Citizens Advisory Council of Prichard Assembly Room, 205 Government Street, Mobile, Alabama Summary of Activity December 15, 2023

FACILITATING:

John Young, Jr., Court-Appointed Receiver

Prichard Water Works and Sewer

ATTENDING:

Carletta Davis, President, We Matter

Katie Davis, District 2

Serveria Morris, United Concerned Citizens of Prichard

Dr. Beatrice Morse, District 97 Alison Walker, District 33

Stephanie Norwood, City of Prichard Jessica James, City of Chickasaw

Chris Williams, Pastor, County Commission

Rusty Murdaugh, District 98

ABSENT:

Mayor Jimmie Gardner, Prichard Mayor Barry Broadhead, Chickasaw

Discussion

John Young welcomed everyone in attendance and invited each person attending to introduce themselves. Mr. Young introduced himself and provided background on his water industry credentials (33 years at American Water- retired from there in 2010). Mr. Young then became the court-appointed receiver for the wastewater utility in Jefferson County, AL, followed by assisting "troubled" utilities in Detroit, Puerto Rico, Flint, and Benton Harbor.

Mr. Young stated he had been on the job as a Receiver for about 5 weeks. He clarified he was here as a court-appointed Receiver and reported to Judge Youngpeter, not the bondholders or the Board.

Mr. Young stated his primary focus is on public health protection and providing a reliable water supply and wastewater system. He emphasized he was concerned about the customers, utility employees, and investors in the utility (bondholders). Mr. Young emphasized the need to ultimately pay back the bondholders because, at some point, this water system will need capital from the financial market to make all the necessary improvements. If Prichard Water doesn't pay back its investors, it may be impossible to get future funding for improvements, or the borrowing would be very expensive. With respect to affordability and rates, Mr. Young stated a significant rate increase was implemented in November 2023. The Receiver is not prepared to recommend any revisions in rates until a proper rate analysis is conducted. The Receiver needs more information to know how much it costs to operate and maintain an efficient PWWSB. One also needs to know how much capital is necessary to improve the system infrastructure.

The Receiver stated that of all the utilities he has worked with to restore financial and operational integrity over his 50-year career, Prichard Water Works and Sewer is as bad a utility as he has ever seen.

The Receiver has only met one of the current PWWS board members. The Receiver emphasized that the problems in Pritchard are the result of many decades of mismanagement and lack of investment and not solely the fault of the current Board. However, 95% of the Receiver's work will be looking forward to the solution rather than focusing on the past.

The Receiver stated that PWWSB faced significant financial challenges. Despite the November 2023 rate increase, the PWWSB has insufficient funds to pay for its ordinary operation and maintenance expenditures. The majority of funds received from the settlement of the hydrant litigation with the City of Prichard were used by the Board (prior to entry of the Order) to pay overdue bills and operating expenses, but not to pay their full bond obligation to the Bond Trustee. Examples of vendors/contractors' payments impacted by the inadequate revenue are:

- Mobile Area Water & Sewer System (MAWSS) bill for purchased water.
- Money owed to the City of Prichard for its municipal fee.
- o PWWSB legal fees.
- Bond Trustee obligations.

Additionally, construction funds available for water system capital improvements are limited to funds held by the Bond Trustee, which are subject to restrictions dictated by the indenture. Very Limited grant funds (less than \$1M) are available for the wastewater system construction improvements.

The Receiver reviewed severe operational challenges within the utility, including:

- Sanitary sewer overflows.
- Significant leakage from its water distribution system.
- Failure to meet Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) Consent Order obligations and provide the required capital improvements to the sewer system.
- Failure to comply with ADEM and EPA Sanitary Surveys, which may result in the issuing of a new Consent Order by AEDM to address water system technical, management, and financial deficiencies.
- Staffing issues additional staffing is needed to enforce collection efforts, make needed repairs, and otherwise operate the system.

The Receiver spent the last two weeks meeting with various agencies and organizations to determine the availability of additional grant funding. The Receiver has met with the USEPA, ADEM, and Mobile County to help fund projects immediately necessary to comply with Consent Orders and improve the reliability of the System.

