

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the  
Commission of the Combined Utility System  
held at the office of the Combined Utility  
System on Monday, January 9, 2023.

The meeting was called to order with all commissioners present. Also present were Joel Ledbetter, General Manager; Andy Sevic, Finance Manager; Alex Dye, Operations Engineer; and Robin Gore, Powdersville Water District.

The minutes of the meeting of December 12, 2022 were read. A motion was made by Eric Goodwin to adopt these minutes with a second by Jeff Fogle. The motion was unanimous.

December invoices were reviewed by Eric Goodwin. The sales report and financial report for the month of December were reviewed. Electric sales were 1.0% above budget, water sales were above budget 5.0% and sewer sales were above budget at 1.7%. These reports were taken as information only.

The General Manager reviewed with the commission the electrical reliability statistics for the calendar year 2022. To measure system reliability, the electric industry along with IEEE has developed several metrics for reliability. The indices tracked by ECU are SAIDI, SAIFI, CAIDI, and ASAI, and measures outage duration, frequency of outages, system availability, and response time.

SAIDI	System Average Interruption Duration Index
SAIFI	System Average Interruption Frequency Index
CAIDI	Customer Average Interruption Duration Index
ASAI	Average Service Availability Index

ASAI for ECU in 2022 was 99.981%. This item was taken as information only.

The commission was presented with the results of the triennial lead and copper samplings. For lead the 90th percentile of the results was 0 mg/L (ppm) and for copper the 90th percentile of the results was .282 mg/L (ppm). The action level for lead is .015 mg/L based on the 90th percentile, and for copper the action level is 1.3 mg/L based on the 90th percentile. All customers were notified of their results and no further action is needed by ECU until the next sampling period of June 1, 2025 through September 30, 2025. These results prove the effectiveness of ECU's corrosion control program of poly-phosphate addition at water treatment. This item was taken as information only.

The commission entered into executive session to discuss contractual and legal issues. The Commission returned to public session with no action being taken in executive session.

The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, February 13, 2023.




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Nick Caldwell, Chairman




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Eric Goodwin, Commissioner




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Jeff R. Fogle, Commissioner

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the  
Commission of the Combined Utility System  
held at the office of the Combined Utility  
System on Monday, February 13, 2023.

The meeting was called to order with all commissioners present. Also present were Joel Ledbetter, General Manager; Ginnye Lusk, Administrative Assistant, Andy Sevic, Finance Manager; Alex Dye, Operations Engineer; and Robin Gore, Powdersville Water District.

The minutes of the meeting of January 9, 2023 were read. A motion was made by Jeff Fogle to adopt these minutes with a second by Eric Goodwin. The motion was unanimous.

January invoices were reviewed by Nick Caldwell. The sales report and financial report for the month of January were reviewed. Electric sales were 13.9% above budget, water sales were above budget 26.5% and sewer sales were above budget at 21.9%. These reports were taken as information only.

The commission was presented with the proposed Fiscal Year 2024 Budget for consideration and adoption. No retail rate increases are included in the budget. A 10% wholesale water rate increase was included for all-requirement wholesale water purchasers with a contract. Jeff Fogle made a motion to adopt the FY 2024 Budget with a second by Eric Goodwin. The motion was unanimous. The budget is attached to and incorporated in these minutes.

The commission discussed increasing sewer capacity fees. Currently ECU sewer capacity fees are \$2,100 per REU for all discharges into a ECU treatment facility. For discharges into a ReWa facility the sewer capacity fee is \$2,500 per REU. Making the sewer capacity fee the same for regardless of receiving plant allows for ease of administration and recognizes the increase in cost of plant capacity. Eric Goodwin made a motion to set all sewer capacity fees at \$2,500 per REU regardless of the receiving treatment plant. Jeff Fogle seconded the motion and it was unanimous.

The commission was presented with a proposed revision to the Electrical Service Extension Policy. The revision establishes electrical contribution by developers at \$1,000 per unit for single-family home developments, and \$750 per unit for multi-family home developments. This is a change from the current 25% contribution based on estimated costs. Eric Goodwin made a motion to adopt the revision with a second by Jeff Fogle. The motion was unanimous. The revised policy is attached to and incorporated in these minutes.

The commission was presented with the level of cash reserves based on the prior approved Cash Reserve Policy. Based on the Policy, the target level of reserves is \$15.4 million. Jeff Fogle made a motion to approve this cash reserve target level for FY 2024. Eric Goodwin seconded the motion and it was unanimous.

The commission was presented with a request to apply a refund from the River Road/Highway 25 property contribution to another tract within the Saluda River watershed. Naturaland Trust received grant monies from other sources to help with the purchase of the River Road/Highway 25 property. Therefore, ECU will be receiving a refund from the contribution to conserving this property. ECU's watershed manager and Naturaland Trust have requested that ECU allocate the \$50,000 refund to the purchase and conservation of the Parker Tract in the North Saluda watershed. The tract is 26 acres and cost \$230,000. Jeff Fogle made a motion to allocate the \$50,000 to the Parker Tract with a second by Eric Goodwin. The motion was unanimous.

The commission was presented with the Inter-governmental agreement between the City of Easley and Easley Combined Utilities. The agreement has been approved and executed by the City of Easley. The initial term for this agreement shall be five (5) years and will commence upon signing by both parties. This agreement supersedes the prior Inter-Governmental Agreement entered into by the City of Easley and ECU. Eric Goodwin made a motion to approve the Inter-Governmental Agreement as written giving the general manager the authority to make modifications as necessary. Jeff Fogle seconded the motion and it was unanimous. The Agreement is attached to and incorporated in with these minutes.

