



Court-Appointed Receiver Releases Draft Master Plan for Prichard Water Works & Sewer Board: Recommends MAWSS’ Ownership as Preferred Solution for Sustainable Water and Wastewater System

Prichard, AL – July 31, 2024—Today, the court-appointed Receiver for the Prichard Water Works & Sewer Board (PWWSB) released its Draft Master Plan, which addresses the long-term public health, governance, affordability, and debt challenges of Prichard's distressed water and wastewater systems.

“After carefully considering what is needed to promote the long-term sustainability of the water and wastewater systems serving the Prichard and Chickasaw communities, I am recommending the transfer of the PWWSB system to Mobile Area Water and Sewer System (MAWSS) as the preferred alternative,” said John Young, Jr., the PWWSB Receiver.

The Receiver concluded that alternatives involving a long-term concession agreement with either the current five-member Board or city-appointed replacements did not meet the necessary level of service due to concerns about cost, transparency, and mismanagement.

The Citizens Advisory Council (CAC), established by the Court, recommended the Receiver also consider a state-appointed Authority with technical and operational expertise to address the current and future needs of the water and wastewater systems, which requires additional research as to its feasibility.

The Receiver stated that MAWSS presents the most desirable solution, which secures the public health of Prichard and Chickasaw customers, protects the environment, establishes reputable governance, optimizes operational efficiency, provides access to lower-cost capital, addresses Bond Debt repayment, and has strong support from key stakeholders.

“This Draft Master Plan is the first of many steps to solving decades of neglect, mismanagement, and corruption issues,” said Young. “Once the Court, the Trustee, and ADEM affirm this alternative, the next steps include conducting financial modeling, determining sources for capital, enhancing operational efficiency opportunities, Bond debt management and repayment, and a cost-of-service study.”



Since December 2023, the Receiver has been working on the Draft Master Plan. This involved extensive consultations with community leaders, the CAC, state regulators, the bond trustee, and other industry experts. The Receiver presented five ownership and governance alternatives to the CAC during the June 2024 and July 2024 meetings to receive feedback.

The Receiver analyzed more than twenty potential alternatives for the long-term ownership and governance of the PWW&SB based on four critical criteria: health and environment protection, customer cost, ownership experience, and community impact. The benefits and drawbacks of each option were summarized in the Draft Master Plan to provide a clear comparison.

“If the MAWSS solution is pursued, it will require a series of steps, including approval from the MAWSS Board, legislative action for a constitutional amendment, a referendum vote, and the eventual transfer and dissolution of PWW&SB. This comprehensive process is projected to take until early 2026.

The Receiver remains committed to working closely with all stakeholders to ensure a smooth transition and the continued provision of safe, reliable, and affordable water and wastewater services to the residents of Prichard and Chickasaw.

The public can access the Receiver’s Draft Master Plan and all related documents at FixPrichardWater.com.

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For more information, please visit FixPrichardWater.com.

About Prichard Water Works & Sewer Board

The Prichard Water Works & Sewer Board (PWW&SB) is dedicated to delivering high-quality water and wastewater services to the communities of Prichard, AL, and Chickasaw, AL. Faced with significant challenges, the court-appointed Receiver is actively working towards solutions.

About the Receiver for PWW&SB

On November 10, 2023, the Mobile County Circuit Court issued an order appointing John S. Young, Jr. LLC as the Receiver for the Prichard Water Works & Sewer Board (PWW&SB) to oversee its current financial and operational management and identify a long-term solution to recent challenges.