To secure low-interest loans, the utility will need to complete financial audits to show lenders their financial condition. Until this year, there were no audits for 2019, 2020, and 2021. Over the last nine months, audits for these three years were completed, and we are currently working on the audit for 2022. When that 2022 audit is completed, hopefully, next month, the Receiver will share it with the Advisory Council. It will probably show that the utility continues to operate at a deficit every year and has no money to pay for any type of construction.

The Receiver said he is grateful for the dedicated employees of PWWS, stating these professionals know how to accomplish much with limited resources. The Receiver stated the need to give the employees the resources, training, and standard operating procedures necessary for an efficiently run

The Receiver discussed the Receiver Order from the court and outlined the role and responsibilities of the Advisory Council.

The Receiver then provided a report on the progress that has been made toward a solution in the last five weeks:

- Continue to meet PWWSB supervisors and staff to evaluate system needs and take steps to improve operational efficiency to the extent possible.
- Met with MAWSS to discuss billing issues and water supply.
- Reviewed 2019, 2020, and 2021 financial audits and discussed the completion of the 2022 audit with representatives of ADEM, which funded the audits.
- Met with the Mayors of Prichard and Chickasaw.
- Solicited and received a proposal for an affordability analysis and low-income program development.
- Solicited and received a proposal for developing a water and wastewater Asset Management Plan.
- Solicited and received a proposal to evaluate the feasibility and cost of alternative groundwater and surface water sources of supply.
- Met with the Mobile County Commission member to review construction projects that impact PWWSB water and sewer distribution and collection systems and discuss grant funding.
- Applied for EPA technical assistance and have had multiple follow-up phone conferences with EPA and the technical assistance team EPA assembled.
- Multiple meetings with AEDM to review water/wastewater issues and funding opportunities.
- Met with the concession team to review their proposal.
- Planned for and held a Citizen Advisory Council meeting on December 15, 2023.
- Took control of PWWSB bank accounts with the authority to sign checks.
- Instituted financial controls with the personnel of the System.
- Toured the water and wastewater systems to observe the condition of assets (treatment plants, water storage facilities, pumping stations, buried infrastructure, etc.) and their operational issues.
- Signed contract to complete automated meter reading project.
- Signed contract for a leak survey study.
- Secured website domain (FixPrichardWater.com) for the System.
- Launched a website to enable the Receiver to provide public access to updates, information, and monthly progress reports. The website is expected to be active by early January 2023.
- Conducted discussions with non-profit funding sources.

Next steps:

Schedule the next Citizens Advisory Council of Prichard meeting.

Meeting adjourned.

Citizens Advisory Council of Prichard (CACP) John E. McConnell Civic Center, Chickasaw **Summary of Meeting** January 18, 2024

FACILITATING:

John Young, Jr., Court-Appointed Receiver

Prichard Water Works and Sewer Board (PWWSB)

ATTENDING:

Mayor Jimmie Gardner, Prichard

Serveria Morris, United Concerned Citizens of Prichard

Jessica James, the City of Chickasaw (Representing Mayor Barry Broadhead)

Dr. Beatrice Morse, District 97

Pastor Chris Williams, County Commission

Rusty Murdaugh, District 98

Carletta Davis, President, We Matter

Katie Davis, District 2

Clifford Bryant

ABSENT:

Alison Walker, District 33

PWWSB Financial and Operational Update

The 2024 PWWSB budget, created by the Board, was developed for the Fiscal Year (FY) of October 2023 through September 2024. The Receiver reviewed the first quarter results (ending December 31, 2023) with the Citizens Advisory Council of Prichard (CACP). Unfortunately, revenues were 19% below budget. While additional investigation needs to be completed, it appears that the Board's November 22% rate increase did not generate the anticipated income, and collection rates may have been hampered by the collection protocol required in the Receiver Order.