In other business:

1. ECU will debut a new website in the coming weeks.
2. Joel Ledbetter and Melanie Ruhlman have been named to the Saluda River Basin Council for water basin planning.
3. The watershed management report was reviewed. Items in the report include Upper Saluda Watershed 319 program update, Hwy 25/River Road refund, and the Jopoco property update. The full report is attached to and incorporated in with these minutes.
4. Project map has been updated and will be placed in the 2023 Agenda Dropbox folder.
5. The proposed traffic circle at Sheffield Road and Crestview Road will impact existing ECU electric and water infrastructure. The cost to relocate electric facilities is estimated to be around \$25,000. The proposed upgrade to the Sheffield Rd. water line will eliminate conflicts with the traffic circle. ECU will proceed with the installation of the Sheffield Rd. water upgrade.
6. The lead time for obtaining Ductile Iron Pipe (DIP) for the Georges Creek Outfall project is 8 to 9 months. Without objection the Commission gave approval to order the DIP for this project in preparation for construction.
7. ECU is requiring that a gravity line be installed to serve the proposed Saluda Village development that will discharge into the planned Georges Creek Outfall line. Requiring the gravity line will allow the existing Saco Lowell Road pump station to be decommissioned and discharge into this new line. The gravity line will cost approximately \$250,000 more than a pump station and force main but will allow for the decommissioning and removal of the Saco Lowell pump station. The Commission concurred with ECU spending the \$250,000 for the cost differential between a pump station and gravity line.

The commission entered into executive session to discuss legal issues. The Commission returned to public session with no action being taken in executive session.

Upon returning to open session the Jeff Fogle made a motion to approve ECU joining in a lawsuit along with other waste treatment providers against the manufacturers of PFAS and PFOA. Eric Goodwin seconded the motion and it was unanimous.

The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, March 20, 2023.



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Nick Caldwell, Chairman



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Eric Goodwin, Commissioner



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Jeff R. Fogle, Commissioner

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the  
Commission of the Combined Utility System  
held at the office of the Combined Utility  
System on Monday, March 20, 2023.

The meeting was called to order with all commissioners present. Also present were Joel Ledbetter, General Manager; Ginnye Lusk, Administrative Assistant, Andy Sevic, Finance Manager; and Alex Dye, Operations Engineer.

The minutes of the meeting of February 13, 2023 were read. A motion was made by Eric Goodwin to adopt these minutes with a second by Jeff Fogle. The motion was unanimous.

February invoices were reviewed by Jeff Fogle. The sales report and financial report for the month of February were reviewed. Electric sales were 1.5% below budget, water sales were above budget 10.1% and sewer sales were above budget at 2.5%. These reports were taken as information only.

The commission was presented with a request for sewer service. Toyota of Easley requested sewer service to its new location at the intersection of Powdersville Road and Highway 153. The developer will extend a gravity line from the parcel to Buxton Subdivision that is currently under construction on Powdersville Road. Jeff Fogle made a motion to approve sewer service to the new Toyota of Easley with a second by Eric Goodwin. The motion was unanimous.

The commission was presented with a request from River Street Partners for sewer service to TMS Nos. 5140-17-00-6711, 5140-17-11-0294, 5140-17-10-5311 located at the intersection of Saluda Dam Road and Kay Drive. Service would flow to the Georges Creek Outfall Line when constructed. The Pickens County Planning Commission approved the 228 residential development in November 2022. If approved by ECU, River Street Partners will be responsible for getting a capacity commitment letter from ReWa. Jeff Fogle made a motion to approve sewer service to the parcel with a second by Nick Caldwell. The motion was unanimous.

In other business:

1. The watershed management report was reviewed. Items in the report include the North Saluda Stream Restoration project, Pickens County UDSO, and land conservation. The full report is attached to and incorporated in with these minutes.
2. An inquiry was made as to what benefits Windham Subdivision would receive should it be annexed into the City, specifically sewer. An estimate was prepared by staff for construction cost of sewer main installation throughout the subdivision to Brushy Creek Sewer Trunk Main behind Hamilton Park subdivision which was \$2.0 million.
3. The DOT is requiring a portion of water infrastructure to be relocated on Crestview Road due to conflicts with the storm sewer system and construction of the traffic circle at Sheffield and Crestview Roads. Estimated cost is \$150,000
4. Four EHS seniors and one Christ Church Episcopal School (CCES) senior were awarded with the 2023 Energy Audit Scholarship. EHS recipients were Todd Williams, David Dye, Alexandra Mantekas, and Tristan Rosemond. CCES recipient was Jay Lusk. Eric Goodwin will present EHS recipients with a \$500 check at the school's awards night.

5. RIA was given \$900M for the South Carolina Infrastructure Investment Program (SCIIP) from the state's share of ARPA funding. ECU applied for \$10M for the Georges Creek Sewer Trunk Line. RIA is expecting to receive \$580 million in additional ARPA funds to disperse. Announcement of grant recipients was expected by the end of the first quarter of 2023. With the expected additional funds, grant recipient announcements are delayed. The expenditure deadline is December 31, 2026.
6. Ductile Iron Pipe (DIP) for the Georges Creek Outfall project was ordered and will cost approximately \$350,000.

The commission entered into executive session to discuss legal issues. The Commission returned to public session with no action being taken in executive session.

The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, April 17, 2023.



