background research of each public sector wastewater provider (both treatment and collections)
- An analysis of technical, financial, managerial, and operational concerns
- Final recommendation for the reorganization and/or consolidation of the OJRSA governing body, including next steps or phases. The recommendations were required to span the following core areas: (1) governance, (2) revenues and finance, (3) environmental compliance, (4) utility resources, and (5) efficiency in operations and service

The ultimate goal of this effort was to provide insight into why the issues exist and outline recommendations on what may be done to ensure that sewer operations in Oconee County remain viable for the future.

#### **Reconstitution Recommendations:**

The main recommendation that resulted from this study was the development of an Ad Hoc Regional Feasibility Study Implementation Committee. That committee convened seven times and developed a series of recommendations that are outlined and have been previously provided to each subject entity on June 16, 2025.



## AD HOC RECONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

After analyzing many paths forward, consolidation was the preferred next step for the implementation committee to consider for the following reasons:

- 1) Regulatory compliance is at risk with the current disjointed system.
- 2) Consolidating the systems results in better financial management of operations with economies of scale.
- 3) The development of a unified and equitable rate structure will benefit the system in the long term, making costs consistent in the region for rate payers and also allowing for those rates to help fund the needed maintenance costs to keep the system running in good shape.
- 4) Changing the Board of Commissioners members to a governor appointed body helps to remove the dual role conflict that is currently in place. Present members are asked to serve both their member municipality and the current OJRSA which inherently causes conflict.
- 5) New governing documents will be clearer, avoid contradictions, and consolidate language to avoid current confusing guidelines.



## AD HOC RECONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

### Additional Background Information

#### OJRSA Background:

The Oconee County Sewer Commission was formed in 1971 for the purpose of determining the feasibility for a modern, consolidated wastewater treatment facility under the terms of Act No. 950 of 1971, as amended. That Commission determined there was a means and method to provide service to improve the environmental and economic climate in Oconee County.

Oconee County held a “going into the business” sewer referendum and, by ordinance, No. 78-2 dated February 28, 1978, created the Oconee County Sewer Commission<sup>1</sup> (OCSC), establishing a sewer utility and constructing the new Coneross Creek Water Reclamation Facility (Coneross Creek WRF or CCWRF), located southwest of Seneca.

On February 4, 1980, the OCSC began receiving flow at its pump stations and the Coneross Creek WRF. Prior to becoming operational, OCSC entered into service agreements with the cities of Seneca, Walhalla, and Westminster (collectively referred to herein as Member Cities or Cities), as well as the town of West Union, under which the Cities would maintain ownership and maintenance of their existing satellite sewer systems and discharge their wastewater to the OCSC. These discharge points would be located at strategically located trunk sewer connection points for conveyance to the Coneross Creek WRF. This contract-based arrangement lasted until the mid-2000s, when it was decided the OCSC would best be served as its own organization without Oconee County’s oversight.

The Oconee Joint Regional Sewer Authority (OJRSA) was established as a Joint Authority Water and Sewer System in 2007 under the provisions of Title 6 Chapter 25 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina 1976, as amended. Upon creation, the Oconee County transferred all of its assets, including the Coneross Creek WRF to OJRSA.

OJRSA was established, and is now governed, by the provisions of an agreement entitled “Inter-Municipal Agreement and Joint Resolution Creating a Joint Authority Water and Sewer System”<sup>2</sup> by and among the Member Cities and filed in the offices of the Clerk of Court of Oconee County as of October 31, 2007 (Authority Agreement). OJRSA is governed by a commission consisting of nine commissioners (Authority Commission). Pursuant to the Authority Agreement, the Authority Commission is composed of four members appointed by Seneca, two members

---

<sup>1</sup> Same name, different government organization from the Special Purpose District.

<sup>2</sup> Pursuant to Chapter 25, Title 6, South Carolina Code of Laws as Amended by Act No. 59, South Carolina Acts and Joint Resolutions, Effective June 6, 2007, and Assignment of Rights, Privileges, Duties and Obligations Previously Agreed to by the Parties, and Agreement of the Authority to Provide Sewer Services.



## AD HOC RECONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

appointed by Walhalla, two members appointed by Westminster, and one member jointly appointed by Walhalla and Westminster (each a Commissioner).<sup>3</sup>

The Authority Commission serves as the legislative body for OJRSA and is responsible for hiring an executive director to oversee OJRSA's day-to-day operations and implement the policies adopted by the Authority Commission. Neither Oconee County Council nor the town of West Union<sup>4</sup> have direct representation on the Authority Commission.<sup>5</sup>

### Public Sewer Today:

OJRSA is the only public sewer treatment provider in Oconee County, excluding small package plants that serve specific properties, such as Oconee State Park<sup>6</sup>. They own and operate a 7.8 million gallons per day (mgd) Coneross Creek Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) in Seneca, SC as well as 65 miles of gravity sewer, 24 miles of force mains, and 15 pump stations. Each municipality also has their own public sewer infrastructure, which includes the following:

- Seneca, Walhalla, Westminster, and West Union each have their own municipal collection systems, pump stations, and force mains (Figure 2 – Public Sewer System Service Area). This infrastructure connects to the OJRSA trunk line system and are conveyed to the Coneross Creek WRF.
- Oconee County owns the Golden Corner pump station and force main that runs along Highway 59 which is commonly referred to as Sewer South Phase I. OJRSA operates and maintains the Sewer South infrastructure on behalf of Oconee County.
- A new sewer line from Golden Corner Commerce Park to Exit 1 and Exit 2 along Interstate-85, called Sewer South Phase II, is currently under construction. This study assumes construction for Phase II is expected to be completed in Summer 2024. This extension will be owned, operated, and maintained by OJRSA.

Currently, OJRSA is funded by base and volumetric fees assessed on the sewer customers served by the retail wastewater providers of Seneca, Walhalla, Westminster, and West Union (collectively referred to as the “retail providers”). The retail providers own and maintain their own collection systems that convey flow to OJRSA for transport to the Coneross Creek WRF for treatment. OJRSA does not receive any ad valorem tax (property tax) money or other funding except for maintenance funding for Sewer South Phase I, which is provided by Oconee County.

<sup>3</sup> The Walhalla/Westminster joint appointment and one of Seneca's four are “at large” representatives, meaning they cannot be an employee for any Member City, nor can they live inside the municipal boundary of one of the cities.

<sup>4</sup> Under the Authority Agreement, West Union will not be entitled to a representative until they reach 10% of the cumulative flow to OJRSA, per then intergovernmental governmental agreement.

<sup>5</sup> Both Oconee County and West Union own sewer infrastructure that is currently served by OJRSA.

<sup>6</sup> Owned by the State of South Carolina.



## AD HOC RECONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

Once the Sewer South Phase II Project goes online, OJRSA will be the retail provider for this area. The Appalachian Council of Governments (ACOG) designated OJRSA as being the retail provider for this area in 2018 when Oconee County began planning for Sewer South Phase II. Pioneer Rural Water District is also chartered for sewer collection services (not treatment); however, they declined to serve at the time as they did not want to get into the retail sewer business.

Table 1 provides a chronological overview of successive actions and agreements along with their basic terms and conditions and is necessary to understand the complexity of the current governance structure of OJRSA<sup>7</sup>.

**Table 1. Foundational Documents for Sewer in Oconee County**

Law/Agreement	Summary
<b>Act to Create the Oconee County Sewer Commission No. 950, 1971</b>	Established the Oconee County Sewer Commission with five members appointed by the Governor upon the recommendation of the Oconee County Legislative Delegation, including the resident Senator. The Commission was tasked with studying the feasibility of establishing sewer districts and advising the county governing body and legislative delegation on district creation.
<b>Resolution No. 76-21, 1976</b>	Confirmed the results of a referendum approving the acquisition, construction, maintenance, and operation of a sewage waste disposal system in Oconee County.
<b>Ordinance No. 78-2, 1978</b>	Established the governance structure and operation guidelines for the Oconee County Sewer System, including the creation of the Oconee County Sewer Commission <sup>2</sup> with nine members appointed by the County Council. The Commission was responsible for operating the county's wastewater treatment program, setting rates for users, preparing annual budgets, and hiring personnel, subject to approval by the County Council.
<b>Memorandum of Understanding, 2004</b>	Established the roles and responsibilities of Oconee County and the Oconee County Sewer Commission regarding the county's wastewater treatment facilities. It confirmed the county's authority over the Sewer Commission and established financial arrangements.
<b>Memorandum of Understanding, 2005</b>	Established agreements between Oconee County, the Commission, and several municipalities regarding water and sewer issues. It clarified funding and system maintenance responsibilities.
<b>Sewer Water Action Group Intergovernmental Agreement, 2005</b>	Outlined cooperation between Oconee County, municipalities, and the Commission for water and sewer infrastructure, ensuring fair treatment and cost distribution.
<b>Amendment to Sewer Water Action Group Intergovernmental Agreement, 2006</b>	Amended the original agreements that were executed in 1978 and 1979 in their entirety, contained many of the provisions in the previous agreements and outlined specific requirements related to the municipalities and Oconee County.
<b>Cornelius vs. Oconee County, 2006</b>	Involved a lawsuit regarding the county's funding plan for sewer projects, which the court ruled must comply with the terms of the 1976 referendum.
<b>Inter municipal Agreement and Joint Resolution, 2007</b>	Created the OJRSA and outlined the responsibilities, rights, and obligations of the Authority and members regarding the operation and maintenance of the sewer infrastructure previously owned by the

<sup>7</sup> It is noted that there may be other ancillary documents related to the history of OJRSA; however, the ones contained in this report are those that are the most pertinent to a review of the current OJRSA governance.



## AD HOC RECONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

	Commission. It established governance, representation, and voting mechanisms for the authority. It incorporated by reference the 2004 and 2005 MOUs along with the 2005 and 2006 agreements.
<b>Oconee County Referendum, 2012</b>	Expanded the allowable funding sources that could be utilized by Oconee County for the provision of sewer infrastructure in unincorporated areas of the county.
<b>Intergovernmental Operation Agreement, 2019</b>	Established terms governing collaborative efforts between Oconee County and the OJRSA, emphasizing Oconee County's ownership of the Sewer South System and outlining obligations related to operation, maintenance, access rights, financial responsibilities, and record-keeping.
<b>Intergovernmental Operation Agreement Amendment, 2019</b>	Clarified that Oconee County would own Phase I of the Sewer South System and that OJRSA would own Phase II.

### Private Sewer Today:

There are several private package plants within the Oconee County that operate separately from OJRSA. Additionally, in more rural regions, many households use personal septic systems.



