



## GREENVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes  
Committee of the Whole Meeting  
June 6, 2023  
4:20 p.m.

County Square - Council Chambers

### Council Members

**Mr. Dan Tripp**, *Chairman, District 28*  
**Mrs. Liz Seman**, *Vice-Chairwoman, District 24*  
**Mr. Butch Kirven**, *Chairman Pro Tem, District 27*  
**Mr. Joey Russo**, *District 17*  
**Mr. Mike Barnes**, *District 18*  
**Mr. Benton Blount**, *District 19*  
**Mr. Stephen Shaw**, *District 20*  
**Mr. Chris Harrison**, *District 21*  
**Mr. Stan Tzouvelekas**, *District 22*  
**Mr. Alan Mitchell**, *District 23*  
**Mr. Ennis Fant, Sr.**, *District 25*  
**Mr. Rick Bradley**, *District 26*

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Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, notice of the meeting date, time, place and agenda was posted online and on the bulletin board at County Square and made available to the newspapers, radio stations, television stations and concerned citizens.

### Council Members Absent

Alan Mitchell, *District 23*

### Staff Present

Mark Tollison, *County Attorney*  
Regina McCaskill, *Clerk to Council*  
Jessica Stone, *Deputy Clerk to Council*  
Terrence Galloway, *Information Systems*  
Phillip Simmons, *Information Systems*  
Shannon Herman, *Assistant County Administrator*  
Nicole Wood, *Assistant County Administrator*  
Meredith Papapieris, *Director, Grants and Special Projects*

### Others Present

None

### Call to Order

Chairman Dan Tripp

### Invocation

Councilor Stan Tzouvelekas

*Item (3)*      **Approval of Minutes**

**Action:**      Councilor Barnes moved to approve the minutes of the May 16, 2023, Committee of the Whole meeting.

Motion carried unanimously by Council Members present.

*Item (4)*      **Board and Commission Ad Hoc Committee Recommendations**

Vice-Chairwoman Seman thanked the members of the Board and Commission Ad Hoc Committee; Joey Russo, Chris Harrison and Rick Bradley, for all their hard work in regards to the policy. Ms. Seman also thanked Regina McCaskill, Jessica Stone, Mark Tollison and Dean Campbell who were instrumental in pulling together information for the Committee. The Committee was formed to review the County's Board and Commission Policy with a goal to streamline the process as well as engage full Council in the process.

One of the main changes in the policy was to put all applications and appointments through the Committee of the Whole, as opposed to the individual Standing Committees. The Committee also focused on getting the right people and skills for each board.

Ms. McCaskill reached out to her counterparts across the state and gathered applications from the different responding counties. She also inquired about those counties' interview process, if any.

Ms. Seman stated her recommendation would be to approve the policy as amended by the Committee, in time for implementation by the next application cycle.

Councilor Harrison stated the attendance policy was one of the major changes recommended by the Committee.

Councilor Russo stated he liked having the Committee of the Whole responsible for the process instead of the Standing Committees. With all of Council reviewing each application, it took the onus off the separate Committees.

Councilor Bradley echoed Mr. Russo's statements.

Vice-Chairwoman Seman stated a majority of candidates indicated they had never attended a meeting of the board to which they had applied. The Ad Hoc Committee recommended each candidate attend at least one meeting. In addition, the idea of an applicant not being a party to a legal action against Greenville County was recommended. Ms. Seman stated an individual who had an issue denied by the Planning Commission, subsequently sued the County and then applied to serve on the Planning Commission was what the Committee had in mind when the requirement was discussed.

Councilor Shaw stated he felt that requirement was most applicable to the Planning Commission and the Board of Zoning Appeals, as opposed to the other boards. The requirement should be tailored narrowly to individuals with an active case against Greenville County. He stated he felt most people would not apply for a board if they were party to an active case against the County.

Chairman Tripp suggested the requirement state the applicant could not be party to an active case against the board or commission to which they were applying.

Mr. Tollison stated there would be no issue with wording the requirement in that manner.

Vice-Chairwoman Seman stated the Committee recommended Meet and Greet sessions for applicants, followed by an Executive Session to discuss the applications. Ms. Seman stated the Ad Hoc Committee felt it was not enough just for people to submit applications; some people looked really good on paper but did not interview well, others interviewed well but did not look good on paper. Ms. Seman stated they did not want to eliminate interaction with applicants. The Executive Session was an opportunity to discuss the applicants strengths and weaknesses.