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Nick Caldwell, Chairman



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Eric Goodwin, Commissioner



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Jeff R. Fogle, Commissioner

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the  
Commission of the Combined Utility System  
held at the office of the Combined Utility  
System on Monday, April 17, 2023.

The meeting was called to order with all commissioners present. Also present were Joel Ledbetter, General Manager; Andy Sevic, Finance Manager; and Alex Dye, Operations Engineer. Also present were several residents from the Brown Dr. – Sherriff Mill Rd. area.

The minutes of the meeting of March 20, 2023 were read. A motion was made by Eric Goodwin to adopt these minutes with a second by Jeff Fogle. The motion was unanimous.

March invoices were reviewed by Eric Goodwin. The sales report and financial report for the month of March were reviewed. Electric sales were 6.4% below budget, water sales were above budget 10.4% and sewer sales were above budget by 5.6%. These reports were taken as information only.

Dawn Crooks spoke for the group of residents that were opposed to a development planned Brown Dr. in the Sherriff Mill Rd. area. All comments by Ms. Crooks were received by the commission and all questions posed were answered.

The commission was presented with a request by Mr. Elliot Batson to purchase 5.62 acres it owns on Fuller Dr. The commission stated that it would entertain an offer for the property if one was submitted, but the offer must represent current market rates.

The commission was presented with a proposal for construction of a new building at the Operations Center for consideration. The proposal was in the amount of \$805,252 and submitted by Durham Greene Inc. Jeff Fogle made a motion to give the General Manager authority to execute the Letter of Intent and Notice to Proceed for the construction of the new building with a second by Nick Caldwell. The motion was unanimous.

Naturaland Trust requested a contribution of \$500,000 to assist in purchasing and conserving the Jopeco property (TMS 5107-00-73-0982), a 1,093-acre parcel on Hwy. 11 in Pickens County that has 1.4 mile of frontage on the South Saluda River that drains into Saluda Lake. Eric Goodwin made a motion to contribute \$500,000 to the conservation of this parcel with a second by Jeff Fogle. The motion was unanimous.

ECU staff presented a revised set of regulations and fees for rental of the stage. The following was recommended:

- \$250 refundable deposit for rentals in the ECU's electrical service area.
- \$750 non-refundable fee to all other areas in Pickens County that are outside of ECU's electrical service area.
- No stage rental outside of Pickens County, unless it is in ECU's electrical service area.

Jeff Fogle made a motion to implement the recommended regulations and fees with a second by Eric Goodwin. The motion was unanimous.

In other business:

1. The watershed management report was reviewed. The full report is attached to and incorporated in with these minutes.
2. The General Manager gave a report of the meeting held between ECU staff and ReWa to discuss ECU's expected growth and capacity in the ReWa Georges Creek WWTP. Also discussed was ECU payment of ReWa's New Account Fee for all flow over 500,000 gpd in the Georges Creek WWTP. Both organizations agreed to meet every 6 months to discuss these issues.

The commission entered executive session to discuss personnel matters. The Commission returned to public session with the following actions to be considered based on discussions held in Executive Session:

Jeff Fogle made a motion to accept the retirement of the General Manager on June 30, 2023, with a second by Eric Goodwin. The motion was unanimous.

Jeff Fogle made a motion to adopt Resolution 2023-01 naming Andy Sevic as Easley Combined Utilities' Board member for the Piedmont Municipal Power Agency, with a second by Eric Goodwin. The motion was unanimous. The Resolution is attached to and made a part of the minutes.

The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, May 15, 2023.



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Nick Caldwell, Chairman



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Eric Goodwin, Commissioner



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Jeff R. Fogle, Commissioner



The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the  
Commission of the Combined Utility System  
held at the office of the Combined Utility  
System on Monday, May 15, 2023.

The meeting was called to order with all commissioners present. Also present were Joel Ledbetter, General Manager; Ginnye Lusk, Administrative Assistant, Andy Sevic, Finance Manager; and Alex Dye, Operations Engineer. Also present were Jay Lusk, Christ Church Episcopal School student, ECU customer Toby Lawson, and area residents Daniel McKinney, Bill McKinney, Cindy Oates, Laura Hinty, and Dawn Crooks.

The minutes of the meeting of April 17, 2023, were read. A motion was made by Eric Goodwin to adopt these minutes with a second by Jeff Fogle. The motion was unanimous.

April invoices were reviewed by Nick Caldwell. The sales report and financial report for the month of April were reviewed. Electric sales were 1% below budget, water sales were above budget 2% and sewer sales were below budget by 1.8%. These reports were taken as information only.

ECU customer Toby Lawson appeared before the commission to discuss the low water pressure at his residence at 321 Linden Hall Lane. Mr. Lawson recently submitted a service request through SmartHub regarding the low pressure and the inability to adequately run his sprinkler system or use more than one appliance at a time (e.g. dishwasher, shower, washing machine). Mr. Lawson stated that he felt he should not be charged the same rate as other customers since he was not, in his opinion, provided with the same service. ECU personnel checked the pressure at his residence on May 9<sup>th</sup> and found that it was within the expected range for water pressures in the Linden Hall area. Staff explained to Mr. Lawson that ECU meets regulatory requirements for water pressure as set forth by SCDHEC and suggested looking into installing a pressure tank at his home. In addition, ECU is in the process of conducting a water system study and will make a recommendation to the engineers to include this issue in the study. Staff will provide Mr. Lawson with the findings once the study is complete.

The commission presented Jay Lusk with the 2023 Energy Audit Scholarship. Jay is an Easley resident but attends Christ Church Episcopal School in Greenville. He is one of five seniors who received the award. The commission congratulated Jay and wished him well on his future endeavors.

