

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING DATE: June 17, 2026

SUBJECT: Etowah Sewer System Fund

PRESENTER: Marcus Jones, P. E.
County Engineer

ATTACHMENTS: Yes
1. Presentation

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

During the Board's May 4, 2026, meeting, WithersRavenel, LLC (WR) and staff presented the Board with six options for the replacement of the Etowah wastewater treatment plant.

WR and staff will review the options with the Board. WR and staff will also review the status of the Asset Inventory Assessment project.

The Board is requested to select an option and direct staff to proceed. After the Board has selected an option, staff will negotiate a design agreement with WR for Board approval. Also, staff will continue to investigate sources of the remaining funding necessary for construction.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

The Board is requested to select an option number from the engineering report and authorize the County Engineer to negotiate an agreement with WithersRavenel to design the option.

Suggested Motion:

I move the Board select option number [insert option] from the engineering report and authorize the County Engineer to negotiate an agreement with WithersRavenel to design the option.

Treatment Plant Options

Etowah Sewer System

June 17, 2026

Office of the County Engineer



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Update since May 4, 2026 Meeting

- The advisory committee met on April 28, 2026, and recommended the Hendersonville Regional Pump Station option.
- Staff also recommends the Hendersonville Regional Pump Station option.
- Both Hendersonville and MSD have approved a connection to their systems from an Etowah Regional Pump Station. Connection agreement should include an allocation of at least 250,000 GPD (same as proposed plant).
- Regionalization and Elimination of Discharge Permits (Treatment Plants) are strongly encouraged by NCDEQ. NCDEQ is the most likely funding source for the \$20+ million funding needed.

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Staff Feedback

1. The expansion of the sewer system is from the collection pipes. If the County controls the collection system, it controls growth of the sewer system, provided the capacity is available at the treatment plant.
2. Regional pump station options:
 - a. The report does not list the complete maintenance cost; MSD or Hvl will charge a fee for treatment.
 - b. The capital cost will come from grants; therefore, the maintenance costs are what will impact the customer rates.
 - c. Increase application competitiveness for State funding
 - i. Move towards regionalization even with County maintaining control of Collections
 - ii. Elimination of one or possibly two discharge permits
 - iii. Opposite is the case for a plant option

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Next Steps

1. Negotiate an agreement with WithersRavenel for access, design, permitting, and bid assistance.
2. Continue efforts to obtain remaining funding for project.
3. For regional pump station options, negotiate connection agreements with MSD, Hendersonville, or both.

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Board Discussion and Questions

Alt. No.	Description	Capital Cost	Annual O&M Costs	Present Total Worth
2	Full Replacement and Expansion of the WWTP at the Existing Site	\$25.1M	\$2.3M	\$30.6M
3	Full Replacement and Expansion of the WWTP at a New Site	\$23.4M	\$2.3M	\$28.7M
4	Regionalization MSD - Option 1	\$58.1M	\$1.1M	\$60.3M
5	Regionalization with MSD- Option 2	\$32.5M	\$1.5M	\$35.8M
6	Regionalization with Hendersonville	\$30.7M	\$1.4M	\$34.1M

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