

# RICHLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

## SOUTH CAROLINA

### SEWER WORK SESSION

APRIL 14, 2015  
4:00 PM  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room

*In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, a copy of the agenda was sent to radio and TV stations, newspapers, persons requesting notification, and was posted on the bulletin board located in the lobby of the County Administration Building*

#### CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Rush called the meeting to order at approximately 4:04 p.m.

#### LOWER RICHLAND SEWER UPDATE

Mr. Hammett stated the Lower Richland Sewer survey was sent out April 10<sup>th</sup> to citizens. Engineering and design is also continuing on the project.

#### 208 PLAN PRESENTATION – CENTRAL MIDLANDS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

- An ordinance was adopted in 1982 that designated unincorporated Richland County as a service area.
- The ordinance appears to tie into the 208 Plan.
- The ordinance was based upon a model ordinance that was developed by the Central Midlands Regional Planning Council.
- In 1984 Council approved the sewer facilities plan developed by the COG
- July 28, 1987, after a work session, Council once again endorsed the 208 Plan from the COG
- Pre-Clean Water Act Sewer Planning (1968-1971)
- HUD-Funded Water and Sewer Plan for the Greater Columbia Area (1971)
- The one wastewater treatment plant in the Columbia area served the Eau Claire area. All other wastewater from Columbia and West Columbia was discharged directly into the Congaree River
- Federal Clean Water Act (1972)



#### Council Members Present

Torrey Rush, Chair  
Greg Pearce  
Bill Malinowski  
Norman Jackson  
Paul Livingston  
Julie-Ann Dixon  
Kelvin E. Washington, Sr.

#### Others Present:

Tony McDonald  
Daniel Driggers  
Ray Peterson  
Brad Farrar  
Sparty Hammett  
Monique McDaniels  
Michelle Onley

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- Section 201 – Grant Funding for Construction; had to develop and adopt a 20-year Sewer Facilities Plan
- Section 208 – Areawide Planning for Water Quality
- The underlying principle of 208: “Water Quality Problems Transcend the Boundaries of Political Jurisdictions” and therefore, local governments must coordinate their efforts to control pollution in the face of increasing urbanization
- The grants for construction of publicly owned treatment works could only be approved for funding if they were included in the Section 208 Plan.
- The grants can only be awarded to wastewater treatment management agencies
- Grants could only be awarded for projects that are in conformity with the plan
- Federal legislation stipulated that no discharge permit issued by the State and certified by EPA could be issued for any sewage discharge, which is conflict or not in conformance with the 208 Plan.
- In 1974, the State does a statewide study to determine, where are the significant water pollution problems? The Columbia Metropolitan area was designated to have significant issues.
- The Governor, under the Federal Clean Water Act, designated the CMCOG as the Regional Planning Agency.
- March 1975 – CMCOG receives resolutions from 20 City and County Councils and Sewer Authorities committing to participate in this large study effort.
- July 1975 – CMCOG secured \$730,000 in federal funding to develop the 201/208 Facilities Plan
- March 1976 – Section 201 portion is completed, which outlines 20-year centralized public treatment facilities plan and identify priorities for sewer interceptors and sewer treatment facilities.
- 1978-1979 – CMCOG adopts the Columbia Metropolitan Areawide Water Quality Plan (Section 208)
- Section 208 is a regional planning framework to address the point sources, the discharges, as well as, nonpoint sources of pollution.

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- Three subcommittees (Management, Technical, and Citizen) were established to guide the 208 Plan.
- The Management/Governance structure was a big issue. CMCOG had to figure out who was going to be the managing agencies for providing sewer; and what was the role for cities, county governments and existing public service districts.
- Four different alternatives were proposed: (1) A single regional sewer authority; (2) A county sewer authority; (3) Principal existing agencies; and (4) Local existing municipal special purpose district and county arrangement.
- Richland and Lexington Counties become Designated Management Agencies
- Richland County Council adopts a resolution adopting the 208 Plan in December 6, 1978.
- In order to get into the sewer business, Richland County passes a referendum in 1978
- The County also had to submit to the governor a statement of willingness to carry out management agency responsibilities recommended in the plan
- As a designated management agency the County had responsibility over the Crane Creek area, which was a part of the original 201 Facilities Plan to develop an interceptor that would connect the Broad River to the Northeast.
- The County also had management agency responsibilities over the Broad River area, which would become the existing treatment facility center, as well as, Lower Richland and the Cedar Creek Area.
- The 201 and 208 Plans were updated in 1982.
- In 1982 the County passes a Sewer Construction Ordinance, which included all the policies and procedures.
- The referendum passed by the County did not allow for tax revenue to be utilized for construction of facilities. Since the federal funding had been reduced the County was having a hard time paying for the infrastructure.
- By 1985, \$50Million has been spent on major sewer improvements that were called for in the original plan.
- 1997 – Plan amendment is adopted by Council, which allows Palmetto Utilities serve a portion of Richland County

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- 2006 – Upper Wateree Agreement

### **FUTURE DIRECTION OF UTILITIES**

- Richland County should explore the option of having a private company promote water service to a portion of Richland County whereby Richland County will benefit financially [RUSH and MALINOWSKI]** – Mr. Hammett stated the consultants are presently updating the scopes for water and sewer master plans. The scopes should be submitted to Procurement within the next week.

*Council recessed at approximately 4:45 p.m. and reconvened at approximately 4:52 p.m.*

*Council went into Executive Session at approximately 4:53 p.m. and came out at approximately 5:30 p.m.*

**CONTRACTUAL MATTER: 208 PLAN [EXECUTIVE SESSION]**

**CONTRACTUAL MATTER: PALMETTO UTILITIES [EXECUTIVE SESSION]**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:30 PM.

The Minutes were transcribed by Michelle M. Onley, Deputy Clerk of Council