The commission was presented with Resolution 2023-02 which authorizes new signatories and authorized representatives from ECU for the custodian and trust accounts held at Truist Bank. Jeff Fogle made a motion to adopt the resolution with a second by Eric Goodwin. The motion was unanimous. Resolution 2023-02 is attached to and incorporated in with these minutes.

The commission was presented with a notification of award of the South Carolina Infrastructure Investment Program (SCIIP) Grant. The grant is for the Georges Creek Trunk Sewer Line in the amount of \$10M. Eric Goodwin made a motion to accept the award and grant authority to the general manager to execute the Grant Agreement. Jeff Fogle seconded the motion, and it was unanimous. ECU will receive bids for the upcoming project on June 13, 2023.

The commission was presented with an offer to purchase 5.62 acres it owns on Fuller Dr. The offer was \$7,000 per acre or \$39,340 for the entire tract. In 2003, ECU purchased the property for \$7,400 per acre. The commission discussed the offer with no action being taken.

The commission was given an update on projects and studies that are currently underway. This item was taken as information only.

In other business:

1. Gar-Con submitted the lowest bid for the Sheffield Road waterline replacement. Jeff Fogle made a motion to award the job to Gar-Con with a second by Eric Goodwin. The motion was unanimous.
2. ECU received a Waste Load Allocation for the Golden Creek WWTP for discharges of 1.0 MGD and 1.2 MGD. The Commission approved a process review at Golden Creeks to determine if the plant treatment capacity can be updated.
3. Naturaland Trust sent a letter of thanks to the Commission for their continued support of protecting the watershed of the upper Saluda River. The letter also praised the works of ECU general manager, Joel Ledbetter for his leadership.
4. The watershed management report was reviewed. The full report is attached to and incorporated in with these minutes.
5. The commission agreed to sponsor a half-table for the Prisma Health Baptist Easley Foundation Summer Gala.

The commission entered executive session to discuss contractual and personnel matters.

Upon returning to public session Jeff Fogle made a motion to offer the position of General Manager to Andy Sevic beginning on July 1, 2023, and to authorize the Chairman to negotiate an Employment Contract with Mr. Sevic for later review and approval by the Commission. The motion was seconded by Eric Goodwin and passed unanimously.

The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, July 10, 2023.



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Nick Caldwell, Chairman



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Eric Goodwin, Commissioner



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Jeff R. Fogle, Commissioner

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the  
Commission of the Combined Utility System  
held at the office of the Combined Utility  
System on Monday, July 10, 2023.

The meeting was called to order with all commissioners present. Also present were Andy Sevic, General Manager; Ginnye Lusk, Administrative Assistant, and Alex Dye, Operations Engineer. Robin Gore with Powdersville Water District, and area residents Rick Tate, Laura Hinty, and ~~Gray~~ Berryhill were also in attendance.

~~GRCC~~

The minutes of the meeting of May 8, 2023, were read. A motion was made by Eric Goodwin to adopt these minutes with a second by Jeff Fogle. The motion was unanimous.

May invoices were reviewed by Jeff Fogle and June invoices were reviewed by Eric Goodwin. The sales report and financial report for the months of May and June were reviewed. For the month of May, electric sales were .27% below budget, water sales were below budget 7.7% and sewer sales were below budget by 7.66%. For the month of June, electric sales were below budget 5.42%, water sales were below budget 6.6% and sewer sales were 2.82%. These reports were taken as information only.

The commission was presented with Resolution 2023-03 which authorizes the General Manager to execute and deliver on behalf of Easley Combined Utilities a membership agreement between ECU and the South Carolina Association of Municipal Power Systems (SCAMPS) and, approve the execution and delivery of a services agreement between the Municipal Association of South Carolina and SCAMPS. Eric Goodwin made a motion to adopt the resolution with a second by Jeff Fogle. The motion was unanimous. Resolution 2023-03 is attached to and incorporated in with these minutes.

The commission was presented with a request for sewer service outside the city limits. The parcel, located at 4215 Calhoun Memorial Highway, is 19.46 acres. The proposed development is Ridge at Perry Bend, Phase 3, and would consist of 288 multi-family units. Sewer would discharge into the Georges Creek ReWa facility with an estimated flow of 59,050 gpd. Prior to receiving this request, ReWa reached out to ECU staff to request a meeting to review the Georges Creek Capacity Contract between the two parties. The commission decided to table this request pending further discussion with ReWa.

The commission was presented with an update on flow inventory for Golden Creek WWTP. In October 2022, ECU submitted a request to SCDHEC for a load adjustment to 150,000 gallons per day (gpd) at Golden Creek WWTP. The request was approved. The adjustment added back capacity from Falcon Industries and McKechnie Plastic. In addition, a flow adjustment of 153,375 gpd was added back leaving a remaining capacity of 430,000 gpd. SCDHEC also reviewed the residential contributory loading over a three-year period and found the average residential water usage was 135 gallons per day per residence. Therefore, they reduced the residential unit contributory loading from 300 gpd to 150 gpd per residence. The reduction will be effective for all future projects within the Golden Creek WWTP collection system. This item was taken as information only.

The commission was presented with the Georges Creek Trunk Sewer Line bid tabulation. Four bids were received as shown below.