## OCONEE JOINT REGIONAL SEWER AUTHORITY

### Commission Meeting

February 2, 2026

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

Commissioners that were present:

- Seat 8 (Westminster): Kevin Bronson, Board Chair
- Seat 2 (Seneca): Scott Moulder, Board Vice-Chair
- Seat 1 (Seneca): Josh Riches
- Seat 3 (Seneca): Scott McLane
- Seat 4 (Seneca At-Large): Marty McKee *(arrived at 4:10 p.m.)*
- Seat 5 (Walhalla): Celia Myers
- Seat 7 (Westminster): Scott Parris
- Seat 9 (Walhalla-Westminster At-Large): David Dial

Commissioners that were not present:

- Seat 6 (Walhalla): Zane Thompson

OJRSA appointments and staff present were:

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

Others present were:

- Lawrence Flynn, OJRSA Attorney *(via telephone call)*
- Jacob Queen, Oconee Economic Alliance
- Jamie Gilbert, Oconee Economic Alliance
- Robert Royer, AQD
- Kenneth Marshall, AQD

**A) Call to Order** – Mr. Bronson called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

**B) Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance** – By Mr. Riches.

**C) Public Session** – Mr. Gilbert, President of the Oconee Economic Alliance (OEA), stated that, back in 2023, the OEA expressed concerns about the impact fee amount and the way in which the fees are collected. The OEA currently does not have an issue with the amount of the fees, but there is still a concern about how they are paid by companies that are seeking allocation. Mr. Gilbert said he appreciated how the OJRSA worked together with Target on the fees for their project to prevent delays and/or the project being cancelled and added that it showed there is room for adjustments and changes.

Mr. Gilbert stated that he would like the OJRSA to work with the OEA to change the process on how fees are collected for projects that are \$500,000 or greater. He said he is not asking for a reduction in the impact fees but rather consideration for a timeframe to pay them in. He proposed three (3) payments with the following conditions:

- The first payment is due before issuance of the SC Department of Environmental Services (SCDES) permit or the state approval for the sewer service,

- The second payment is due before a Certificate of Occupancy is issued for any portion of the project, and it must be made within a twenty-four (24)-month period of the date that the SCDES permit was issued (whichever comes first),
- The third payment is due within twelve (12) months of the date of the Certificate of Occupancy but no later than thirty-six (36) months following the date of the SCDES permit; that would make a total of three (3) years from the SCDES permit issuance to pay the impact fee in full,
- There would be an Intergovernmental Agreement with the water providers of the area, whether it is the cities or Pioneer Water acknowledging that, if the impact fee is not paid in full within thirty (30) days of its due date, water service to the project will be shut off by the water provider until the payment is made,
- There would be a 5% fee added to the fee, and
- Failure to pay the impact fee payments as described would result in the loss of sewer allocation for the project as approved by the SCDES.

Mr. Gilbert reiterated that he would love to work with the OJRSA on this and added that any project over \$500,000 is a significant amount for projects in which the return on that may be several years out before they even get customers that are using the water and the sewer. He thanked the board for allowing him to speak at this time.

Mr. Bronson stated that the OJRSA board has already considered a policy like this but decided not to proceed with it; however, he added that he would like there to be some flexibility to assist the OEA because it benefits everyone. Mr. Bronson asked Mr. Gilbert if a small working team could be put together with a member of the board to see what they can come up with; Mr. Gilbert replied he would be glad to do that.

Mr. Bronson told the board that he, Ms. Myers, and Mr. Eleazer have a little bit of a conflict, because they are part of the OEA and asked if anyone else on the outside would like to be on the team. Mr. Dial said he would be glad to. Mr. McLane volunteered for the team as well. Mr. Bronson said he would get something scheduled with Mr. Gilbert and mentioned Mr. Parris being included. Mr. Bronson asked Ms. Myers how Walhalla should be represented. Mr. Dial replied he represented Walhalla as well, and Ms. Myers said she would speak to Mr. Zane Thompson about it.

#### D) Approval of Minutes:

- **Board of Commissioners Meeting of January 5, 2026**

*Mr. Parris made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dial, to approve the January 5, 2026 Board Meeting minutes as presented. The motion carried.*

- **Annual Members' Meeting of January 5, 2026**

*Mr. Dial made a motion, seconded by Mr. McLane, to approve the January 5, 2026 Annual Members' Meeting minutes as presented. The motion carried.*

#### E) Committee and Other Meeting Reports:

- **Reconstitution Committee and Executive Committee Meeting of January 8, 2026 – *Cancelled due to lack of agenda items.***

- **Operations & Planning Committee Meeting of January 15, 2026 –** Mr. Moulder presented the report to the Commission. *\*See attached minutes.*

*Mr. Moulder made a motion, seconded by Mr. McLane, to approve the January 15, 2026 Operations & Planning Meeting minutes as presented. The motion carried.*

**Finance & Administration Committee Meeting of January 29, 2026 –** Ms. Myers presented the report to the Commission. *\*See attached minutes.*

- *Ms. Myers made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dial, to approve the January 29, 2026 Operations & Planning Meeting minutes as presented. The motion carried.*

**F) Secretary/Treasurer's Report (Exhibit B)** – Ms. Stephens presented the Secretary/Treasurer's Report to the board. Ms. Stephens stated that the OJRSA received the bank reconciliation for December 2025 shortly after the Secretary/Treasurer's Report was prepared and distributed with the agenda on Friday.

Ms. Stephens reported that she still has not received the reconciliation letters from the OJRSA accountant, Ms. Susan Stamey, for October, November, and December. She added that she and Mr. Eleazer have secured a new accountant (Mr. Larry Finney and Mr. Kevin Tomas of GreeneFinneyCauley) to perform the bank reconciliations beginning with the January statements to alleviate this continuous issue. The new accountants may go over the past three months and provide the reconciliation letters as well. Ms. Stephens said she will provide the reconciliation letters for those months to the board as soon as she gets them, whether it be from Susan Stamey or GreeneFinneyCauley.

Mr. Eleazer asked the board members to look at the graph and spoke about the large rise in the Wholesale Impact Fund. Mr. Eleazer stated the OJRSA received approximately \$1.1 million in impact fees for eleven (11) projects in December that totaled about 79,000 gallons per day (GPD) of flow. The amounts included two big projects (Target and a subdivision) for \$1 million of it. He stated that the OJRSA is now close to 1.2 – 1.3 GPD away from beginning to expand the treatment plant, so the OJRSA is rapidly moving in that direction. The Director said the OJRSA is looking at setting a date in the coming years for the design process or initiating the funding for the design process.

Mr. Bronson asked if the OJRSA is bankrolling the money in the impact fee fund in anticipation of the expansion. Mr. Eleazer replied that it could be used for anything growth related at the treatment plant or on the conveyance system. Mr. Bronson asked how the money was being used. Mr. Eleazer replied that it is just sitting in the bank; the last time the fund was used was when the OJRSA upsized some pump stations on Davis Creek Road in Seneca around 2018.

Mr. Flynn added that, in regard to spending money from the impact fee fund, under the state law (Development Impact Fee Act), there is generally a required window to identify when the entity intends to use the funds and the project timeline under the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). He stated there is a statutory timeline that the entity must meet; however, the OJRSA is generally exempt from that, because water and sewer utilities are exempt from the requirements of the Development Impact Fee Act, but the OJRSA still needs to keep an eye on where the expenditures are to make sure the projects are being utilized accordingly.

***Ms. Myers made a motion, seconded by Mr. McKee, to approve the Secretary/Treasurer's Report as presented. The motion carried.***

**G) Presentation and Discussion Items** – None.

**H) Action Items:**

**1. Consider Standard Developer Agreement for Future Projects to be Owned, Operated, and Maintained by OJRSA (Exhibit B)** – Mr. Eleazer stated this document was presented to the O&P Committee. After that meeting, the OJRSA received a final copy from the attorney's office (Ms. Kim Wunder of Pope Flynn), where there was a change on page 2 from what was approved by the committee. The committee also asked for a "Special Conditions" section to be added to the document, and Ms. Wunder added that as well.

Mr. Bronson asked what the "Special Conditions" would include, and would it be put on the document by the OJRSA to the developer. Mr. Moulder replied that this was done to give the Executive Director a little flexibility in case there was some unique circumstance surrounding a development without having to come back to the board to approve it (if it was in the spirit of the agreement). These conditions would include items like giving approval but stipulating the developer must acquire a certain permit, or provide a specific design ahead of time, or topographical changes.

Mr. Eleazer stated he recommends the board move forward with this but asked if the document needs to be brought before the board for each circumstance before execution or if the board is approving the blanket document. Mr. Moulder said this "Special Conditions" section was put in the

document to alleviate having to bring it back to the board for each agreement if it fits within the framework of the agreement.

***Mr. Moulder made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dial, to approve the standard Developer Agreement as a model draft agreement to be used by the OJRSA staff with the stipulation that it is not required to bring each agreement back to the board for approval. The motion carried.***

**2. Adopt Board of Commissioners' Goals for 2026 that Includes Input from Standing Committees (Exhibit C)** – Mr. Eleazer stated that the board prepared some objectives at its January board meeting, and it was discussed with the two (2) committees to see if they had any additional items to add. The O&P opted to add consideration for a sewer extension to serve the Richland Creek through a trunk sewer project that would be part of the 20-year Master Plan as well. The F&A did not have any additional items to add even though there was considerable discussion about adding staffing.

***Mr. Dial made a motion, seconded by Mr. Moulder, to approve the Commissioners' Goals for 2026 as presented with the addition of the sewer extension requested by the O&P Committee.***

Ms. Myers asked if anyone wanted to add the staffing to the goals list even though the goals are generally for what the board does. Mr. Moulder said he would entertain the idea with a general goal for staff to evaluate the opportunities to recruit and retain employees. Ms. Myers replied if the OJRSA has problems now, it's only going to get worse. Mr. Bronson said it could be something that supports administration's efforts to increase recruitment and retention and give the Executive Director some muscle while doing the budget to consider that. Mr. Eleazer replied it really would help Mr. Lindsay, since he's having a hard time finding staff.

***Mr. Dial amended his motion, seconded by Mr. Moulder, to approve the Commissioners' Goals for 2026 as presented with the addition of the sewer extension requested by the O&P Committee and the addition of general support for administration's efforts to increase recruitment and retention and give the Executive Director some muscle while doing the budget to consider that. The motion carried.***

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

**1. Environmental and Regulatory Compliance Matters:**

Force Main Leaks - The OJRSA had two (2) force main breaks that occurred during the winter storms, and he asked Mr. Lindsay to report on these breaks.

Mr. Lindsay stated that two (2) weeks ago, on a Friday evening, the OJRSA received a complaint call regarding a force main leak. The on-call staff responded. It was a leak, but it wasn't major. Not much was coming out. The OJRSA was able to cut off the pump station, transfer the flow to the three (3) million GPD equalization tank to store it, and then make the repairs the next day. It was a five-foot (5') section of ductile iron pipe that had a crack. The section of pipe was replaced with two (2) couplings. The OJRSA is currently waiting for the asphalt contractor to come out and fill the hole from this leak.

