

Meeting Minutes
Cornelia Water & Sewerage Authority
Quarterly report
January 28, 2025

The Cornelia Water & Sewerage Authority held its regularly scheduled meeting on January 28, 2025, at 10:00 am at the Water Plant located at 1439 Camp Creek Road. In attendance were the Authority Members, Donald Anderson, John Borrow and Janice Griggs. Also, City Engineers, Marty Boyd, Kenny Miller and Chase West, and Jeremy Pirkle, as well as the Utility Director, Keith Ethridge.

The first item on the agenda was approval of the minutes from October 2024.

The next item on the agenda was the City Engineers updated the Authority on the water & sewerage project summary, the first item discussed was the water treatment plant. Marty stated that the plant has been producing water as of November 30, 2020. Pump data from HSP's currently being collected on SCADA. There has not been any motor bearing or winding high temperature events since data collection began.

HAZEL CREEK DAM NO. 7/CAMP CREEK RESERVOIR REPAIRS. (GEFA No. WS12L18WR, C8250.022): These plans are to address deficiencies in Safe Dams letter dated 1/13/17. Gate valve to be replaced and trash rack to be replaced, outlet pipe to be rehabilitated with CIPP, new toe drains, and tower to be removed. Submitted to Safe dams 1/24/2025.

WWTP EXPANSION TO 4.5 MGD (C8250.051)

Jeremy Pirkle has been assigned as Project Manager on this project. Needs assessment and evaluation of WWTP for expansion to 4.5 MGD completed and presented to City on April 17, 2021. Project would include biological process upgrade and solar dryer to achieve 80-90% solids for sludge to limit effects of the 325% tipping fee increase by landfill. The last design meeting with City was October 3, 2024. Structural design is about 95% complete; electrical design is about 75% complete; overall project design is about 95% complete. 90% Complete plants sent to Reeves-Young for cost estimating. We anticipate budget numbers back from them by Friday 2/14/2025. Solar dryer has been decoupled from this project and will be bid separately to not hold up biological process improvements. We are evaluating city-owned property adjacent to WWTP and preparing a technical memo updating capital and O&M costs for solar dryer vs. thermal dryers. Anticipated schedule is Bidding 2nd Qtr. Construction 3rd Qtr. 2025 through 4th Qtr. 2026.

ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN (C8250.112) Submitted to EPD November 8th, received comments on December 11th. Re-submitted to EPD with comments addressed on December 17th.

EPD Reviewer approved and is currently awaiting Director's signature

WATER SUPPLY FROM LAKE TALLULAH (C8250.151): System comparison of existing water rates, operating ratio, and affordability compared to other systems. Reviewing existing water and sewer expenses to develop trends

WATER & SEWER RATE STUDY (C8250.154) System comparison of existing water rates, operating ratio, and affordability compared to other systems. Reviewing existing water and sewer expenses to develop trends.

CHENOCETAH GST (1.5 MG) REHABILITATION (C8250.153) Tank back online on 10/28/24.

Received a deduct for the cathodic protection system for \$27,273.12. Supplemental Work Allowance is not used for \$25,000. Total Change order for (\$52,273.12) less than the contracted total. Awaiting contractor for closeout documents and final pay request for \$2,286.74.

WATER SUPPLY FROM LAKE TALLULAH (C8250.151) Exploring water withdrawal options in Lake Tallulah Working on EPD surface water withdrawal application and required reports. Present options and cost estimates for the intake type and pipeline location.

GIS UPDATE, LEAD & COPPER RULE (C8250.130)

GEFA Principal forgiveness awarded \$78,495. 2,855 total service lines, 0 Lead, 124 Galvanized, 1,691 Unknown, 1,040 non-lead. Next step is to procure a contractor to identify the Unknown service lines.

WATER MODEL UPDATE (C8250.143) Updated and ready for scenarios.

HAZEL CREEK RAW WATER PUMP STATION IMPROVEMENTS: (C8250-122)

GEFA Loan - \$1,329,200. Awarded to J. Brennon Construction for \$1,024,050

Project replaces one pump and upgrades the electrical to pump 4.3 MGD.

Pumps and electrical equipment are being reviewed and ordered; both have long lead times.

Construction should start around May 2025 and be completed in October 2025.

2023 STORMWATER PROJECT: (C8250.149)

Addressed storm water issues on Pine Street, Etta Street and Ellis Street. Construction completed for \$543,770.33, approximately \$15,064.67 under budget.

OLD LEVEL GROVE ROAD WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS (C8250.093)

FY 2023 CDBG (C8250.136)

Awarded to Higgins Construction for \$3,481,920.50.

Awarded a \$1,000,000 CDBG Grant for the water/sewer in the Alpine Trailer Park

Construction to begin in November 2024 with a completion of October 2025.

Project contains 12" and 8" water main on Level Grove & Old Level Grove to feed Alpine Court, WWTP, and Level Grove on the west side of SR 365. Water main to WWTP upsized to an 8" for fire protection.

FY 2024 CDBG (C8250.146)

Awarded \$1,000,000 grant for water improvements in the East Walnut neighborhood. The bid date is planned for April 2025. Construction Budget: \$1,377,000

FY 2025 CDBG (C8250.158)

Circle Dr. & Myrtle St. – Water/Sewer/Storm. Application due in April 2025. Budget: \$1,300,000.

2025 INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS (C8250.156)

Water/Sewer/Storm on Scott, Esta, Maple, Short Ave. Water valves on Old Lake Russell Road. Storm on Wyly/Jones. Projected to advertise 3rd Quarter 2025. Construction Budget: \$1,523,300 split between FY 2025/2026 budgets.

Utility Manager, Keith Ethridge submitted the Utilities Quarterly Report.

THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT treated 296.6 million gallons of sewage. The City of Cornelia WPCP was 99.9% Compliant for the 4th Quarter.

The WATER TREATMENT PLANT produced 260.39 million gallons of water. We recorded 10.07 Inches of rain for the fourth quarter of 2024, compared to 9.77 inches of rain in the fourth quarter of 2023.

WATER DISTRIBUTION responded to 21 water breaks. 20 sewer blocks and 9 storm issues.

As there was no further business to come before the board the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am.