Don Moorehead Construction, Inc.	\$10,218,693.00
Chandler Construction Services, Inc.	\$11,786,054.00
Reeves Young, LLC	\$12,966,477.50
McClam & Associates, Inc	\$16,873,445.00

KCI Engineers reviewed all bids and found each to be responsible and responsive. Based on the apparent low bidder, Jeff Fogle made a motion to award the project to Don

Moorehead Construction, LLC with a second by Eric Goodwin. The motion was unanimous.

ECU received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Financers Officers Association. This is the eleventh consecutive year ECU has received this award. The commission commended General Manager, Andy Sevic, for this accomplishment.

The commission was presented with a new electric policy for approval. Due to the lead time in transformers, a developer has requested the ability to source their own transformers. Staff recommended establishing a Developer Provided Transformer Policy to maintain safety and reliability standards. The policy states that all transformers must meet ECU specifications and must be evaluated by electric superintendent, general manager, and the Commission. Jeff Fogle made a motion to adopt the policy with a second by Eric Goodwin. The motion was unanimous. The policy is attached to and incorporated in with these minutes.

In other business:

1. Nick Caldwell signed the SCIIP Grant Authorized Signors document.
2. Belton Zeiglar, attorney at law, was hired collectively by ECU and 5 other cities to assist with legal matters in regards to Supplemental Power issues. Mr. Zeiglar is with Womble Bond Dickinson.
3. ECU needs an alternate member to be on the PMPA Board of Directors. There was a brief discussion about a commissioner filling the vacancy. Item was tabled pending further discussion.
4. ECU will meet with the City of Easley on September 7<sup>th</sup>. The City is looking to ECU to house an emergency antenna.
5. The watershed management report was reviewed. The full report is attached to and incorporated in with these minutes.

The commission entered executive session to discuss contractual and personnel matters. The Commission returned to public session with no action being taken in executive session.

The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, August 14, 2023.




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Nick Caldwell, Chairman




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Eric Goodwin, Commissioner




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Jeff R. Fogle, Commissioner

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the  
Commission of the Combined Utility System  
held at the office of the Combined Utility  
System on Monday, August 14, 2023.

The meeting was called to order with all commissioners present. Also present were Andy Sevic, General Manager; Ginnye Lusk, Administrative Assistant, Tripp Martin, Finance Manager, Alex Dye, Operations Engineer, Scott Barnes, Wastewater Treatment Supervisor, Jonathan Langston, Electric Supervisor, and Alfred Stanley, Communication/Controls Engineer. Robin Gore with Powdersville Water District, David Phillips with Greene Finney Cauley, LLP, Joel Ledbetter, and Rick Dilsavor were also in attendance.

The minutes of the meeting of July 10, 2023, were read. A motion was made by Jeff Fogle to adopt these minutes with a second by Eric Goodwin. The motion was unanimous.

July invoices were reviewed by Nick Caldwell. The sales report and financial report for the month of July were reviewed. Electric sales were 6.06% below budget, water sales were below budget by 6.11% and sewer sales were below budget by 4.83%. These reports were taken as information only.

Rick Dilsavor with Cedarwood Development addressed the commission in regards to a request for sewer service at 4215 Calhoun Memorial Highway for Phase 3 of Ridge at Perry Bend. The parcel is outside city limits and would discharge into the ReWa Georges Creek facility. Staff conveyed to Mr. Dilsavor that ReWa has put a hold on accepting future capacity from developments that have not already been approved until this facility has been upgraded. They will be put on a waiting list and contacted once the upgrade is complete.

The commission was presented with the FY 2023 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR). David Phillips with Greene Finney Cauley, LLP, reported that the audit was conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in "Government Auditing Standards." Greene Finney Cauley, LLP issued an unmodified opinion that the financial statements are fairly presented in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. Mr. Phillips commended ECU staff for a job well done. The ACFR is attached to and incorporated in with these minutes.

The commission was presented with the possibility of installing a radio tower at the Operations Center. Pickens County was awarded ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funding for a county wide radio system for emergency services. The highest and most feasible point in Easley to install a radio tower is at the Operations Center. Rock Communications, who was awarded the contract, met with ECU staff to discuss the desired location of the tower at the Operations Center. The commission gave the general manager the authority to negotiate a contractual agreement with the county to utilize the selected area as the site for the radio tower.

The commission was presented with a revision to the Electric Service Extension Policy and Underground Installation Policy. For services that are routed under a driveway or sidewalk, ECU requires a 3" conduit in place prior to service installation. If no conduit is installed, ECU will bore the driveway/sidewalk at a charge of \$500. This is a nominal fee and not reflective of the actual cost. To better represent a more accurate cost, it was recommended to raise the fee to \$1,500 for all new service installations that have not met the requirements. Jeff Fogle made a motion to adopt the policy with a second by Eric Goodwin. The motion was unanimous. The policy is attached to and incorporated in with these minutes.

The commission was presented with a request for utility services at a parcel located outside city limits. Parcel number 5009-08-88-7589 is 4.72 acres and located off Arial Street and Church Street. The property also borders the Doodle Trail. The development will be 24 single family homes. Sewer service will flow to Golden Creek WWTP. Jeff Fogle made a motion to approve utility services to the proposed development. Eric Goodwin seconded the motion, and it was unanimous.

In other business:

1. The commission was presented with Resolution 2023-04 recognizing Joel Ledbetter's contribution as General Manager of Easley Combined Utilities from 1999-2023. During his tenure, Joel played a vital role in shaping the culture of ECU and established the Utility as an industry leader that will benefit the customers of ECU for years to come. The resolution is attached to and incorporated in with these minutes.
2. The watershed management report was reviewed. The full report is attached to and incorporated in with these minutes.