Prior to the ice storm, Mr. Lindsay and Mr. Eleazer sat down with OJRSA personnel in a meeting to discuss if the staff should be on the roads during hazardous conditions. Staff were instructed to call them should an event occur, and Mr. Eleazer or Mr. Lindsay would make the call if they should be on the roads.

Then another call came in this past Saturday night around 11:00 p.m. regarding a leak in the same place. During that time, someone driving a Chevy Tahoe tried to drive up the hill on this road in the ice and slid back down into the hole in the road.

Mr. Lindsay stated he called into the county's Emergency Operations Center to get feedback on the road conditions. During the ice storm (a couple of weekends ago), the Ops Center was being manned, but during the snowstorm (this past weekend), it wasn't. Mr. Lindsay called two (2) different numbers with no answer and no call back. Dispatch called in the leak, and the on-call

maintenance technician was asked to call dispatch back, and Mr. Lindsay said he wanted the maintenance tech to have an escort in case anything happened on the road.

During this time, the homeowner called Mr. Lindsay complaining about the sewer coming down the road, into their yard, and up to their front porch. Mr. Lindsay called the maintenance tech and told him to drive slowly to the site, and he reached the pump station at 1:00 a.m. The pump station was shut off, and the flow was diverted to the EQ tank.

Yesterday, OJRSA staff worked on filling in the hole where the link was coming out. It was initially thought that the Tahoe's weight pushed down on the dirt and popped the pipe back open; however, after further investigation, it was determined that there was another 8-12" crack on that line up from the repair coupling. The residence was cleaned up and lime applied, and the driveway was pressure washed.

OJRSA staff replaced another fifteen-foot (15') piece of the ductile iron pipe today. Approximately 25,000 GPM leaked out of the pipe, and the leak was reported to SCDES, on social media, local radio, Fox Carolina, and Channel 7.

Mr. Dial asked if the homeowners were satisfied. Mr. Lindsay replied they were pleasant and understanding, and he plans to follow up with them again tonight. Mr. Eleazer added that he also spoke to a neighbor. Mr. Moulder said the replies he saw on Facebook were favorable.

Mr. Eleazer said he has been receiving calls all day today asking why the OJRSA came and left without stopping the spill. He said that was not the case. The flow had been diverted to the EQ tank; however, there was approximately 18,000 gallons stored in the pipe up the hill that was draining by gravity which appeared to the residents like it was still leaking.

Mr. Bronson asked if this was reported to SCDES. Mr. Eleazer replied yes and to the Army Corps of Engineers.

PAA Disinfection Update – Mr. Lindsay stated that the PAA lab was scheduled to come to the plant to do sampling to get calibrations set up on the equipment; however, the weather delayed them. They are now scheduled to come out on Wednesday or Thursday this week. Once they finish, the information can be sent to SCDES for lab approval.

Waste Minimization Plan – Mr. Eleazer spoke about OJRSA Commercial Pretreatment Inspector, Mr. Dalton Justice, visiting local dental offices as part of the OJRSA's Waste Minimization Plan for low-level mercury. He will deliver letters to the dental offices.

2. **Winter Storm Update** – There was no impact to the OJRSA from the snowstorm and only minimal impact from the ice storm. One pump station lost power for ten (10) minutes, and the generator came on for that time. Another station without a generator lost power, but it was a small station, and the OJRSA was able to pump and haul the waste to the plant for a couple days. Staff stayed at the plant from Saturday evening through Monday morning to cover any emergencies.
3. **Regional Feasibility and Reconstitution Quarterly Report No. 2 (Exhibit D)** – This quarterly report updates on the progress of the Reconstitution Committee and was sent to Ms. Bonnie Ammons and Oconee County last week.
4. **Miscellaneous (If Any)** – None.

**J) Commissioners' Discussion** – Mr. Dial stated he appreciated the email updates during the storms and also thanked the OJRSA staff for staying at the plant to cover for emergencies. Mr. Bronson echoed that statement.

**K) Adjourn** – Mr. Bronson adjourned the meeting at 4:46 p.m.

**Upcoming Meetings:**

- 1. Reconstitution Committee and Executive Committee** – Thursday, February 12, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.
- 2. Operations & Planning Committee** – Thursday, February 19, 2026 at 8:30 a.m.
- 3. Finance & Administration Committee** – Tuesday, February 24, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.
- 4. Board of Commissioners** – Monday, March 2, 2026 at 4:00 p.m.

Approved By:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kevin Bronson, OJRSA Commission Chair

Approved By:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lynn M. Stephens, OJRSA Secretary/Treasurer

Approved By:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Christopher R. Eleazer, OJRSA Executive Director

Notification of the meeting was distributed on January 12, 2026 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](http://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  
February 2, 2026 at 4:00 PM

OJRSA commission and committee meetings may be attended in person at the address listed above. The OJRSA will also broadcast meetings live on its YouTube channel at [www.youtube.com/@OconeeJRSA](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, Board Chair
- B. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance** – Led by Commissioner Zane Thompson
- C. Public Session** – Receive comments relating to topics that may or may not be on this agenda. Session is limited to a maximum of 30 minutes with no more than 5 minutes per speaker.
- D. Approval of Minutes**
  - Board of Commissioners Meeting of January 5, 2026
  - Annual Members' Meeting of January 5, 2026
- E. Committee and Other Meeting Reports**
  - Reconstitution Committee and Executive Committee Meeting of January 8, 2026 – *Canceled due to lack of agenda items*
  - Operations & Planning Committee Meeting of January 15, 2026 – Scott Moulder, Committee Chair
  - Finance & Administration Committee Meeting of January 29, 2026 – Celia Myers, Committee Chair
- F. Secretary/Treasurer's Report** (Exhibit A) – Lynn Stephens, Secretary/Treasurer
- G. Presentation and Discussion Items** [May include vote and/or action on matters brought up for discussion]
  - None
- H. Action Items**
  1. Consider standard Developer Agreement for future projects to be owned, operated, and maintained by OJRSA (Exhibit B) – Chris Eleazer, Director
  2. Adopt Board of Commissioners' Goals for 2026 that includes input from standing committees (Exhibit C) – Chris Eleazer, Director
- I. Executive Director's Discussion and Compliance Matters** – Chris Eleazer, Director
  1. Environmental and regulatory compliance matters
  2. Winter storm update
  3. Regional Feasibility and Reconstitution Quarterly Report No. 2 (Exhibit D)
  4. Miscellaneous (if any)
- J. Commissioners' Discussion** – Led by Kevin Bronson, Board Chair  
Discussion can be related to matters addressed in this meeting or for future consideration by the Board or Committee. Voting is not permitted during this session.
- K. Adjourn**

**Upcoming Meetings**

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

- Reconstitution Committee and Executive Committee – February 12, 2026 at 9:00 AM
- Operations & Planning Committee – February 19, 2026 at 8:30 AM
- Finance & Administration Committee – February 24, 2026 at 9:00 AM
- Board of Commissioners – March 2, 2026 at 4:00 PM





## Secretary/Treasurer's Report for Board of Commissioners

Prepared for the February 2, 2026 OJRSA Board of Commissioners Meeting

Cash and investment information stated herein come from bank and other financial records as of: January 30, 2026

### UNRESTRICTED FUNDS CASH AND INVESTMENTS SUMMARY

Account/Fund Name	Cash (\$)	Investments (\$)	Total (\$)
Wholesale Operations & Maintenance (O&M)	491,854	2,940,000	3,431,854
Retail Operations & Maintenance (RO&M)	105,190	0	105,190
<b>TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>	<b>597,044</b>	<b>2,940,000</b>	<b>3,537,044</b>

### RESTRICTED FUNDS CASH AND INVESTMENTS SUMMARY

Account/Fund Name	Cash (\$)	Investments (\$)	Total (\$)
Projects and Contingency (PCF)	1,869,015	0	1,869,015
Wholesale Impact Fund (WIF)	1,462,647	5,880,000	7,342,647
Retail Impact Fund (RIF)	3,400	0	3,400
<b>TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>	<b>3,335,062</b>	<b>5,880,000</b>	<b>9,215,062</b>

#### Combined Total for All Funds

Cash	3,932,106	Investments	8,820,000	Combined	12,752,106
------	-----------	-------------	-----------	----------	------------

**Account Notes:**

### DAYS CASH ON HAND

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

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

	Cash on Hand (Days)	Annual Operating Expense minus Depreciation (\$)	Budget Amended During Fiscal Year?
O&M Fund	185.3	6,759,426	X NO YES
RO&M Fund	362.9	105,802	NO X YES

### INDEPENDENT RECONCILIATION OF ACCOUNTS

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

**Reconciliation Notes:**

As of when this report is being completed, we have not received reconciliations for December 2025. Accountant's office was having trouble accessing our server; issue resolved - reconciliation may be coming later today.

*See next page for more information*





easements and titles to real property have been executed and recorded, with recorded copies provided to OJRSA.

3. The Developer shall obtain, at its sole cost and expense, all encroachment permits, construction permits, and all other permits and approvals required to complete the Project, including any construction permits and the Permit to Operate issued by the South Carolina Department of Environmental Services (“SCDES”), and shall comply in all respects with the terms and conditions of all such permits and approvals. The Developer shall engage a duly licensed utility contractor, acceptable to OJRSA, to construct the Sewer Facilities. The Developer shall be solely responsible for and shall reimburse OJRSA for all costs incurred in connection with the inspection and re-inspection of the Sewer Facilities, whether such work is performed by OJRSA or by OJRSA’s agents, consultants, or contractors. The Developer shall further comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, statutes, regulations, codes, and ordinances.

4. Upon (i) completion of construction of the Sewer Facilities in accordance with the approved Plans and Specifications; (ii) issuance of a Permit to Operate by the SCDES; (iii) submission of a complete and satisfactory project close-out package in accordance with Section 2.10 of the OJRSA Development Policy; (iv) final inspection of the Sewer Facilities by OJRSA; (v) completion by the Developer of any corrections, repairs, or supplemental items identified by OJRSA during the close-out review or final inspection; and (vi) payment of all remaining fees, charges, and other amounts due under this Agreement, the Developer shall transfer ownership of the Sewer Facilities to OJRSA by recordable easements or deeds, in a form approved by OJRSA, free and clear of all liens, claims, and encumbrances, and shall grant to OJRSA all permanent access, utility, and ingress/egress easements necessary for OJRSA’s ownership, operation, maintenance, and repair of the Sewer Facilities, all without monetary compensation from OJRSA.

5. The Developer warrants and represents that it is the lawful owner of the Property and the Sewer Facilities and all rights-of-way and appurtenances relating thereto. The Developer represents and warrants that the Sewer Facilities, once conveyed, will be free and clear of any and all claims, liens, or encumbrances of any kind or nature, and further represents and warrants that the Developer has or will have good right, title, and authority to transfer and convey the same and will warrant and forever defend the same against all claimants whomsoever.