Councilor Tzouvelekas inquired about criminal background checks. The proposed applications included a question asking if the applicant was willing to submit to a criminal background check and/or credit check. Mr. Tzouvelekas stated he was under the impression that background checks would be required for any applicant nominated to a board.

Vice-Chairwoman Seman the question was included to alert applicants that they may be subject to a criminal background check and/or credit check; they would not be done for every applicant, only those nominated. If an applicant checked "No", they may not be a suitable candidate to serve.

Mr. Tollison stated there was a monetary issue in regards to running background checks and credit checks on every applicant.

Councilor Tzouvelekas stated Council had an obligation to the citizens of Greenville County to pick good people to serve. He preferred the applications indicate that a background check would be run on any individual nominated to a board of commission.

Councilor Russo stated the Committee discussed running "soft checks" through the Sheriff's Department at no cost to the County. Those checks would reveal any issues for Greenville County; background checks through SLED were expensive.

Councilor Tzouvelekas inquired about a negative background check on an applicant.

Councilor Harrison stated the Committee of the Whole would be made aware of the information and would decide on the nomination. Mr. Harrison stated it was important to know if an applicant for the Planning Commission held an active real estate license; it may be necessary to limit the number of individuals possessing an active real estate license for that commission.

Chairman Pro Tem Kirven asked if requesting an individual disclose that information would be a requirement.

Councilor Harrison stated it would be a requirement.

Councilor Tzouvelekas inquired if members of the Planning Commission had to recuse themselves from voting on items in which they held interest.

Councilor Harrison stated he had discussed that issue with Mr. Tollison several times. Members of that commission should disclose that information and recuse themselves from discussion and voting. However, ethics was an individual decision.

Councilor Tzouvelakas asked if that requirement could be put in the Board and Commission Rules.

Vice-Chairwoman Seman stated the Committee discussed training for all new board and commission members. Historically, the Clerk's Office held trainings for nominees. The Covid pandemic negated the County's ability to conduct training; however, it was slated to be reinstated.

Mr. Tollison referred Council to Section 5 of the proposed policy, which was a recitation of the State Ethics Act Rules. He was under the impression that the Planning Commission was working on that issue; it may be possible to have the State Planning Commission hold a workshop to address the issue.

Councilor Shaw stated in popular culture, it may seem appropriate to give misdemeanors a "pass." There were a number of "bad misdemeanors" such as domestic violence and exploitation of an elderly person. He stated an applicant should not be under active charges or sentencing of a crime of violence, fraud or moral turpitude.

**Action:** Councilor Shaw moved to amend Section 17 (b) of the proposed policy to include misdemeanors.

Motion to amend carried unanimously by Council Members present.

**Action:** Councilor Shaw moved to amend Section 4 of the proposed policy to the following:

*Applicants shall not be a party to an active legal action against the board or commission for which the applicant is applying.*

Motion to amend carried unanimously by Council Members present.

Vice-Chairwoman Seman stated attendance was very important. To address the issue of attendance, the Clerk's Office would provide a quarterly report to County Council on any absences in violation of the Policy to allow attendance problems to be identified and addressed in a timely manner. Once a board member was deemed to be in violation of the County's attendance requirement, the Clerk to Council would forward a letter to the board chairperson alerting them of the offense and of the pending removal. If the board wished to retain the board member, the chairperson must submit a written request of their decision to the Clerk to Council's office within two (2) weeks of the date of the notification letter. If no such request was made by the chairperson within the allotted time, and upon County Council approval, the member's term would be suspended. The Clerk would notify County Council members, the board/commission chairperson and the offending individual of the removal.

Ms. Seman stated there may be a legitimate reason for a board member to miss meetings. Recently, there had more applicants than available seats for many boards. Council wanted to place individuals on boards that wanted to serve. Ms. Seman stated the Ad Hoc Committee spent quite a bit of time discussing attendance.

Councilor Harrison stated attendance was a very big piece of the process for him. The proposed penalty for poor attendance was harsh; there was very little "give". The policy did provide an "out" by giving the chairman of a board the opportunity to vouch for the member. If there was not a good reason, the member would be removed.

**Action:** Vice-Chairman Seman moved to approve the Board and Commission Policy as amended.

Motion carried unanimously by Council Members present.