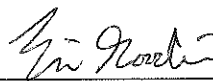
The commission entered executive session to discuss contractual and personnel matters. The Commission returned to public session with no action being taken in executive session.

The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, September 11, 2023.



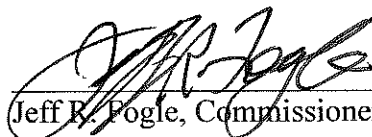
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Nick Caldwell, Chairman



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Eric Goodwin, Commissioner



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Jeff R. Fogle, Commissioner

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the  
Commission of the Combined Utility System  
held at the office of the Combined Utility  
System on Monday, September 11, 2023.

The meeting was called to order with all commissioners present. Also present were Andy Sevic, General Manager; Ginnye Lusk, Administrative Assistant, Tripp Martin, Finance Manager, and Alex Dye, Operations Engineer. Also present were residents from the Brown Drive – Sheriff Mill Road area and Rick Tate.

The minutes of the meeting of August 14, 2023, were read. A motion was made by Eric Goodwin with a second by Jeff Fogle. The motion was unanimous.

August invoices were reviewed by Jeff Fogle. The sales report and financial report for the month of August were reviewed. Electric sales were 1.35% above budget, water sales were below budget by 5.89% and sewer sales were below budget by 1.64%. These reports were taken as information only.

Area resident Dawn Crooks appeared before the commission to voice her concerns about property development around her neighborhood, specifically on Brown Drive. Ms. Crooks asked the commission to reevaluate serving the county with sewer service and focus on serving the citizens of the City of Easley. The commission took the comments under advisement.

Resolution 2023-05 was presented to the Commission for approval. Easley Combined Utilities is a member city of Piedmont Municipal Power Agency and is entitled to appoint a Director and an alternate Director to PMPA's Board of Directors. The resolution appoints Eric Goodwin as the alternate Director where he shall serve until ECU determines otherwise. Jeff Fogle made a motion to adopt the resolution. Nick Caldwell seconded the motion, and it was unanimous. It is attached to and incorporated with these minutes.

The commission was presented with Resolution 2023-06 acknowledging ECU's commitment to a safe and healthy workplace. This resolution promotes safety in the organization, and assists ECU in reaching its objectives on the SCMIT Risk Guideline Report Card. Jeff Fogle made a motion to adopt Resolution 2023-06 with a second by Eric Goodwin. The motion was unanimous. The resolution is attached to and incorporated with these minutes.

The commission was presented with Resolution 2023-07 proclaiming Public Utility Week, October 2-6, 2023. It is an opportunity to show customers that public utilities are in a position to provide reliable, efficient, and cost-effective electricity, water, and sewer and is committed to ensuring the best possible service at not-for-profit rates. Jeff Fogle made a motion to adopt the resolution with a second by Eric Goodwin. The motion was unanimous. It is attached to and incorporated in with these minutes.

In other business:

1. Per Rick Tate, a request was made to consider changing the day the monthly commission meeting is held, since it occurs on the same day and time as City Council meetings. In addition, Mr. Tate suggested putting the minutes of the commission meeting on our website.
2. The commission was given the dates of the next few PMPA annual conferences.
3. The watershed management report was reviewed. The full report is attached to and incorporated in with these minutes.

The commission entered executive session to discuss contractual and personnel matters. The Commission returned to public session with no action being taken in executive session.

The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, October 9, 2023.



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Nick Caldwell, Chairman



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Eric Goodwin, Commissioner



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Jeff B. Fogle, Commissioner



The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the  
Commission of the Combined Utility System  
held at the office of the Combined Utility  
System on Monday, October 9, 2023.

The meeting was called to order with all commissioners present. Also present were Andy Sevic, General Manager; Ginnye Lusk, Administrative Assistant, Tripp Martin, Finance Manager, Alex Dye, Operations Engineer, and Scott Barnes, Wastewater Treatment Supervisor. Also present were Robin Gore with Powdersville Water District, Rick Tate, and area residents from the Brown Drive – Sheriff Mill Road area.

The minutes of the meeting of September 11, 2023, were read. A motion was made to approve the minutes by Jeff Fogle with a second by Eric Goodwin. The motion was unanimous.

September invoices were reviewed by Eric Goodwin. The sales report and financial report for the month of September were reviewed. Electric sales were 3.15% above budget, water sales were above budget by 1.16% and sewer sales were above budget by 1.97%. These reports were taken as information only.

Scott Barnes, ECU Wastewater Treatment Supervisor, presented the commission with an update on several projects taking place at the Middle Branch WWT facility. These projects include Headworks Improvements, UV Replacement, and Sludge Thickener. All projects are going as planned with the UV Replacement and Sludge Thickener scheduled for completion in the next few weeks. This item was taken as information only.

The commission was presented with a discussion on the ReWa Georges Creek plant capacity. Several years ago, ECU entered into an agreement and purchased 500,000 GPD of capacity in ReWa's Georges Creek facility. Currently we are at 481,252 GPD allocation in that plant. Part of the agreement states that when we reach 500,000 GPD, we collect the new account fee for new developments and remit that fee to ReWa. ECU was informed in July that ReWa only had 300,000 GPD capacity remaining and 300,000 GPD more would get them to the 80% capacity mark, and they are unwilling to move past that mark at this time. ECU has several developments that want to utilize that capacity. After discussions with several of the developers and with ReWa, ECU has asked to purchase additional capacity (over 500,000 GPD) of the remaining plant capacity at the new account fee rate. ReWa has agreed for ECU to purchase approximately 200,000 GPD additional capacity. This capacity will be "reserved" for the developments that have approached ECU for sewer service. Anything above the approximate 200,000 GPD additional capacity (and under the 300,000 GPD capacity) will be first come first serve. The commission instructed the general manager to bring the new agreement back to them prior to signing.