6. OJRSA shall not issue any tap permits or accept for treatment any effluent from the Sewer Facilities ~~unless and~~ until all ~~OJRSA and SCDES~~ requirements ~~set forth in Paragraph 4 of this Agreement~~ have been ~~fully~~ satisfied and the ~~transfer of Developer has transferred~~ ownership ~~has been completed to OJRSA’s sole satisfaction. After issuance by OJRSA of an Ownership Acceptance Letter for~~ the Sewer Facilities, ~~and following issuance by SCDES to OJRSA by recorded easements or deeds and OJRSA has accepted ownership of a partial or final Permit to Operate~~ the Sewer Facilities. Thereafter, OJRSA shall ~~thereafter~~ accept and treat effluent from the Sewer Facilities and ~~shall~~ assume responsibility for the operation, maintenance, and repair thereof, together with all appurtenances related thereto, except as otherwise expressly provided herein.

7. The Developer agrees to indemnify and hold OJRSA harmless from and against any and all loss, liability, damage, injury and expense (including, without limitation, attorney’s fees) which OJRSA may suffer or sustain as a result of or arising out of this Developer Agreement,

the Developer's performance hereunder, the construction of the Sewer Facilities, or any other matters contemplated herein.

8. A separate tap and service line is required for each separate structure to be served. The Developer's costs for installation of the Sewer Facilities are not related to or considered payment for any OJRSA tap, capacity or other fees which may apply to the Project. After acceptance, OJRSA may extend or expand the Sewer Facilities at its sole and absolute discretion and without compensation to the Developer.

9. The Developer must begin construction of the Sewer Facilities within one year of the date of this Development Agreement. If construction is not started within that time frame, the Development Agreement will become null, void and of no further force or effect. In such event, the Developer shall promptly provide written notice to OJRSA and shall submit a letter to SCDES formally withdrawing and canceling the construction permit for the Project. Upon confirmation of the permit withdrawal and cancellation, OJRSA will refund to the Developer all impact fees previously paid in accordance with OJRSA impact fee policies to OJRSA that are associated with the canceled construction permit.

10. OJRSA has no ownership, operation or maintenance responsibilities for any service lines on private property between the Sewer Facilities and any structure or property.

11. The Developer warrants and agrees that all work performed in connection with the construction of the Sewer Facilities and all materials furnished and installed in connection therewith will be in accordance with (a) the Plans and Specifications as approved by OJRSA and (b) all applicable professional or engineering standards. The Developer further warrants that the Sewer Facilities are and will remain free from faults and defects of design, material, and workmanship for a period of two (2) years from the issued date of the Permit to Operate from SCDES. OJRSA shall notify the Developer of defective work requiring repair. If the defective work is not corrected within thirty (30) days of the Developer's receipt of such notification, OJRSA has the right to make the repairs by whatever means necessary and invoice the Developer for all costs incurred, which the Developer shall promptly pay. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if OJRSA determines that defect work requiring a repair is an emergency or presents an immediate risk to public health, safety, or the sanitary sewer infrastructure, OJRSA may, without prior notice, make or cause to be made any necessary repairs, and invoice the Developer for all costs incurred in connection with such emergency repairs, which the Developer shall promptly pay. Additionally, OJRSA may place holds on or cancel the installation of future services within the Property.

12. The Developer warrants that it is capable of complying with the terms and conditions of this Developer Agreement and that it is not bound or encumbered by any other agreements which may prevent or adversely affect its compliance with this Developer Agreement

13. This Developer Agreement is governed by the laws of the State of South Carolina. This Developer Agreement is binding upon the parties' and their respective heirs, successors and assigns. The Developer may not assign its interest in or its duties under this Developer Agreement without the prior written consent of OJRSA. This Developer Agreement may be executed in multiple counterparts, which together shall constitute one original document. This Developer

Agreement may not be amended or modified except by an agreement in writing and signed by both parties.

14. This Developer Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the parties as to the subject matter hereof and no prior negotiations, discussions, statements, proposals, statements or representations of any kind or nature, whether written or oral, shall modify the express terms hereof.

15. In the event OJRSA is party to any Intergovernmental Agreement applicable to the Sewer Facilities, the Property or the Project, the Developer and its heirs, successors and assigns expressly agree to comply with OJRSA's obligations under such agreement(s).

*[Signatures on following page]*

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have hereunto set their hands and seals the day and year first above written.

Signed, Sealed and Delivered

DEVELOPER

\_\_\_\_\_  
(1<sup>st</sup> Witness)

By: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(2<sup>nd</sup> Witness)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

Its: \_\_\_\_\_

OCONEE JOINT REGIONAL SEWER  
AUTHORITY

\_\_\_\_\_  
(1<sup>st</sup> Witness)

By: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(2<sup>nd</sup> Witness)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

Its: \_\_\_\_\_



## **OJRSA Board of Commissioners' Goals for 2026**

*To be considered during the February 2, 2026 Board of Commissioners meeting.*

1. Focus on completing the Reconstitution Committee recommendations and implementation.
2. Determine how the OJRSA is to govern the cities and how it is to handle the enforcement of the sewer use regulations when a system is not in compliance.
3. Develop a consensus on how much we are going to approve capital improvement projects.
4. Consider replacing the Speeds Creek force main.

*Operations & Planning Committee:*

- Consider Richland Creek trunk sewer extension.

*Finance & Administration Committee:*


- None

*In addition to discussion at the January 5, 2026 Commission meeting, consideration of the goals will be included on the January standing committee agendas and presented to the Board for review and consideration in February.*

Quarterly Progress Report: OJRSA Regional Feasibility and Reconstitution  
Report No. 2  
January 20, 2026

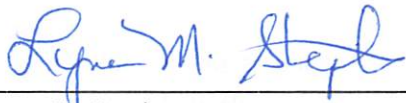
**Submittal Statement**

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.



---

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



---

Lynn M. Stephens  
OJRSA Secretary/Treasurer

## Quarterly Progress Report: OJRSA Regional Feasibility and Reconstitution

### Report No. 2

January 20, 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

**Quarterly Progress Report: OJRSA Regional Feasibility and Reconstitution****Report No. 2**

January 20, 2026

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<sup>5</sup>
- OJRSA – Chris Eleazer
- OJRSA Legal Counsel – Lawrence Flynn
- Seneca – Scott Moulder<sup>6</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Glenn Hart replaced former Oconee County Amanda Brock on the Reconstitution Committee in December 2025. Mr. Hart is a member of Oconee County Council who represents County District 5.

<sup>6</sup> Also a member of OJRSA Executive Committee

**Quarterly Progress Report: OJRSA Regional Feasibility and Reconstitution****Report No. 2**

January 20, 2026

- Walhalla – Celia Myers **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- Westminster – Kevin Bronson **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- Facilitator<sup>7</sup> – Katherine Amidon
- Facilitator<sup>7</sup> – Joel Jones
- Facilitator<sup>7</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:

- October 9, 2025 – Ad Hoc Reconstitution Committee and OJRSA Executive Committee meeting
- November 13, 2025 – Ad Hoc Reconstitution Committee and OJRSA Executive Committee meeting
- December 11, 2025 – 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 #2 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>8</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: In Progress**

A draft version of the legislation was submitted to Senator Thomas Alexander (S.C. Senate District 1) on November 3, 2025. It is understood that the version was provided by the senator to the senate's legal counsel as there has been communication between him and OJRSA counsel during November and December.

Legal counsel has been working with the legislative draftsmen in the General Assembly, and anticipated the amended version of the Act to be introduced in the very near future.

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

**Target Date: October 13, 2025**

**Status: Partially 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

<sup>7</sup> Facilitators are nonvoting members

<sup>8</sup> The end of March, June, September, and December of each year

**Quarterly Progress Report: OJRSA Regional Feasibility and Reconstitution  
Report No. 2  
January 20, 2026**

- West Union – December 9, 2025

Those remaining to approve the matter include:

- Oconee County – It is unknown if and when the County will consider the resolution. Copies have been submitted to the County during Quarter 3 and Quarter 4 of 2025, but no action has been taken as of this report.

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

**Target Date: November 12, 2025**

**Status: To begin next quarter**

This task is anticipated to begin during the first quarter of 2026.

**Recommendation Item 6: Develop Communications Plan**

**Target Date: November 12, 2025**

**Status: Began in December 2025**

The first draft version of communications was presented during the December meeting. It was decided to wait until after new city and town councilmembers took their oath of office in early January before disseminating the memo.

**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 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: Not started**

Recommendation Item 5 must occur before project can be completed.

**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

**Quarterly Progress Report: OJRSA Regional Feasibility and Reconstitution****Report No. 2**

January 20, 2026

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.



## Ad Hoc Reconstitution Committee and Executive Committee

OJRSA Operations & Administration Building

Lamar Bailes Board Room

February 12, 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 December 11, 2025
  - Ad Hoc Reconstitution Committee and Executive Committee Meeting of January 8, 2026 **Canceled due to lack of agenda items**
- C. Committee Discussion and Action Items**
  1. Receive Quarterly Progress Report No. 2 as submitted to South Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority, OJRSA Board, and Oconee County (Exhibit A) – Chris Eleazer, Committee Member
  2. Update on legislative amendment (Exhibit B) – Lawrence Flynn, OJRSA Counsel
  3. Review and discuss financial study proposals from Raftelis and First Tryon (Exhibits C and D) – Angie Mettlen, Facilitator
  4. Consider long-term commitment from Oconee County as to areas to concentrate on growth and how it relates to the consolidation as mentioned during the December committee meeting – Kevin Bronson, Committee Chair
  5. Discuss wholesale agreement options as mentioned during the December committee meeting – Kevin Bronson, Committee Chair
  6. Communications with elected officials and leadership: feedback and future memo requests – Katherine Amidon, Facilitator
  7. Establish dates for facilitators to meet individually with municipal and county administration – 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.*

- Operations & Planning Committee – February 19, 2026 at 8:30 AM
- Finance & Administration Committee – February 24, 2026 at 9:00 AM
- Board of Commissioners – March 2, 2026 at 4:00 PM
- Reconstitution Committee and Executive Committee – March 12, 2026 at 9:00 AM

Quarterly Progress Report: OJRSA Regional Feasibility and Reconstitution  
Report No. 2  
January 20, 2026

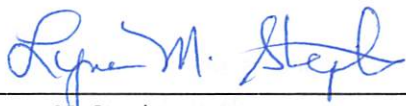
## Submittal Statement

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.