First quarter operating costs were substantially above budget due to increased purchased water costs, legal fees, and maintenance expenditures. Additionally, the funds derived from the hydrant settlement were well below budgeted amounts.

Sanitary sewer overflows, non-revenue water (primarily caused by leakage and water theft) and high maintenance costs will continue to be a significant problem until capital funds are available to improve the deteriorated infrastructure. The Receiver is continuing to solicit grant funds from the County, USEPA, Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM), and other sources.

Proposed ADEM Consent Order

In late December 2023, ADEM sent PWWSB a draft Consent Order for the Prichard water system. The Order was issued to PWWSB for failure to respond to:

- **EPA Inspection Report recommendations**
- ADEM Sanitary Survey recommendations
- A Request to submit an adequate Asset Management Plan
- The Completion of financial audits

ADEM also expressed concerns regarding the technical, management and financial capacity of PWWSB.

A Draft Consent Order was presented to the CACP. The Consent Order requires several actions by PWWSB, including but not limited to:

- Step one includes a hydraulic analysis of the system to determine which of the system's five tanks should be retained. Once completed, significant maintenance must be completed on the appropriate tanks. Additionally, improvements are required for the cross-connection program, standard operating procedures, and maintaining chlorine residuals throughout the system.
- Step two involves the completion of a viable Asset Management Plan, which will assess the condition of the vertical and buried assets of the systems and indicate what improvements are required. The Asset Management Plan will also include a 20-year Capital Improvement Program.
- Step three includes the development of a System Alternative Analysis. The System Alternative Analysis will
 determine the most cost-effective and feasible long-term ownership and/or operational structure solution for
 the utility to properly serve its customers.
- Step four involves undertaking a Technical, Management and Financial Capacity Analysis for the recommended alternative. This analysis will include a regulatory compliance plan that includes the actions needed to ensure that the selected long-term solution meets all ADEM standards.

The Receiver will continue to negotiate the conditions of the Consent Order and attempt to identify funding for the required tasks and system improvements.

Asset Management/ Source of Supply Study

The Receiver reviewed the proposed scope of work for the development of an Asset Management Plan and a source of supply investigation. A proposal was solicited from Hazen and Sawyer, who have successfully completed several projects for PWWSB. The scope of Asset Management work includes the following for both the water and wastewater systems:

- Infrastructure Asset Evaluation
- System Hydraulic Evaluation
- Leakage and Infiltration/Inflow Assessment
- 20-year Capital Program development

The source of supply study will develop the feasibility and cost of replacing the MAWSS supply with either groundwater or surface water supply. Capital and operating costs will be developed for both of these supply options, and the information will be used in the System Alternative Analysis.

Affordability Study

At the December 2023 CACP meeting, the Receiver stated he had solicited and received a proposal for an affordability analysis and low-income program development. Eric Rothstein, MA, CPA, of the Galardi Rothstein Group, made an in-person presentation to CACP. The presentation outlined the scope of work his firm would be undertaking, including Project Orientation/Stakeholder Engagement, Water Affordability/Financial Capability Assessment, and Customer Assistance Program Design. Mr. Rothstein identified issues and trends related to affordability, citing water service cost trends, the five pillars of affordability (Manny Teodoro, May 31, 2023), water bill affordability measurements, and customer assistance programs. Mr. Rothstein also addressed U.S. Census data on Prichard and Chickasaw. Mr. Rothstein's group will continue to conduct meetings with the CACP, local community organizations, and the PWWSB employees to solicit input for the Affordability Study. A draft affordability study report is scheduled to be received by March 15, 2024.

Communication Plan

FixPrichardWater.com has been launched. The Receiver will continue to add information and updates regarding the progress and accomplishments.

An appeal was also made to contact the Receiver (jyoung@prichardwater.com) if you would like for him to come to your community group and share information about the work that is going on to fix PWWSB.

Action Items

- Provide the CACP with first quarter financial results.
- Review past ADEM findings and actions leading to the Consent Order.
- Investigate customer water conservation programs.
- Water loss due Absentee Landlords

Next Meeting

The next CAPC meeting will be on February 15, 2024, at 2 P.M.