The commission was presented with a request for sewer service outside the city limits of Easley. The development will be at the old Greenville-Pickens Speedway and will be of commercial use. Wastewater flow from this property flows to ReWa's George's Creek. The total requested flow for all 10 buildings totals 30,039 gallons per day. Eric Goodwin made a motion to approve the request with a second by Jeff Fogle. The motion was unanimous.

The commission was presented with a consideration of the 2024 employee health insurance renewal and contributions. The Public Employee Benefit Authority (PEBA) notified employers of a 3.7% increase in employer premiums only for 2024. ECU's load factor decreased from 1.055 to 1.033. With the load factor calculated in, the premium for ECU will increase slightly by 1%. To comply with the DOL rules and regulations on wellness programs and employee insurance premium contributions, it was recommended to adjust the Base level for both the Savings and Standard plans, and Level 1 of the Standard plan. Retiree and COBRA premiums are the same as PEBA's rates but with the addition of ECU's load factor. The premium for retirees that retired with 25 years at ECU and were 60 years old at retirement remains at \$125 monthly. Charges for the

spouse is the incremental cost between Retiree/Spouse and Retiree only coverage. It was also recommended that ECU continue to deposit monies into a Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) in 2024 at the same levels as 2023 for each eligible employee. Eric Goodwin made a motion to adopt all recommended premium contribution changes and to continue funding eligible employees with an HRA. Jeff Fogle seconded the motion and it was unanimous. The new rates are attached to and incorporated in with these minutes.

The commission was presented with two amendments to the ECU Employee Handbook. The first amendment modifies the PTO policy as shown below to be effective January 1, 2024.

<b>Years of Service</b>	<b>Paid Time Off</b>
<b>Initial Hire</b>	<b>If hired before June 30, receive 10 days to be taken after 90 days. If hired after June 30, receive 5 days to be taken after 90 days.</b>
<b>1-4</b>	<b>15 Days</b>
<b>5-9</b>	<b>16 Days</b>
<b>10-12</b>	<b>17 Days</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>18 Days</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>19 Days</b>
<b>15-19</b>	<b>20 Days</b>
<b>20-24</b>	<b>21 Days</b>
<b>25-29</b>	<b>22 Days</b>
<b>30 and up</b>	<b>25 Days</b>

The second amendment allows employees in the electric and water/sewer departments to work 4-10 hour days year-round effective immediately. Jeff Fogle made a motion to adopt both amendments as presented. Eric Goodwin seconded the motion and it was unanimous.

The commission was presented with a discussion on ECU owned property on North C Street. This was the site of a water tank years ago. ECU has been approached by a neighbor of the property interested in buying it. There is no clear title to the property. The commission tabled the discussion and instructed the general manager to get further information on the property from ECU’s attorney.

In other business:

1. A request for sewer service for a proposed development on Old Pendleton Road may come before the Commission in November.
2. ECU’s trademark has been approved by the Patent and Trademark Office for another 10-year term.
3. The watershed management report was reviewed. The full report is attached to and incorporated in with these minutes.
4. Miscellaneous items were reviewed to include several important event dates and Master Plans completion timelines.

The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, November 13, 2023.



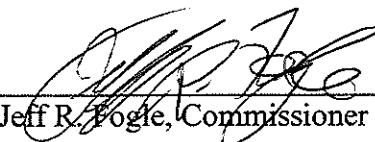
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Nick Caldwell, Chairman



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Eric Goodwin, Commissioner



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Jeff R. Fogle, Commissioner

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the  
Commission of the Combined Utility System  
held at the office of the Combined Utility  
System on Monday, November 13, 2023.

The meeting was called to order with all commissioners present. Also present were Andy Sevic, General Manager; Ginnye Lusk, Administrative Assistant, Tripp Martin, Finance Manager, and Alex Dye, Operations Engineer. Also present were Robin Gore with Powdersville Water District and area resident John Carpenter.

The minutes of the meeting of October 9, 2023, were read. A motion was made to approve the minutes by Eric Goodwin with a second by Jeff Fogle. The motion was unanimous.

October invoices were reviewed by Nick Caldwell. The sales report and financial report for the month of October were reviewed. Electric sales were 9.95% below budget. Water and sewer sales were also below budget by 11.81% and 7.28% respectively. These reports were taken as information only.

The commission was presented with a request for sewer service outside city limits. The property is located at 1800 Old Pendleton Road and is in Anderson County. There is a sewer line that runs through the property and allocated flow for the proposed site is low and would flow into Middle Branch WWTP. Water will be provided by Powdersville Water District who will bill sewer for ECU. Jeff Fogle made a motion to provide sewer service to the property. Eric Goodwin seconded the motion and it was unanimous.

The commission was presented with an executive summary of the Water System Master Plan and Sewer System Master Plan. Each summary was broken down by background, population projection, system inventory and/or evaluation, deficiency analysis, recommendations, preliminary phasing, cost and schedule. Staff is still reviewing all the material provided. Commissioners were supplied with a copy of each plan for a more in-depth review. This item was taken as information only.