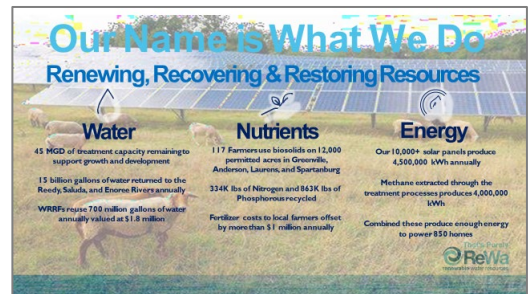
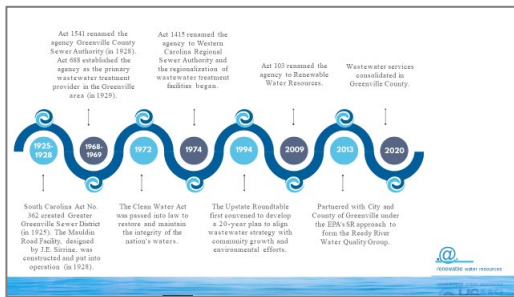
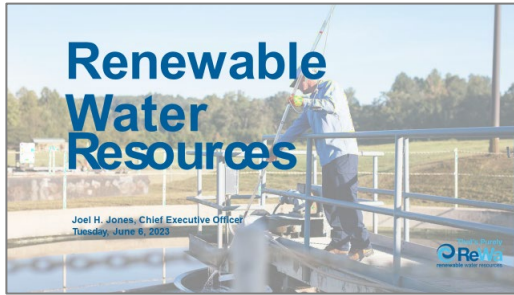
Item (5)

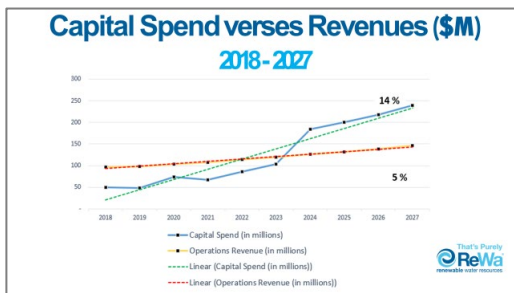
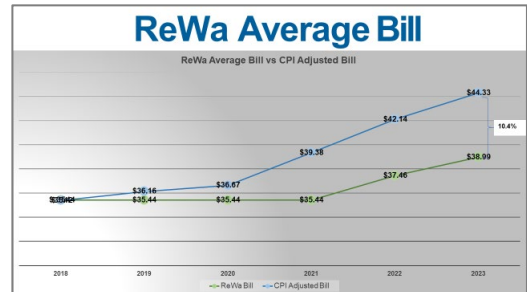
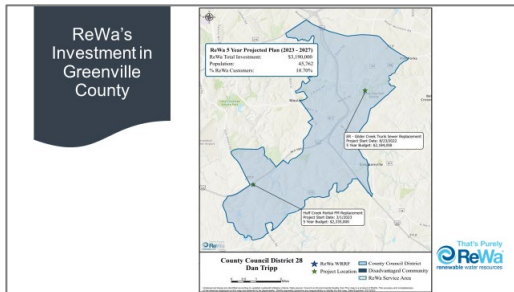
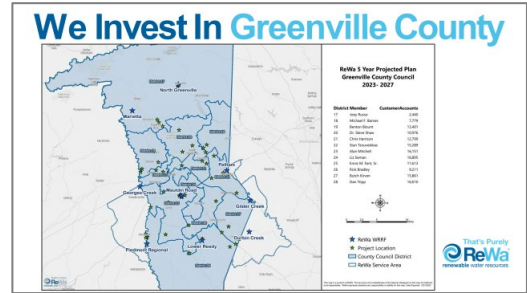
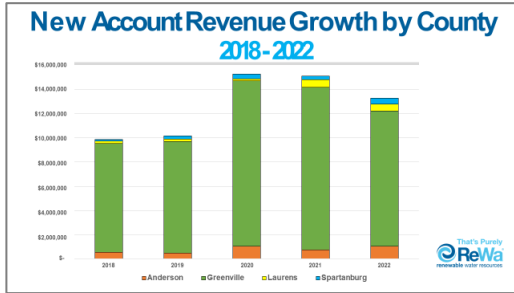
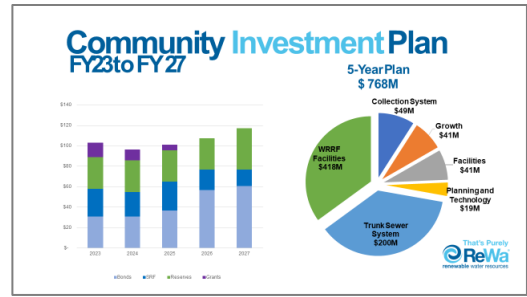
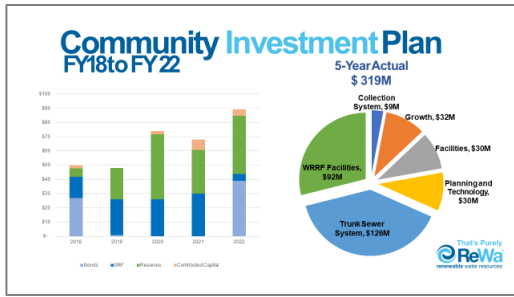
ReWa / MetroConnects Presentation