---

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



---

Lynn M. Stephens  
OJRSA Secretary/Treasurer

## Quarterly Progress Report: OJRSA Regional Feasibility and Reconstitution

### Report No. 2

January 20, 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

**Quarterly Progress Report: OJRSA Regional Feasibility and Reconstitution****Report No. 2**

January 20, 2026

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<sup>5</sup>
- OJRSA – Chris Eleazer
- OJRSA Legal Counsel – Lawrence Flynn
- Seneca – Scott Moulder<sup>6</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Glenn Hart replaced former Oconee County Amanda Brock on the Reconstitution Committee in December 2025. Mr. Hart is a member of Oconee County Council who represents County District 5.

<sup>6</sup> Also a member of OJRSA Executive Committee

**Quarterly Progress Report: OJRSA Regional Feasibility and Reconstitution****Report No. 2**

January 20, 2026

- Walhalla – Celia Myers **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- Westminster – Kevin Bronson **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- Facilitator<sup>7</sup> – Katherine Amidon
- Facilitator<sup>7</sup> – Joel Jones
- Facilitator<sup>7</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:

- October 9, 2025 – Ad Hoc Reconstitution Committee and OJRSA Executive Committee meeting
- November 13, 2025 – Ad Hoc Reconstitution Committee and OJRSA Executive Committee meeting
- December 11, 2025 – 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 #2 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>8</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: In Progress**

A draft version of the legislation was submitted to Senator Thomas Alexander (S.C. Senate District 1) on November 3, 2025. It is understood that the version was provided by the senator to the senate's legal counsel as there has been communication between him and OJRSA counsel during November and December.

Legal counsel has been working with the legislative draftsmen in the General Assembly, and anticipated the amended version of the Act to be introduced in the very near future.

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

**Target Date: October 13, 2025**

**Status: Partially 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

<sup>7</sup> Facilitators are nonvoting members

<sup>8</sup> The end of March, June, September, and December of each year

**Quarterly Progress Report: OJRSA Regional Feasibility and Reconstitution****Report No. 2**

January 20, 2026

- West Union – December 9, 2025

Those remaining to approve the matter include:

- Oconee County – It is unknown if and when the County will consider the resolution. Copies have been submitted to the County during Quarter 3 and Quarter 4 of 2025, but no action has been taken as of this report.

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

**Target Date: November 12, 2025**

**Status: To begin next quarter**

This task is anticipated to begin during the first quarter of 2026.

**Recommendation Item 6: Develop Communications Plan**

**Target Date: November 12, 2025**

**Status: Began in December 2025**

The first draft version of communications was presented during the December meeting. It was decided to wait until after new city and town councilmembers took their oath of office in early January before disseminating the memo.

**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 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: Not started**

Recommendation Item 5 must occur before project can be completed.

**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

**Quarterly Progress Report: OJRSA Regional Feasibility and Reconstitution****Report No. 2**

January 20, 2026

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.

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39

## A BILL

<<TITLE>>

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

SECTION 1. Section 6-25-20 of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

Section 6-25-20. For purposes of this chapter:

(1) “Joint Authority Water and Sewer System” or “joint system” means a government entity organized under this chapter to undertake or acquire a water or sewer project.

(2) “State” means the State of South Carolina.

(3) “Project” means a project undertaken by a joint authority water and sewer system to:

(a) impound, produce, treat, transmit, distribute, sell, and service water to a member, or to an authority that is not a member but who is engaged in providing water or sewer service, or to any other person or entity if water service is not otherwise available from any other source when approved by the governing body of each member; and

(b) collect, transport, process, treat, dispose, and control municipal, domestic, industrial, or communal waste, flood water, or storm water, whether in fluid, solid, or composite state, including specifically the control, abatement, or reduction of pollution for a member, or for an authority that is not a member and is engaged in waste and wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal, or to any other person or entity if sewer service is not otherwise available from any other source when approved by the governing body of each member.

(4) “Cost” or “cost of a project” means, but is not limited to, the cost of acquisition, construction, reconstruction, improvement, enlargement, or extension of any project, including the cost of studies, plans, specifications, surveys, and estimates of costs and revenues relating to the project; the cost of land, land rights, rights-of-way and easements, water rights, fees, permits, approvals, licenses, certificates, franchises, and the preparation of applications for and security for them; administrative, legal, professional, engineering, and inspection expenses; financing fees, expenses, and costs; working capital; insurance; interest on the bonds during the period of construction and for a reasonable period after construction as may be determined by the commission of the joint system; establishment of

1 reserves; and all other expenditures of the joint system incidental, necessary, or convenient to the  
2 acquisition, construction, reconstruction, improvement, enlargement, or extension of any project and  
3 the placing of the project in operation.

4 (5) "Governing body" means with respect to an authority; the board, commission, council, or other  
5 entity charged by law with governing the authority.

6 (6) "Authority" includes:

7 (a) a county or municipality incorporated under the laws of this State;

8 (b) a consolidated political subdivision of this State;

9 (c) a commission of public works; and

10 (d) an agency or public body created under the laws of this State and authorized by legislation to  
11 be engaged in the sale and service of water for industrial and domestic purposes, or the collection for  
12 treatment of wastewater.

13 (7) "Revenue bonds" and "bonds" mean bonds, notes, certificates, or other obligations of a joint  
14 system issued pursuant to the provisions of this chapter and include a refinancing or refunding of bonds,  
15 notes, certificates, or other obligations, but which must be paid solely from the revenue or another  
16 source of funds available to a joint system.

17 (8) "Member of a joint system" means an authority that has taken the actions necessary to form or  
18 join the joint system.

19 (9) "Construction note" or "note" means a note of a joint system issued to provide funding for the  
20 creation of a financing pool and the costs associated with it.

21 (10) "Financing agreement" means an agreement entered into by a joint system organized to create  
22 a financing pool and a member of it in connection with the lending of the proceeds of construction  
23 notes or portion thereof by the joint system to the member so as to provide for the repayment of amounts  
24 loaned and interest on it by the member to the joint system.

25 (11) "Financing pool" means a fund of money, obtained through the issuance of a construction note  
26 of a joint authority water and sewer system, which may be loaned to the members of it by way of  
27 interim financing. A joint system may not lend more than five percent of the principal amount of a  
28 financing pool to a not-for-profit corporation established pursuant to Chapter 35 of Title 33.

29 (12) "Government" means the United States of America, acting through the United States  
30 Department of Agriculture, or its successor, and the agencies and divisions of it.

31 (13) "Interim financing" means bond anticipation notes issued pursuant to the provisions of Sections  
32 11-17-10 to 11-17-120 in anticipation of the issuance of bonds of an authority to be sold to the  
33 government.

34 (14) "Legislative Delegation" means all members of the South Carolina Senate and South Carolina  
35 House of Representatives representing any county where a joint system is located.

36 (15) "Governor" means the Governor of the State of South Carolina.

1

2 SECTION 2. Section 6-25-50 of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

3

4 Section 6-25-50. (A) The governing bodies of the members of a joint system shall form an agreement  
5 specifying the number of commissioners ~~each member may appoint to a commission created~~ to govern  
6 the joint system pursuant to Section 6-25-60.

7 (B) ~~Two or more commissioners~~ The proposed members of a joint system shall jointly file an  
8 application with the Secretary of State ~~an application signed by the commissioner of each proposed~~  
9 ~~member~~ setting forth:

10 (1) the ~~names~~ number of all proposed members of the joint system, the number of proposed  
11 commissioners, and their respective appointed commissioners the method of appointment pursuant to  
12 Section 6-25-60(B);

13 (2) a certified copy of a resolution of each member determining it is in its best interest to participate  
14 in the proposed joint system;:

15 ~~— (a) the resolution of each member determining it is in its best interest to participate in the~~  
16 ~~proposed joint system; and~~

17 ~~— (b) the resolution appointing the member's commissioner;~~

18 (3) the desire that the joint system be organized as a public body corporate and politic under this  
19 chapter;

20 (4) the name which is proposed for the joint system; and

21 (5) the purpose for creation of the joint system.

22 The Secretary of State shall file the application if after examining it and determining that it complies  
23 with the requirements in this section and that the proposed name of the joint system is not identical  
24 with that of any other corporation of the State or any agency or instrumentality or so nearly similar as  
25 to lead to confusion and uncertainty.

26 After the application has been filed, the Secretary of State shall issue a corporate certificate that must  
27 be filed with the application, and the joint system then must be constituted a public body corporate and  
28 politic under the name proposed in the application. The corporate certificate shall set forth ~~the names~~  
29 ~~of all voting members and of~~ the name of the joint system. There also must be stated upon the corporate  
30 certificate the purpose for which it has been created, as set forth in the application. Notice of the  
31 issuance of such corporate certificate must be given to all members of the joint system by the Secretary  
32 of State.

33 In any suit, action, or proceeding involving the validity or enforcement of, or relating to, contract of  
34 a joint system, the joint system in the absence of establishing fraud shall be conclusively considered to  
35 have been established in accordance with the provisions of this chapter upon proof of the issuance of  
36 the certificate by the Secretary of State. A copy of the certificate, duly certified by the Secretary of

1 State, is admissible in evidence in any suit, action, or proceeding and is conclusive proof of the filing  
2 and contents.

3  
4 SECTION 3. Section 6-25-60 of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

5  
6 Section 6-25-60. (A) The management and control of a joint system is vested in a commission that  
7 may consist of no fewer than five members and no more than eleven members. A commissioner has  
8 one vote and may have additional votes as a majority of the members of the joint system determines.  
9 Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection requiring the commission managing a joint system  
10 to have no fewer than five members and no more than eleven members, a joint system in existence on  
11 this section's effective date and having fewer than five members or more than eleven members on this  
12 section's effective date may continue to maintain the number of members serving on the section's  
13 effective date and may add additional members as its commissioners determine.

14 (B) As contemplated by the initial application to the Secretary of State, commissioners serving on  
15 the commission may be appointed under one of the following procedures:

16 (1) The governing body of each voting member of a joint system shall appoint ~~a commissioner~~  
17 ~~one or more commissioners, pursuant to Section 6-25-50(A), to serve as a commissioner of the joint~~  
18 ~~system. A commissioner has one vote and may have additional votes as a majority of the members of~~  
19 ~~the joint system determines.~~ A commissioner serves at the pleasure of the governing body by which he  
20 was appointed. A commissioner, before entering upon his duties, shall take and subscribe to an oath  
21 before a person authorized by law to administer oaths to execute the duties of his office faithfully and  
22 impartially, and a record of each oath must be filed with the governing body of the appointing authority.  
23 ~~—Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection requiring the commission managing a joint system~~  
24 ~~to have no fewer than five members and no more than eleven members, a joint system in existence on~~  
25 ~~this section's effective date and having fewer than five members or more than eleven members on this~~  
26 ~~section's effective date may continue to maintain the number of members serving on the section's~~  
27 ~~effective date and may add additional members as its commissioners determine.~~

28 In the event there are an even number of members of a joint system, the project contract, bylaws or  
29 other similar agreement for the joint system may authorize one additional member of the commission;  
30 such additional commissioner shall be recommended by the legislative delegation from each county  
31 where the joint system is located, and upon receipt of such recommendation, such additional  
32 commissioner shall be appointed by the Governor. Any gubernatorial appointment shall be for a term  
33 of four years and shall serve until a duly appointed successor is appointed and qualified. Any  
34 commissioner appointed by the Governor hereunder must reside within a household receiving utility  
35 services from the joint system or a member of the joint system. Any vacancy of such member must be

1 filled for the remainder of the unexpired term in the same manner as the original appointment. If a new  
2 member of a joint system is added under the provisions hereof such that there becomes an odd number  
3 of members of a joint system, any gubernatorial appointed commissioner shall be deemed to  
4 automatically vacate his position as a commissioner as of the date of the admission of such new member  
5 of a joint system and their respective appointment of a new commissioner.