The meeting location is the A.J. Cooper Municipal Complex, 216 E. Prichard Ave, Prichard, AL 36610 We are grateful to Mayor Jimmie Gardner for making this available.

Citizens Advisory Council of Prichard (CACP) Meeting Summary February 15, 2024, 2 P.M. to 4 P.M.

A.J. Cooper Municipal Complex 216 E. Prichard Ave, Prichard, AL 36610

FACILITATING:

John Young, Jr., Court-Appointed Receiver

Prichard Water Works and Sewer Board (PWWSB)

Joe Conner, Baker Donelson

ATTENDING:

Mayor Jimmie Gardner, City of Prichard

Serveria Morris, United Concerned Citizens of Prichard

Jennifer White, City of Chickasaw Dr. Beatrice Morse, District 97

Carletta Davis, President, We Matter

Katie Davis, District 2

Clifford Bryant

ABSENT:

Pastor Chris Williams, County Commission

Rusty Murdaugh, District 98

Report Back

The Action Items from the January 2024 CACP meeting were reviewed:

- First quarter budget performance details were provided to the Council. A full Fiscal Year budget review was scheduled for later in the 2.15.2024 meeting.
- ADEM response explaining reasons for the timing and content of the recent Consent Order
- A potential customer conservation program was discussed. Specific recommendations will be included in the Affordability/Customer Assistance Program report.
- Water loss due to absentee landlords was recognized as a continuing issue.

Communities Unlimited Contract

As a result of multiple meetings held with USEPA and Moonshot Missions to request technical assistance and financial resources, Communities Unlimited has been contracted to develop needed policies and procedures for the utility and provide the associated training.

Communities Unlimited is a non-profit corporation focused on providing technical and training support to communities with minority populations and poverty issues. They will do a comprehensive review of operational, managerial, and technical policies and procedures with a goal to promote compliance, operational efficiency, and financial sustainability. Training associated with the new/revised policies will be a critical service that they provide. These services will be provided at no cost to PWWSB.

Water Storage/Hydraulic Analysis

To comply with the recently issued ADEM water Consent Order, a hydraulic analysis of the water system was completed and provided to ADEM. The methodology used in analysis was briefly explained during the CACP meeting. The study concluded that several of the water storage tanks within the system need to be at different elevations and/or require additional storage volume. These system deficiencies have occurred due to infrastructure and customer changes within the system over the past several decades.

The proposed system improvements recommended in the report will result in the elimination of one tank, maintaining three tanks through the addition of control valves and piping enhancements, and ultimately building one additional storage tank. All remaining tanks will require significant maintenance including painting, overflow modifications and other improvements.

Capital Investment Funding

The capital investment project list submitted to ADEM for possible grant funding was reviewed with the CACP. The list includes over \$20M of projects needed to comply with Consent Orders, reduce water leakage, address sanitary sewer overflows, provide proper water storage and properly monitor and control system operations. This submittal will be followed by a grant "pre-application" and Preliminary Engineering Report that will formally request the grant funding.

Revised FY2024 Budget

The first quarter financial performance of PWWSB, which was discussed at the January CACP meeting, showed significant revenue deficiencies and operating expense overruns compared to the Board's FY2024 budget.

Therefore, a detailed investigation of the original (October 2023) FY2024 budget's assumptions and projections was undertaken. This exercise concluded the original budget developed by the Board had numerous errors and did not properly reflect the financial condition of the utility.

Revenues were overestimated due to the projected timing of the rate adjustment and anticipated collection rates. Several expenses were excluded from the budget (franchise fees, bond default legal expenses, etc.), while other expenses were significantly understated (purchased water costs, insurance, maintenance, equipment rental, Reserve Fund replenishment, etc.). When these budget adjustments were made, the original (Oct. 2023) Board budget showed a \$4.5M deficit.