Presenters: Joel Jones, Chief Executive Officer – ReWa  
 Carol Elliott, General Manager - MetroConnects

ReWa

Joel Jones, Chief Executive Officer for ReWa, gave the following presentation:





# MetroConnects

Carol Elliott, MetroConnects General Manager, made the following presentation:

**WELCOME**

## MetroConnects Regionalization: Introduction to Clean Water Forward

www.metroconnects.org

**About Us**

MetroConnects is a special purpose district that provides sanitary sewer collection services in Greenville County and transports wastewater to ReWa for treatment and reuse

- 99,600 Customers** served in unincorporated Greenville County and the City of Travelers Rest
- 1,435 Miles of Gravity Sewer** owned, operated and maintained, in addition to 23 pump station
- 100+ Employees** 30 gained through regionalization 20 new hires

**Heroes of Hidden Infrastructure**

**MetroConnects**  
Provides sanitary sewer collection services in Greenville County and transports it to ReWa

**ReWa**  
Provides the trunk and treatment services for all subdistricts and municipalities located within Greenville County, as well as surrounding counties, in addition to collection services

**Together**  
We provide wastewater service to Greenville County and protect public health, the environment and most importantly - our water

**Partnerships**

### Partners for Infrastructure Improvement

- MetroConnects and ReWa signed a joint resolution in support of merging the sewer collection systems under MetroConnects within unincorporated Greenville County to ensure that citizens of Greenville County have access to the most efficient and cost-effective sewer service
- We are both local governments (special purpose districts or SPDs) preparing for Greenville County's growth and management of critical infrastructure

**Historic Regionalization Timeline**

Year	Miles of Gravity Sewer	Customers
2020	700 Miles	47,700 Customers
2022	1,400 Miles	92,000 Customers
2023	1,435 Miles	99,600 Customers

**Education**

### Public Lateral Policy

→ Sink, tub and toilet not draining properly?  
→ Is water backing up into your toilet and tub?  
→ What's that gurgling noise?

Before you call a plumber, **Call MetroConnects. (864) 277-4442**

Scan to learn more about how Metro can help.

**Regionalization**

### Historic Mill Villages

Along the mill crescent, sewer replacement and modernization of infrastructure in the 8 mill systems is necessary

Pipes are more than 120 years old, have surpassed their useful life and are an imminent threat of system failure

**Regionalization**

### What Has Been Accomplished Through Regionalization?

July 2021 to April 2023 (22 Months)

- Realizing Economies of Scale and Efficiencies
- Sewer System Survey
- System Assessment
- Rehabilitation Projects
- Maintenance & Repairs
- Capacity Request & Developments
- Capital Expansion Projects
- Grant Funding

**System Assessment**

July 2021 to April 2023 (22 Months)