6 (2) The commissioners may be appointed by the Governor in accordance with the following  
7 procedures:

8 (a) The Governor, based upon the recommendation of the legislative delegation from each  
9 county that the joint system operates, shall appoint each commissioner. Each appointed commissioner  
10 must reside within a household receiving utility services from the joint system or a member of the joint  
11 system. In making such appointments, there shall be at least one commissioner appointed by the  
12 Governor from the service area of each member of the joint system.

13 (b) Excepting the initial appointments as necessary to create a staggered commission which may  
14 be two or four years, respectively, each commissioner must be appointed and serve for a term of four  
15 years and until his successor is appointed and qualified, provided that the terms of the commissioners  
16 must be staggered such that approximately one-half of the total members appointed by the Governor  
17 must be appointed or reappointed every two years. A vacancy must be filled for the remainder of the  
18 unexpired term in the manner of the original appointment. Respecting the initial commission appointed  
19 herein, the minority portion of the staggered membership, representing those authorities with the lowest  
20 number of customers of the joint system, shall serve for an initial two-year term.

21 ~~(B)~~(C) The commissioners of the joint system shall annually, or biennially, if provided in the bylaws  
22 of the joint system, elect, with each commissioner having one vote, one of the commissioners as  
23 chairman, another as vice chairman, and other persons who may, but need not be commissioners, as  
24 treasurer, secretary and, if desired, assistant secretary. The office of treasurer may be held by the  
25 secretary or assistant secretary. The commission may also appoint such additional officers as it deems  
26 necessary. The secretary or assistant secretary of the joint system shall keep a record of the proceedings  
27 of the joint system, and the secretary must be the custodian of all books, records, documents, and papers  
28 filed with the joint system, the minute book or journal of the joint system, and its official seal.

29 ~~(C)~~(D) A majority of the commissioners of the joint system shall constitute a quorum. A vacancy on  
30 the commission of the joint system shall not impair the right of a quorum to exercise all rights and  
31 perform all the duties of a joint system. Any action taken by the joint system under the provisions of  
32 this chapter may be authorized by resolution at any regular or special meeting held pursuant to notice  
33 in accordance with bylaws of the joint system, and each resolution shall take effect immediately and  
34 need not be published or posted. Except as is otherwise provided in this chapter or in the bylaws of the  
35 joint system, a majority of the votes which the commissioners present are entitled to cast, with a quorum  
36 present, shall be necessary and sufficient to take any action or to pass any resolution. No commissioner

1 of a joint system shall receive any compensation solely for the performance of duties as a  
2 commissioner, but each commissioner may be paid per diem, mileage, and subsistence expenses, as  
3 provided by law for state boards, committees, and commissions, incurred while engaged in the  
4 performance of such duties.

5 (E) All commissioners shall hold the qualifications of an elector.

6 (F) Commissioners appointed under subsection (B)(2) may not be an officer or employee of a  
7 member of a joint system, and no commissioner shall be permitted to serve on an ex officio basis.  
8 Separately, for commissioners appointed under subsection (B)(1), the members of the joint system may  
9 include a restriction in the project contract, bylaws or other agreement for the joint system that no  
10 commissioner may be an officer or employee of a member of a joint system, and no commissioner shall  
11 be permitted to serve on an ex officio basis.

12 (G) Any commissioner appointed hereunder shall be deemed to forfeit his respective position if such  
13 person (1) lacks, at any time during his term of office, any qualifications for the office prescribed by  
14 general law and the Constitution, or (2) is convicted of any crime, other than civil infractions or  
15 misdemeanors for which no imprisonment is imposed.

16  
17 SECTION 4. Section 6-25-70 of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

18  
19 Section 6-25-70. (A) After the creation of a joint system, any other authority may become a member  
20 of the joint system upon:

21 (1) adoption of a resolution or ordinance by the governing body complying with the requirements  
22 of Section 6-25-40 including publication of notice;

23 (2) submission of an application to the joint system; and

24 (3) approval of the application by resolution of the governing body of each member of the joint  
25 system except in the case of a joint system organized for the purpose of creating a financing pool, in  
26 which case the application must be approved by resolution of the commission.

27 (B) A member may withdraw from a joint system by resolution or ordinance of its governing body.  
28 However, Aa contractual right acquired or contractual obligation incurred by a member while it was a  
29 member, expressly including any indebtedness or any obligation to make payments thereon, remains  
30 in full force and effect after the member's withdrawal.

31 (C) Notice of a change in membership must be filed in the Office of the Secretary of State. No change  
32 is final until this filing occurs. The filing is not required if a joint system is organized only for the  
33 purpose of creating a financing pool.

34 (D) If a new member of the joint system is added hereunder, the approval documentation required  
35 under subsection (A)(3) shall determine whether any new commissioners shall be added to the  
36 commission as necessary to support such new member of the joint system. If a new commissioner is

1 added, either by the members of the joint system or the Governor, as applicable, each such  
2 commissioner shall be appointed immediately.

3  
4 SECTION 5. Section 6-25-80 of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

5  
6 Section 6-25-80. Whenever the commission of a joint system and the governing body of each of its  
7 members shall by resolution or ordinance determine that the purposes for which the joint system was  
8 formed have been substantially fulfilled and that all bonds issued and all other obligations incurred by  
9 the joint system have been fully paid or satisfied, the commission and members may declare the joint  
10 system to be dissolved. On the effective date of the resolution or ordinance, the title to all funds and  
11 other income and property owned by the joint system at the time of dissolution must be disbursed to  
12 the voting members of the joint system according to its bylaws.

13 In the discretion of the members of a joint system for the proper and efficient operation of any joint  
14 system, an existing joint system may be reconstituted by following the procedures for the creation of a  
15 new joint system, mutatis mutandis. In the event of a reconstitution, any former member may elect to  
16 withdrawal from the joint system prior to the effective date of the reconstitution by submitting a petition  
17 to the joint system, which shall be filed with the new application under Section 6-25-50 above. No  
18 withdrawal shall be permitted unless and until all contractual rights and obligations, including debt  
19 obligations, of the withdrawing member have been fulfilled to the satisfaction of the remaining  
20 members, as certified in a resolution or ordinance of the remaining members filed with the application.  
21 Upon withdrawal, the withdrawing member's capacity rights in the project shall immediately terminate.

22  
23 SECTION 6. Section 6-25-110 of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

24  
25 Section 6-25-110. A joint system may incur debt for any of its purposes and may issue bonds  
26 pledging to the payment as to both principal and interest the revenues, or any portion, derived or to be  
27 derived from all or any of its projects and any additions and betterments or extensions or contributions  
28 or advances from its members or other sources of funds available to it. A joint system may not undertake  
29 a project required to be financed, in whole or in part, with the proceeds of bonds without the approval  
30 of the governing bodies of each member which is obligated or to be obligated under any contract for  
31 the payment of amounts to be pledged as security therefore and a favorable vote of two-thirds of all  
32 commissioners. Notwithstanding the foregoing, when a commission is appointed under Section 6-25-  
33 60(B)(2), no separate approval of the governing bodies of each member shall be required for the  
34 issuance of any bonds, and such bonds shall be authorized and approved by a simple majority of the  
35 commissioners. Any project may be preauthorized, preapproved or otherwise permitted under the terms  
36 of the project contract for the joint system, and such authority, approval or permission shall constitute

1 all necessary approval of the respective governing bodies of each member herein. A joint system  
2 formed only for the purpose of creating a financing pool may issue notes in anticipation of the issuance  
3 of bonds by its members to the government.  
4

5 SECTION 7. Section 6-25-128 of the S.C. Code is amended to read:  
6

7 Section 6-25-128. An authority may contract to buy from the joint system water required for its  
8 present or future requirements, including the capacity and output, or a portion or share of one or more  
9 specified projects. An authority also may contract for the collection or treatment of wastewater,  
10 including present or future capacity, or a portion or share of another project. The creation of a joint  
11 system is an alternative method whereby an authority may obtain the benefits and assume the  
12 responsibilities of ownership in a project, so a contract may provide that the authority forming the  
13 contract is obligated to make a payment required by the contract whether or not a project is completed,  
14 operable, or operating notwithstanding the suspension, interruption, interference, reduction, or  
15 curtailment of the output of a project or the water contracted for, and that the payments under the  
16 contract are not subject to reduction, whether by offset or otherwise, and are not conditioned upon the  
17 performance or nonperformance of the joint system or any other member of the joint system under the  
18 contract or any other instrument. A contract with respect to the sale or purchase of capacity or output,  
19 or a portion or share of them, of a project entered into between a joint system and its member authorities  
20 also may provide that if an authority or authorities default in the payment of its or their obligations with  
21 respect to the purchase of the capacity or output, or a portion or share of them, in that event the  
22 remaining member authorities which are purchasing capacity and output under the contract are required  
23 to accept and pay for and are entitled proportionately to and may use or otherwise dispose of the  
24 capacity or output which was to be purchased by the defaulting authority.

25 A contract concerning the sale or purchase of capacity and output from a project may extend for a  
26 period not exceeding fifty years from the date of the contract and may be renewable and extended upon  
27 terms as the parties may agree for not exceeding an additional fifty years; and the execution and  
28 effectiveness is not subject to any authorizations or approvals by the State or any agency, commission,  
29 or instrumentality or political subdivision of them. The contract may further provide that bonds or other  
30 indebtedness of the joint system may exceed the term of an initial or existing contract between or among  
31 the joint system and the respective members of the joint system, and in such event the contract, or at  
32 least the payment obligations of each member, shall be automatically extended to a period  
33 commensurate with the term of the bonds or other indebtedness.