The commission was presented with a contract amendment for service and capacity in ReWa's Georges Creek facility. The contract provides ECU with an additional 200,000 GPD and will be earmarked for developments that are waiting to utilize the capacity. Eric Goodwin made a motion to authorize the general manager to sign the amendment and pay the purchase price of \$1,662,500. Jeff Fogle seconded the motion and it was unanimous. The amendment is attached to and incorporated in with these minutes.

Mr. John Carpenter appeared before the commission to discuss the sale of ECU owned property on North C Street. Mr. Carpenter has been maintaining the property for many years with the permission of ECU and is interested in purchasing it. He fenced in a section of the property and uses it primarily for a garden and storage of an enclosed trailer. In addition to Mr. Carpenter's interest, ECU received a formal offer to purchase the property from Ty and Heather Carey who are purchasing the adjacent lot. Staff informed the commission that per confirmation from ECU's attorney, ECU only has a deed for lot 12 and any potential buyer would get a quitclaim deed for lots 1 and 2. The commission asked Mr. Carpenter to submit a bid for the property. Once received, the commission will review all offers.

The commission was presented with a request from Naturaland Trust for a contribution of \$200,000 to assist in the purchase of Brown Mountain. This property is 572 acres and lies south of Scenic Highway 11. The purchase price is \$2,345,610. Naturaland Trust has secured a grant from the South Carolina Conservation Bank for \$2,145,610. After a brief discussion, the commission tabled the item.

## In other business:

1. ECU will make their annual monetary contributions to United Christian Ministries, Samaritans Health Clinic, Meals on Wheels, and SHARE at the end of November.
2. The watershed management report was reviewed. The full report is attached to and incorporated in with these minutes.
3. Several important event dates were reviewed as well as the 2024 holiday schedule.
4. Martin Printing on Powdersville Road inquired about sewer service. They requested tying on to the line that will serve Buxton Subdivision and have agreed to pay all associated costs. ECU agreed to serve Martin Printing.
5. Right-of-way clearing for the Georges Creek Sewer Trunk line project is underway and currently in the Heathwood Subdivision area.
6. Powdersville Water District experienced a water main blow-out and had to purchase water from ECU. Robin Gore thanked ECU for the timely assistance.

The commission entered executive session to discuss contractual and personnel matters. The Commission returned to public session with no action being taken in executive session.

The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, December 18, 2023.



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Nick Caldwell, Chairman



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Eric Goodwin, Commissioner



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Jeff R. Eogle, Commissioner

The Minutes of the Special Called Meeting of  
the Commission of the Combined Utility  
System held at the office of the Combined  
Utility System on Sunday, December 3,  
2023.

The meeting was called to order with all commissioners present. Also present was Andy Sevic, General Manager.

The commission was presented with a request to opt out of a class action settlement with 3M and Dupont. ECU, along with several other utilities in the state, have been part of a class action suit against 3M and Dupont in regards to PFAS regulations that may be handed down by EPA. It was explained that if ECU were to accept the settlement offered by both 3M and Dupont, ECU would be capped at awarded amounts and forfeit the right to seek damages for future litigation in regards to the wastewater treatment facilities. The deadline to opt out of the DuPont settlement is December 4<sup>th</sup> and the deadline to opt out of the 3M settlement is December 11<sup>th</sup>. Jeff Fogle made a motion to opt out of both settlements. Eric Goodwin seconded the motion, and it was unanimous.

The next scheduled meeting is Monday, December 18, 2023.



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Nick Caldwell, Chairman



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Eric Goodwin, Commissioner



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Jeff R. Fogle, Commissioner

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the  
Commission of the Combined Utility System  
held at the office of the Combined Utility  
System on Monday, December 18, 2023.

The meeting was called to order with all commissioners present. Also present were Andy Sevic, General Manager; and Ginnye Lusk, Administrative Assistant. Also present were area residents John Carpenter, Rick Tate, and Mandy Goff.

The minutes of the meeting of November 11, 2023, and the minutes of the special called meeting of December 3, 2023, were read. A motion was made to approve both set of minutes by Eric Goodwin with a second by Jeff Fogle. The motion passed unanimously.

November invoices were reviewed by Jeff Fogle. The sales report and financial report for the month of November were reviewed. Electric sales were 3.75% above budget. Water and sewer sales were also above budget by 12.08% and 18.56% respectively. These reports were taken as information only.

Mr. John Carpenter appeared before the commission and submitted an unsolicited bid of \$30,000 to purchase ECU owned property on North C Street. This includes lots 1 and 2 and lot 12. The commission reviewed the bid and tabled the item.

The commission was presented with a request from Naturaland Trust for a contribution of \$200,000 to assist in the purchase of Brown Mountain. The commission tabled the item until February 2024.

In other business:

1. The legislative dinner will be held at ECU on Thursday, January 4, 2024 at 6:00 PM.
2. The budget retreat will be Wednesday, February 7, 2024, at 9:00 AM.

The commission entered executive session to discuss contractual matters as it relates to Piedmont Municipal Power Agency. The Commission returned to public session.

The commission was presented with a Settlement Agreement and Mutual Release between all cities and commissions within the Piedmont Municipal Power Agency. A motion was made by Jeff Fogle to authorize signature by the General Manager of the Settlement Agreement and Mutual Release. The motion was seconded by Eric Goodwin. The motion passed unanimously.

The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, January 8, 2024.



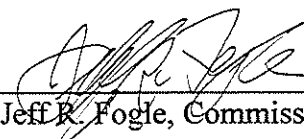

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Nick Caldwell, Chairman




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Eric Goodwin, Commissioner




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Jeff R. Fogle, Commissioner