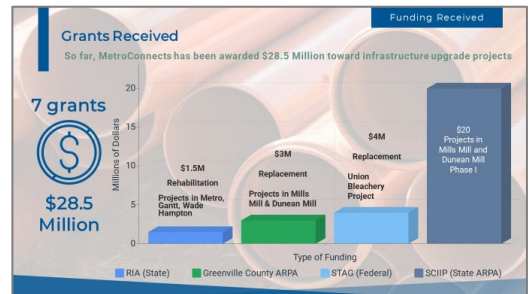
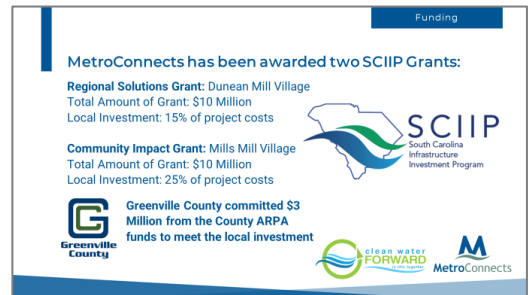
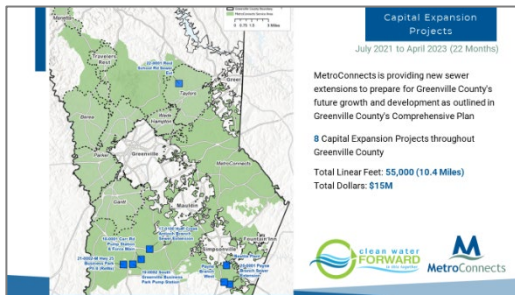
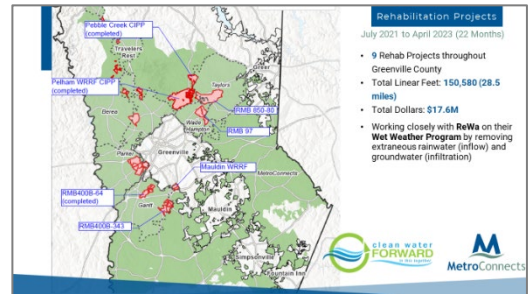
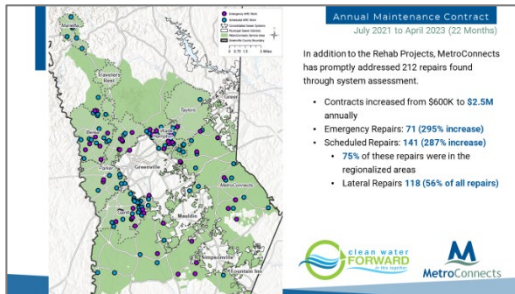
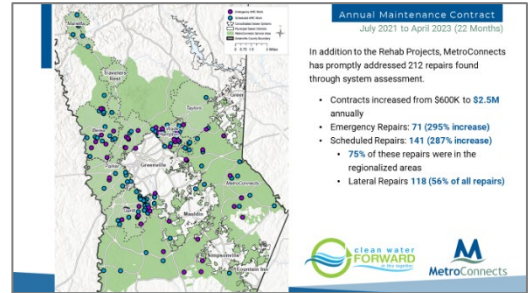
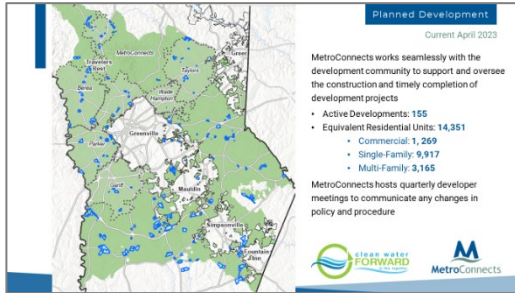
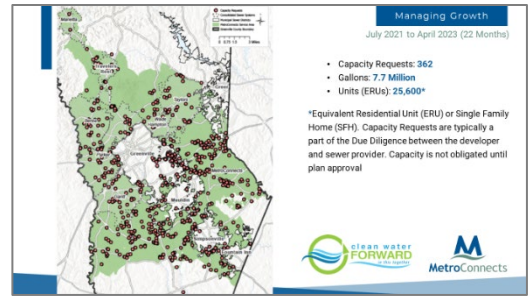
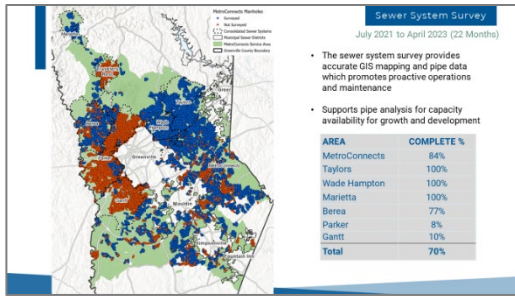
- Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV)**  
211 Miles (13% of the entire system)
- Sewer Line Rapid Assessment Tool (SLRAT) - Acoustic Tool**  
181 Miles (13% of the entire system)
- Manhole Inspections**  
17,016 Manholes Inspected (43% of the entire system)
- Right-of-Way (ROW)/Easement Inspections**  
122 Miles (83% ROWs)
- Assessed 5 of the 8 Mill Village Systems**  
Completed CCTV of Union Bleachery, Mills Mill, Brandon Mill, Judson Mill and Dunean Mill Village Systems
- Mined all data and records from transferred systems and integrated into MetroConnects' asset management system**

