Meeting Minutes
Cornelia Water & Sewerage Authority
Quarterly report
July 28, 2026

The Cornelia Water & Sewerage Authority held its regularly scheduled meeting on July 28, 2026, at 10:00 am at the Water Plant located at 1439 Camp Creek Road. The following Authority members were in attendance, Janice Griggs, Donald Anderson, and Mayor John Borrow, Also, in attendance were City Engineers, Marty Boyd, Chase West, Jeremy Pirkle and Kenny Miller, as well as the Utility Director, Keith Ethridge.
The first item on the agenda was approval of the minutes from January 27, 2026, and April 28, 2026. John Borrow made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Janice Griggs and Donald Anderson seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.
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.

WWTP EXPANSION TO 4.5 MGD (C8250.051) Revised DDR submitted to EPD 1/30/2026. Comments received from EPD on 5/11/2026. DDR has been revised again and will be submitted back to EPD on or before 7/31/2026. Plans are 98% complete and we are awaiting finalization of electrical engineering. We have been having weekly meetings every Thursday with EDEC. Their deadline for completion of electrical is 8/7/2026. Bidding documents, contract documents and technical specifications are 90% complete. Marty is doing final review this week and they will be ready 8/7/2026. We would like to set up a final internal design meeting in the week of Aug 10th. 90% of plans sent to Reeves-Young in March 2025 for cost estimate: $33.56 million, ±10%. Plans revised to remove primary clarifier, aeration basin, secondary clarifier to reduce cost to $16.09 million, ±10% in July 2025. The solar dryer project has been put on hold until after the expansion project, when biosolids can be retested for compressive strength, which is the landfill requirement for reduced tipping fees. The budget cost was $10 million for this project. ARC Funding: An application for $2,000,000 was submitted on 7/13/2026. GEFA Funding: Preliminary Applications were submitted in December 2025 for their annual Intended Use Plans. GEFA was supposed to release the IUP on 7/1/2026 but has not done so yet. The following preliminary applications were submitted: CWSRF Planning Loan – Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion $2,300,000. Preliminary engineering, planning, and design for wastewater treatment plant expansion and upgrades. CWSRF Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion $23,000,000
(The pre-application must show the total project amount.) The city requested a GEFA pre-application for the maximum allowable amount next year, with a bond for the remainder. Wastewater treatment plant expansion and upgrades. CWSRF Planning Loan - Biosolids Management Facility $150,000. Preliminary engineering and environmental planning for a new biosolids management facility. CWSRF Biosolids Management Facility - land purchase $800,000. Land purchase for new biosolids management facility.

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 valves to be replaced, trash rack to be replaced, outlet pipe to be rehabilitated with CIPP, new toe drains, and tower to be removed. Approval from Safe Dams has been received. Construction is scheduled to begin in October to coincide with low water levels in the reservoir. Bids were received on June 23. C&S is recommending the City deem the low bidder Fowler Site Work, Inc. as non-responsible and award the contract to the lowest responsible bidder, Wilcorp, Inc., for $1,656,410.00; the project has a projected funding shortfall of $809,900, and we need to discuss if the City would like to apply for a Georgia Fund loan to cover the gap.

WATER SUPPLY FROM LAKE TALLULAH (C8250.151) Designing a floating dock to permit GA Power. Survey is scheduled for next week. GA Power is working on their yield study.

DAM INSPECTIONS (C8250.018) 1 and #2 dam inspections are due in the 1st quarter of 2028

SERVICE LINE INVENTORY (C8250.164) 2,855 total service lines, 0 Lead, 124 Galvanized, 1,691 Unknown, 1,040 non-lead. Mack Jones Enterprises is the selected contractor to identify unknowns: $200,250. Mack Jones began Service Line Inventory on 4/27/26. GEFA Principal forgiveness awarded 45% up to $109,800. Approximately 1,500 of the 1,691 unknowns have been identified and all of them are non-lead.

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

RISK & RESILIENCY UPDATE (C8250.165) Risk and Resilience Assessment update that is due June 2026 is complete. The corresponding Emergency Response Plan that is due December 31, 2026, is complete.

HAZEL CREEK STREAM GAUGE CALIBRATION (C8250.092) Report is complete and submitted to the city.

2025 INRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS (C8250.156) Water/Sewer/Storm on Scott, Esta, Maple, Short Ave. Water valves on Old Lake Russell Road/Main St. & storm on Wyly/Jones in 2025. Civil Construction & Utilities Awarded for $1,700,000.00. Construction Begin March 2026; completion is anticipated in August 2026.

HATCHERY SEWER (C8250.162) On hold pending funding — $1,664,000 GEFA grant.
The abandoned hatchery will be sold by Fieldale and renovated to reopen. This will add 30,000 gallons per day to the sewer system. Approximately 18,300 LF of force main and a sewage lift station from the hatchery to the City's gravity sewer system.

FY 2025 CDBG (C8250.158) Circle Dr. & Myrtle St. – Water/Sewer/Storm. Grant awarded $1,000,000; Awarded to Higgins Construction - $1,042,970.

FY 2026 CDBG (C8250.167) Garden Gate & Whispering Wood – Water/Sewer. Application submitted in April 2026; Construction Budget: $1,114,000.

Public Utilities Report. Utility Manager, Keith Ethridge submitted the Utilities Quarterly Report.
THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT treated 271.4 million gallons of sewage. The City of Cornelia WPCP was 100% Compliant for the 2nd Quarter.
The WATER TREATMENT PLANT produced 283.16 million gallons of water. We recorded 15.35 Inches of rain for the second quarter of 2026, compared to 17.95 inches of rain in the second quarter of 2025. Performed scheduled preventative maintenance and monthly sampling required by EPD.
WATER DISTIBUTION responded to 18 water breaks. 12 sewer blocks and routine maintenance of storm infrastructure. Lift station & splash pad maintenance.

As there were no further business to come before the board the meeting was adjourned at Meeting adjourned at 10:52 am.