Meeting Minutes
Cornelia Water & Sewerage Authority
Quarterly report
October 27, 2026

The Cornelia Water & Sewerage Authority held its regularly scheduled meeting on October 27, 2026, at 10:00 am at the Water Plant located at 1439 Camp Creek Road. The following Authority members were in attendance, Janice Griggs, Earnest Burns, and Mayor John Borrow, Also, in attendance were City Engineers, 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 April 28, 2026, and John Borrow made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Janice Griggs and Ernest Burns 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) WWTP EXPANSION TO 4.5 MGD (C8250.051)

Keith, Andy and the Carter & Sloope design team had a final design meeting on 8/31/2026.
Bidding documents, contract documents and technical specifications are complete.

- The project is currently advertising.
- Prebid meeting – 11/5/26 at 10 AM at Camp Creek WTP
- Bid Opening – 11/20/26

EPD confirmed 10/20/26 that DDR is approvable as revised on 7/31/26.
EPD would like an updated set of plans and specs. We will transmit them along with an updated Environmental Review and Planning Document (ERPD) as soon as it is done.
Updated cost estimate: $36 million, ±20%
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: $2,000,000 was requested but not received.
GEFA Funding: Project is on GEFA's Intended Use Plans. 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 cost. The City requested that a GEFA pre-application be submitted in 2027 for the maximum allowable amount, with bond financing covering 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)
This project address deficiencies identified by Safe Dams. The work includes replacing the gate valves and trash rack, rehabilitating the outlet pipe with cured-in-place pipe (CIPP), installing new toe drains, and removing the tower. The project was awarded to Wilcorp, Inc. for $1,656,410.00. Construction is underway and is expected to be completed by January 2027.

WATER SUPPLY FROM LAKE TALLULAH (C8250.151) Georgia Power issued an availability letter, temporarily reserving 6 MGD for the City. The site topographic and boundary survey is complete. The city must decide whether to proceed with the Lake Tallulah water-supply project and submit a surface water withdrawal permit application to EPD. EPD will likely require the City to place the new station into service and abandon the Hazel Creek Station by the next permit renewal cycle, which is estimated to be 2034.

WIPP GRANT (WATER INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING PROGRAM
Application submitted for $150,000 grant with $15,000 City match; $165,000 total project. November 2026 is estimated announcement date for awards. The scope includes watershed-protection planning; streambank-stabilization assessments; downtown detention and MS4-readiness evaluations; development of a citizen drainage-reporting portal; and smoke testing and CCTV inspection of the sanitary sewer system. Together, these efforts will help prioritize future capital improvements and funding opportunities.

SERVICE LINE INVENTORY (C8250.164) Initial desktop inventory: 2,855 total service lines—0 lead, 124 galvanized, 1,691 unknown, and 1,040 non-lead. Current inventory: 2,856 total service lines—0 lead, 388 galvanized, 171 unknown, and 2,297 non-lead. Mack Jones Enterprises completed the field inventory. GEFA principal forgiveness was awarded at 45%, up to $109,800.

BALDWIN MOU FOR SEWER TO CORNELIA (C8250.002) The MOU outline was sent to Baldwin during the week of October 12, 2026, and the City is awaiting Baldwin's response.

2025 INRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS (C8250.156) Civil Construction & Utilities completed the project in September 2026 at a cost of $1,688,454.14. Contract: $1,700,000.00.

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. Reopening the renovated hatchery will add approximately 30,000 gallons per day to the sewer system. The project includes approximately 18,300 linear feet of force main and a sewage lift station connecting 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. Notice to Proceed was issued on September 1, 2026. Substantial completion is scheduled for January 29, 2027.

FY 2026 CDBG (C8250.167) Garden Gate Lift Station & Whispering Wood Water. Awarded $1,000,000 CDBG grant. Design is scheduled to begin in the first quarter of 2027.

CHENOCETAH BOOSTER PUMP STATION UPGRADES (C8250.171) Install a fire booster pump at the Chenocetah Booster Pump Station. This upgrade will allow the City to demolish the Grandview ground storage tank and booster pump and install an elevated storage tank at Grandview. Budget: $350,000.

FUTURE WORK

- Hazel Creek Stream Gauge Calibration-2027
- 2027Dam Inspections – 1st Quarter of 2028
- Risk and Resilience Assessment Update - 2031

Public Utilities Report. Utility Manager, Keith Ethridge submitted the Utilities Quarterly Report.
THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT treated 273.9 million gallons of sewage. The City of Cornelia WPCP was 100% Compliant for the 2nd Quarter. Pretreatment Audit Completed. NPDES Permit renewal application completed and submitted.
The WATER TREATMENT PLANT produced 283.49 million gallons of water. We recorded 13.10 Inches of rain for the third quarter of 2026, compared to 15.63 inches of rain in the third quarter of 2025. Performed scheduled preventative maintenance and monthly sampling required by EPD.
WATER DISTIBUTION responded to 25 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.