**System Assessment**

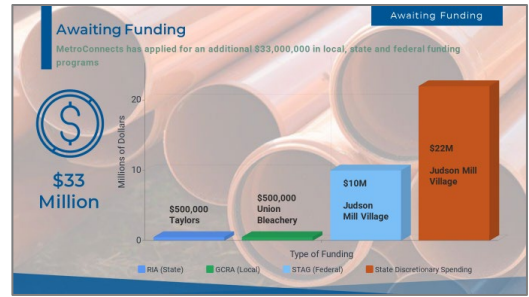
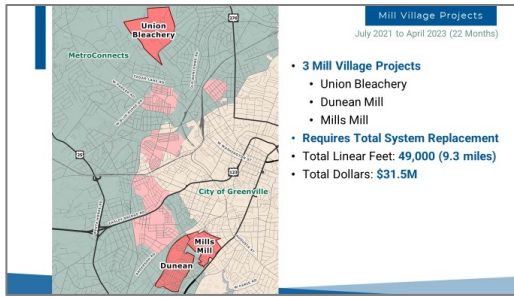
### Maintenance Along Major Roadways

- Night work and maintenance performed:
  - Poinsett Highway
  - White Horse Road
  - Wade Hampton Boulevard
  - Pleasantburg Drive
  - West/East Blue Ridge Drive

Total linear feet cleaned/televised: 97,000 LF  
Manhole Frame/Covers Replaced: 175  
Manhole Inspections: 518  
Invert Repairs: 270







**Why Perform a Rate Study?**

- Increased expenses for maintaining sanitary sewer infrastructure to ensure a safe and healthy environment/community
- Infrastructure is the heart of long-term service
- Essential capital costs to ensure improved sewer service for all customers
- Ensures that MetroConnects is providing service at an equitable cost and generates sufficient revenue to meet the demands of providing 24/7 customer service

**clean water FORWARD**  
in this together

**MetroConnects**

**Our Initiative**

**clean water FORWARD**  
in this together

Through the Clean Water Forward initiative, MetroConnects will assess and improve large portions of the wastewater collection system in Greenville County protecting public health, the environment, and improving overall operations while providing additional capacity for the future growth of Greenville County.

**MetroConnects**

**What Will Clean Water Forward Accomplish**

Over the next 20 years, MetroConnects will make more than \$200M in infrastructure improvements, funded by rates, throughout Greenville County

MetroConnects is seeking additional funding for the replacement of the sewer systems in the 8 historic mill villages

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in this together

**MetroConnects**

**Our Goals**

**Infrastructure**  
Pipes renewed, rehabilitated or replaced to extend the useful life of the sanitary sewer system.  
Installation of new infrastructure to support growth in Greenville County

**Removal of I/I**  
Removal of extraneous rainwater (inflow) and groundwater (infiltration) in compliance with the ReWa Wet Weather Program

**Reduce Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs)**  
Protect the public health, the environment, quality of life, and our water in compliance with the federal Clean Water Act

**Funding**  
Secure local, state, federal funding to lessen the burden for ratepayers

**clean water FORWARD**  
in this together

**MetroConnects**

**Summary**

- MetroConnects is making a transformational impact in Greenville County
- Regionalization is a success!
- Clean Water Forward – a \$300M+ initiative over the next 20 years
- MetroConnects will continue to invest in sewer infrastructure throughout Greenville County
- Ensuring future sewer capacity, protecting public health & environment
- MetroConnects will continue to proactively seek additional funding to offset rate increases

**clean water FORWARD**  
in this together

**MetroConnects**

**Thank You**

**clean water FORWARD**  
in this together

**MetroConnects**  
Sustainable Wastewater Solutions

**THE END**

[www.metroconnects.org](http://www.metroconnects.org)

Item (6)

Adjournment

Action:

Chairman Pro Tem Kirven moved to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 5:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Regina G. McCaskill  
Clerk to Council