34 Payments by an authority under a contract for the purchase of capacity and output from a joint system  
35 may be made from the revenues derived from the ownership and operation of the water system of the  
36 authority or from such other sources of funds as may be available, including any amounts received as

1 payments in lieu of taxes. An authority may not pledge its full faith, credit, and taxing power to secure  
2 its obligations to the joint system or the bonds of the joint system. An authority is obligated to fix,  
3 charge, and collect rents, rates, fees, and charges for water or sewer services, facilities, and  
4 commodities sold, furnished, or supplied through its water or sewer system sufficient to provide  
5 revenues adequate to meet its obligations under any contract and to pay any and all other amounts  
6 payable from or constituting a charge and lien upon the revenues, including amounts sufficient to pay  
7 the principal of and interest on general obligation bonds, if any, heretofore or hereafter issued by the  
8 authority for purposes related to its water or sewer system.

9 An authority that is a member of a joint system may furnish the joint system with money derived  
10 from the ownership and operation of its water or sewer system or facilities and provide the joint system  
11 with personnel, equipment, and property, both real and personal, and from any other sources legally  
12 available to it for such purposes. An authority also may provide services to a joint system.

13 A member of a joint system may contract for, advance, or contribute funds derived from the  
14 ownership and operation of its water or sewer system or facilities or from another legal source to a joint  
15 system as agreed upon by the joint system and the member, and the joint system shall repay the  
16 advances or contributions from the proceeds of bonds, operating revenue, or other funds of the joint  
17 system, together with interest as agreed upon by the member and the joint system.

18  
19 SECTION 8. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

20 ----XX----



February 2, 2026

Mr. Chris Eleazar  
Executive Director  
Oconee Joint Regional Sewer Authority  
623 Return Church Road  
Seneca, SC 29678

**Subject: Proposal for Oconee Joint Regional Sewer Authority Rate Study**

Dear Mr. Eleazar:

Raftelis Financial Consultants, Inc. (Raftelis) is pleased to submit this proposal to provide financial consulting services to the Oconee Joint Regional Sewer Authority (OJRSA). We appreciate the opportunity to submit this proposal, which details our understanding and approach to meeting OJRSA's objectives.

**Project Understanding**

OJRSA was established through a series of legal acts, resolutions and agreements that began with the creation of the Oconee County Sewer Commission in 1971. Since that time, several agreements have been made to clarify roles and responsibilities with regard to the provisions of sewer in Oconee County, ultimately ending with the creation of OJRSA in 2007. Entities involved in OJRSA include Oconee County, OJRSA, the City of Seneca, the City of Walhalla, the City of Westminster, and the Town of West Union.

In 2024, OJRSA secured funding from the South Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority to fund a regional sewer feasibility study for Oconee County, SC. The goal of the study was to provide insight into key issues facing sewer service in the County and to outline recommendations to ensure that sewer operations in Oconee County remain viable for the future. The Study, which was performed by Ardurra (formerly W.K. Dickson & Co, Inc), Bolton & Menk, Inc. and Willdan Financial Services, was completed in August 2024 (2024 Regional Feasibility Planning Study) and provided several recommendations and next steps, which include the completion of a detailed financial and cost-of-service study that considers the 20-year capital improvement needs .

OJRSA has requested that Raftelis, in collaboration with Ardurra, Bolton & Menk, Pope Flynn, LLC (legal counsel), and First Tryon Advisors (financial advisor), together the "Project Team", prepare a scope of services to perform the detailed financial and cost-of-service analysis as identified in the 2024 Regional Feasibility Planning Study. The following project approach details the tasks that we believe are necessary to complete the study for OJRSA.

**Scope of Services**

We have developed the following Scope of Services based on our understanding of OJRSA's needs. The scope of services can be adjusted, as needed, to better suit the needs of OJRSA or address other rate and finance-related issues if they arise. Our proposed scope of services includes the items listed below.

### Task 1: Project Initiation, Management, and Data Collection

The project management task begins with the submittal of this engagement letter and continues throughout the duration of the Study. It is designed to ensure the Study progresses in an efficient and deliberate manner. This task will include administrative components related to project management and quality assurance and control processes.

As part of this task and since Raftelis will be a new addition to the team that performed the 2024 Regional Feasibility Planning Study, a kick-off meeting will be held to ensure we have a thorough understanding of all available information for this study and the relationships among stakeholders.

Raftelis will prepare and submit to OJRSA and member entities a detailed data request list so readily available data can be forwarded to Raftelis. The data required will include, but not be limited to, operating and capital budgets, customer billing information, financial reports, population or growth forecasts, ordinances, and contractual agreements. Note that this information will be needed from each entity (Oconee County, OJRSA, the City of Seneca, the City of Walhalla, the City of Westminster, and the Town of West Union).

### Task 2: Project Revenue Requirements

The first step in the study process will be developing forecasts of revenue requirements. The revenue requirements will include all operating and maintenance (O&M) costs, capital costs (including annual debt service payments and cash-financed capital), and reserve requirements.

Using information and documents provided as part of the 2024 Regional Feasibility Planning Study and information provided in response to the data request, Raftelis will prepare a revenue requirement forecast for OJRSA. The revenue requirements will consider costs for a consolidated system to include OJRSA, Oconee County, City of Seneca, City of Walhalla, City of Westminster, and the Town of West Union.

Raftelis understands that the data provided as part of the 2024 Regional Feasibility Planning Study will be used to determine a projection of operating expenses for a consolidated system and entity. Raftelis will rely on these estimates, as well as those from Ardurra and Bolton & Menk, to establish the combined system operating costs. To the extent necessary, Raftelis will collaborate with the Project Team to ensure that reasonable estimates for additional operating costs and/or cost efficiencies from economies of scale are considered. A forecast of system operating expenses will be prepared that accounts for cost increases driven by system growth and general inflation.

The projection of revenue requirements will reflect the individual system's current and future capital needs, as established in the previous studies. Additionally, it is our understanding that each individual entity/utility has been asked to provide capital plans as a directive of the results of the 2024 Regional Feasibility Planning Study. Capital project costs will be compiled and, with assistance from Ardurra and Bolton & Menk, a five-to-ten-year capital project list will be established. Funding sources for future capital projects will include a combination of rates/cash, grants, and future debt (as discussed further in the following paragraph).

Revenue requirements must consider current and future debt service costs. Payment schedules for existing OJRSA debt will be paired with future debt service cost related to: 1) planned debt-funded capital projects for the combined system and 2) if applicable, the retirement of debt associated with the assets for the local collection systems (Oconee County, the City of Seneca, the City of Walhalla, the City of Westminster, and/or the Town of West Union). Raftelis will rely on First Tryon Advisors to advise on the size, timing, terms, and structure of all future debt issuances.

The forecast of revenue requirements will consider certain financial and debt policies, including debt service coverage and days cash on hand. Policies and metrics will be identified, tracked, and incorporated into the forecast of revenue requirements. Raftelis will meet with OJRSA staff to review all components of the forecast of revenue requirements. We will solicit staff input to ensure the forecast is consistent with the expressed financial objectives.

#### Task 3: Establish and Forecast Billable Units of Service

Raftelis will examine each entity's billing records to determine customer demand for wastewater service. To do so, Raftelis will use detailed water/sewer usage information from each of the sewer entities. Based on the information obtained, Raftelis will develop a forecast of billable units of service over a five-to-ten-year forecast period using growth assumptions for each entity or utility's service area. We will discuss key assumptions with OJRSA staff and the Project Team to ensure consistency with previous studies and local knowledge.

#### Task 4: Calculate Rates

The next step in the study process is to calculate retail rates for a combined system using the analyses from Tasks 2 and 3. Rates will be calculated using wastewater cost-of-service concepts for each year in the forecast period and adjusted, where possible, to provide for a smooth forecast of rates. Customer impact analyses will be performed to understand the impact of proposed rate changes to different types of customers from each entity. This will help OJRSA assess the full impacts on customers under individual and consolidated systems.

A combined/consolidated entity will also need to consider other rate/cost mechanisms to reflect the new structure of local sewer service. For example, it may be appropriate to consider a billing charge (cost per-bill charge) that OJRSA is responsible for paying to local water providers for billing on OJRSA's behalf. We will discuss these items with OJRSA and the Project Team at the kickoff meeting to ensure a comprehensive list of rates/charges for evaluation is established. Fee methodologies will be established that are straightforward and consistent with industry standards.

#### Task 5: Model Development

At the heart of any successful rate study is the model used to develop revenue requirements and perform operational and capital financial planning, review customer information, and calculate rates and revenues. The model incorporates the results of each of the other tasks in the engagement, and is sophisticated enough to perform the complex calculations involved in a comprehensive rate analysis with the ability to analyze various rate scenarios.

The model created for this engagement will be developed using Microsoft Excel and will be based on a model framework that incorporates industry-standard rate-setting methodologies in a user-

MR. CHRIS ELEAZAR  
OCONEE JOINT REGIONAL SEWER AUTHORITY

4

friendly manner. The rate model will be built using our innovative modeling approach and will include a customized and interactive dashboard.

#### Task 6: Recommendations & Presentation

Raftelis will be able to assist OJRSA as necessary in presenting the results of the study and supporting study recommendations. We will work with OJRSA to determine the most appropriate level of stakeholder interaction. For the purpose of this scope of services, we have included three in-person presentations.

#### **Project Fees**

We propose to complete the scope of work detailed in this engagement letter for fees and expenses not-to-exceed \$99,605. Estimated fees assume approximately 323 professional hours. Attachment A provides a work plan, detailing our anticipated level of effort. The project fees are based on our standard hourly billing rates for professional and administrative personnel assigned to the project, plus direct expenses. Expenses would relate to travel costs, computers, postage, supplies, etc.

It is our practice to bill monthly for fees and expenses as they are incurred during a project. The attached work plan provides an estimate of the time required to complete each task, and we reserve the right to shift hours among tasks and personnel as circumstances may change during the project. Total fees and expenses will be limited to the not-to-exceed amount unless specific approval for an adjustment in scope is approved by OJRSA. If actual fees incurred are less than the estimated fees in the work plan, then these savings will be retained by OJRSA.

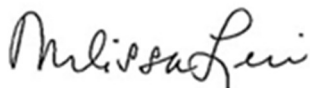
#### **Project Schedule**

It is Raftelis' understanding that OJRSA would like to have the combined system rate study completed as soon as possible. Raftelis anticipates that the study can be completed by the end of September 2026, however, much of the analysis is dependent on information to be provided by outside parties. Raftelis will work with OJRSA to try and meet desired timeframe recognizing that there may be issues that arise.

We look forward to working with you and your team at OJRSA. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (704)373-1199. If the provisions of this engagement letter are acceptable, please sign and return one copy of the letter for our files. We are delighted to have this opportunity to be of continued assistance to OJRSA.

Very truly yours,

**RAFTELIS FINANCIAL CONSULTANTS, INC.**



Melissa Levin  
Executive Vice President

MR. CHRIS ELEAZAR  
OCONEE JOINT REGIONAL SEWER AUTHORITY

5

We accept the terms of this engagement letter:

_____	_____
Signature	Name of authorized agent
_____	_____
Date	Title

MR. CHRIS ELEAZAR  
OCONEE JOINT REGIONAL SEWER AUTHORITY

6

## Attachment – Proposed Workplan

Tasks	Meetings		Hours				Total Fees & Expenses
	Virtual	In Person	Melissa Levin	Will Kerr	Barrett Funderburk	Total Hours	
1. Project Initiation, Management, and Data Collection	0	1	8	12	12	32	\$10,650
2. Project Revenue Requirements	2	0	8	16	40	64	\$18,680
3. Establish and Forecast Billable Units of Service	1	0	4	12	32	48	\$13,620
4. Calculate Rates	1	0	10	20	24	54	\$17,110
5. Model Development	0	0	1	8	24	33	\$8,995
6. Recommendations and Presentations	2	3	24	32	36	92	\$30,550
<b>Total Meetings / Hours</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>323</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>Hourly Billing Rates</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>\$425</b>	<b>\$340</b>	<b>\$230</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>Total Professional Fees</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>\$23,375</b>	<b>\$34,000</b>	<b>\$38,640</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>\$96,015</b>
						<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$3,590</b>
						<b>Total Fees &amp; Expenses</b>	<b>\$99,605</b>



6101 Carnegie Boulevard, Suite 210  
Charlotte, NC 28209

## WORK ORDER NUMBER 2

**WORK ORDER** to the Agreement dated December 7, 2021, by and between the Oconee Joint Regional Sewer Authority (the “**Client**”) and First Tryon Advisors, LLC (the “**Advisor**”).

### **SERVICES**

The Advisor will provide the following Services under this Work Order:

- Evaluate and provide a detailed analysis of the Client's existing financial condition, credit profile and debt portfolio.
- Build a comprehensive financial planning model (the “Model”) to assist in evaluating and establishing the Client’s debt capacity for various projects, as well as evaluating the potential reconstitution of the Client and consolidation / merger of existing entities under the Client’s management, taking the following variables into consideration:
  - Project Specific Items:
    - Timing and amounts
    - Available revenue sources
    - Available funding structures
    - Financing term
    - Amortization/debt service
    - Prioritization of capital project needs
  - Reconstitution and Consolidation / Merger Specific Items:
    - Timing of proposed consolidation(s) / merger(s)
    - Existing and proposed cash flows of entities coming under the Client's management
    - Financial condition, credit profile and debt portfolio of entities coming under the Client's management
    - Revenue/cost/growth projections
    - Impact on financial ratios, coverages, etc.
- Work hand-in-hand with the Client's staff to refine the Model to help forecast future financial performance based on pro forma projections provided by the Client, evaluate the Client's debt capacity and affordability and assess the sensitivity of the Client's various planning assumptions.
- At the Client's request, participate in Board meetings, workshops and committee meetings to facilitate the development of the Model.

### **TERM**

The Term with respect to the Services to be performed under this Work Order shall end 30 days after the completion of the Services described above, unless terminated earlier in accordance with the Agreement.

### **COMPENSATION**

In establishing fees, the Advisor takes into account multiple factors, including the efficiency with which the work was done, the result achieved, the complexity of the matter and any special experience or expertise applied to it, any extraordinary scheduling or preemptive attention devoted to the project, and the degree of professional responsibility or liability undertaken by the firm.

For the services to be performed in connection with the above-mentioned Scope of Services, the Advisor proposes an hourly rate of \$400/hour with invoices to be processed on a monthly basis. The Advisor will consult with the Client if at any time the Advisor believes that circumstances require an adjustment to its fees. In addition, the

Oconee Joint Regional Sewer Authority  
 Work Order Number 2  
 January 5, 2026  
 Page 2 of 2

Advisor will alert the Client when its cumulative fees reach \$25,000 at which point the Client can consent to additional work under this Work Order up to an additional \$25,000 or such other mutually agreeable amount.

In addition to the compensation outlined above, the Client will reimburse the Advisor for out-of-pocket expenses incurred in connection with the Services. Customary out-of-pocket expenses include, without limitation, costs of travel, meals, lodging, printing/copying, etc. The Advisor will bill the Client for such expenses at cost, with no mark-up. The Advisor will not bill the Client for indirect costs such as telephone, fax, and conference call services; instead, the Client will pay the Advisor an administrative expense fee equal to 4% of any invoiced fee for Services as reimbursement for costs not reasonably allocable on a client-by-client basis.

**The Advisor is firmly committed to demonstrating value to the Client throughout the financing process. If at any time the Client believes that the Services provided are not consistent with the fees charged by the Advisor, the Client may adjust the fee for such Services to any amount the Client deems appropriate.**

AGREED AND ACCEPTED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026:

**OCONEE JOINT REGIONAL SEWER AUTHORITY**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name:  
 Title:

**FIRST TRYON ADVISORS, LLC**

By:   
 Name: David Cheatwood  
 Title: Managing Director

By:   
 Name: J. Walter Goldsmith  
 Title: CEO



## Piedmont Municipal Power Agency

121 Village Drive  
Greer, SC 29651  
[www.pmpa.com](http://www.pmpa.com)

(864) 877-9632  
(864) 879-2122 fax  
(877) 236-3547 toll free

### Executive Committee

**Via Zoom**

**February 9, 2026**

**2:00 pm**

**Zoom link:**

<https://pmpa.zoom.us/j/84230159595?pwd=M2DhrcbJuOldkvdo15PMHiyBNzQamr.1&from=addon>

Meeting ID: 842 3015 9595

Passcode: 569329

### AGENDA

1. Call to Order and declaration of quorum

**Old Business**

2. Approval of Minutes – May 7, 2025 (Attached)

**New Business**

3. Discuss revision of monthly report sent to Executive Committee
4. Discussion of issues related to the termination of SPSA, CPPSA, and transition away from All-requirements agency.
5. Adjourn

**Executive Committee Meeting  
Piedmont Municipal Power Agency  
May 7, 2025  
Via Teams**

<b>Voting Members Present</b>	Andy Sevic, Chairman Blake Stone Jimmy Bagley John Young Kevin Bronson	Easley Abbeville Rock Hill Laurens Westminster
<b>Others</b>	Joel Ledbetter Julianne London Mike Frazier Dennis Cameron Tracy Quinn Marc Regier Steve Bratton Lance Davis Joey Meadors Keith Woods Foster Senn Rion Foley Trenholm Walker Andrea Kelly	PMPA PMPA PMPA PMPA PMPA Greer Gaffney Union Clinton Laurens Newberry Burr & Forman Walker, Gressette, Linton, LLC Seneca Journal
<b>Call to Order</b>	Chairman Sevic called the meeting of the Executive Committee to order at 10:00 am.	
<b>Approval of Minutes</b>	Blake Stone made a motion to approve the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting of January 29, 2024 with a second by Jimmy Bagley. The motion passed unanimously.  Jimmy Bagley made a motion to approve the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting of August 15, 2024 with a second by Blake Stone. The motion passed unanimously.	
<b>Consent Judgement on Declaratory Judgement</b>	Kevin Bronson made a motion to approve the Consent Judgement on Declaratory Judgement for Civil Action No.: 2023-CP-23-03809, and to give the General Manager the authority to execute the Judgement. John Young seconded the motion. This action will resolve the litigation brought by Greer CPW and the City of Union against PMPA. The motion passed unanimously. The Consent Judgement is attached to these minutes.	
<b>Adjourn</b>	With no other business to discuss a motion was made by Kevin Bronson, seconded by John Young, to adjourn the meeting. The	

motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Joel D. Ledbetter  
Board Secretary

**Executive Committee  
Transition Issues**

1. Revision of Bylaws
2. SPSA Section 3(g)
3. CPPSA
  - a. Section 5(h)
  - b. Section 2 – decommissioning
4. Nuclear fuel in process and in reactor on July 31, 2035
5. Union Billing Agreement Termination
6. General Release of Claims

# AGENDA

## PMPA BOARD MEETING



<b>Name:</b>	Piedmont Municipal Power Agency
<b>Date:</b>	Thursday, February 19, 2026
<b>Time:</b>	10:00 AM to 2:00 PM (EST)
<b>Location:</b>	PMPA Office, 121 Village Drive, Greer, SC 29651 <a href="https://pmpa.zoom.us/j/84719996942?pwd=IHF9UJ5pDqUYA4DR6aRQQKm cXheo8t.1">https://pmpa.zoom.us/j/84719996942?pwd=IHF9UJ5pDqUYA4DR6aRQQKm cXheo8t.1</a>
<b>Board Members:</b>	Andy Sevic (Chair), Blake Stone, Mayor Brian Ramey, David Dorman, David Vahaun, Mayor Foster Senn, Jason Taylor, Jimmy Bagley, Joe Nichols, Joey Meadors, John Young, Keith Wood, Kevin Bronson, Lance Davis, Marc Regier, Mike Richard, Mike Clary, Mayor Randy Randall, Steve Bratton
<b>Attendees:</b>	Angie Hoover, Brandon Audet, Cindy Frierson, Dedra Howell, Dennis Cameron, Gary Brunault, Joel Ledbetter, JulieAnne London, Kenny Bradley, Lynn Price, Mike Frazier, Rion Foley, Robby Townsend, Tom Gressette, Tracy Quinn, Will Blanton
<b>Apologies:</b>	Eric Goodwin

### 1. Call to Order

#### 1.1 Identify Virtual Attendees

#### 1.2 Declaration of Quorum

#### 1.3 Invocation

### 2. Approval of Minutes

#### 2.1 Confirm Minutes

Supporting Documents:

2.1.a Minutes : PMPA Board Meeting - 21 Jan 2026

#### 2.2 Approval January 21, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes

### 3. Acceptance of Financial Report

#### 3.1 January 2026 Finance Report

Supporting Documents:

3.1.a January 2026 Financial Board Mailing.pdf

## 4. Reports

### 4.1 Finance

### 4.2 Engineering

Supporting Documents:

---

4.2.a 2026\_01\_Demand Response Report.pdf

---

4.2.b 2026\_01\_Energy Report.pdf

---

4.2.c 2026\_01\_LSG Report.pdf

---

### 4.3 Catawba

Supporting Documents:

---

4.3.a 2026 02 12 Catawba Report.pdf

---

### 4.4 Management

Supporting Documents:

---

4.4.a Feb 9 2026 Executive Committee Draft Minutes.pdf

---

## 5. Executive Session

### 5.1 Vote to enter into Executive Session

**For Decision**

### 5.2 Discussion of matters pertaining to Contract Negotiation

### 5.3 Vote to return to Regular Session

**For Decision**

## 6. Participant Discussion

### 6.1 FY 2026 Funding Memo

Supporting Documents:

---

6.1.a PMPA FY 2026 Funding Memo.pdf

---

## 7. Adjourn

### 7.1 Adjourn

**Next meeting:** PMPA Board Meeting - Mar 19, 2026, 10:00 AM