Other budget adjustments were also necessary to reflect costs associated with the Court's Receiver Order. These adjustments included the impact of the Order's modification of collection procedures, the required increase in professional service costs, and future legal efforts associated with the Board's appeal of the Receiver Order. These additional expenses result in the Revised FY2024 budget showing a \$5.5M deficit. This deficit will result in significant financial challenges for the utility in FY 2024.

Legal Update Provided by Counsel for Receiver

Synovus Corporate Trust v. PWWSB, Case No. CV-2023-901332. The PWWSB appealed the Order Granting Receiver ("Order") entered by Judge Youngpeter. While the appeal before the Alabama Supreme Court is still pending, motions filed by PWWSB to stay the Order were denied by both Judge Youngpeter and the Alabama Supreme Court. The underlying litigation in Circuit Court was stayed pending resolution of the appeal. The Receiver was directed to pay the attorney fees and expenses incurred by PWWSB in the appeal of the Order. The attorney fees and expenses associated with the appeal for both PWWSB and the Trustee are estimated at \$200,000 and have been included in the updated budget prepared by the Receiver.

Criminal Proceedings. Several criminal actions are pending arising from the malfeasance committed under the leadership of prior PWWSB manager Nia Bradley. Those proceedings include actions against Nia Bradley, Anthony Bradley, Randy Burden, and Teresa Lewis. Any civil actions associated with those individuals have been stayed pending resolution of the criminal cases. An internal review of PWWSB records conducted prior to the entry of the Receiver Order indicates that the amount diverted by the criminal defendants was in excess of \$425,000. No trial dates have been set in the criminal cases.

PWWSB v. City of Prichard – Fire Hydrant Litigation. In September of 2023, the City and PWWSB settled the fire hydrant litigation that had been pending since 2018. The City paid PWWSB \$1,066,225.23, which had been held in escrow during the litigation. In turn, PWWSB paid the City \$257,282.81, representing the 2022 franchise fee due the City. There is one remaining issue to be resolved by Judge Youngpeter in the case associated with the right of PWWSB to increase the hydrant fee without approval by the City.

Alabama Village. In March of 2023, the PWWSB passed a Resolution imposing a moratorium on the installation of new water meters in Alabama Village. However, the 41 customers (38 properties) served at the time of the moratorium continue to be served by the System. Prior to the entry of the Receiver Order, the PWWSB commissioned appraisals of the parcels owned by the current customers in Alabama Village. The total value of the parcels reflected in the appraisals was approximately \$1.1 million. The System does not have access to sufficient funding to purchase those parcels at this time and will be exploring options with various stakeholders, including the City of Prichard and the Prichard Housing Authority. If the current meters in Alabama Village can be disconnected, the plan is to valve off the water lines in Alabama Village to reduce the water loss that is occurring from leakage. There are approximately 500 parcels of property in Alabama Village. Roughly 50% are publicly owned and 50% are privately owned.

Action Items

- There was a discussion about requesting a change in the collection process that is included in the Receiver Order. At the end of the meeting, the CACP decided not to request that the Judge modify the collection process.
- Conduct a further investigation of the \$50K insurance coverage associated with the employee theft from 2018 to 2021.
- Make sure that the Alternative Analysis, to be completed by July 31, 2024, properly addresses the utility governance and water industry qualification issues. These issues include Board appointments and structure, Board authority, and Board representation.

Next Meeting

The next CAPC meeting will be on March 21, 2024, at 2 P.M. The meeting location is at the A.J. Cooper Municipal Complex, 216 E. Prichard Ave, Prichard, AL 36610

Citizens Advisory Council of Prichard (CACP) Meeting Summary March 21, 2024, 2 P.M. to 4 P.M.

A.J. Cooper Municipal Complex 216 E. Prichard Ave, Prichard, AL 36610

FACILITATING:

John Young, Jr., Court-Appointed Receiver

Prichard Water Works and Sewer Board (PWWSB)

Jim Gilliland, JG Communication Group LLC

ATTENDING:

Mayor Jimmie Gardner, City of Prichard

Severia Morris, United Concerned Citizens of Prichard

Pastor Chris Williams, County Commission

Rusty Murdaugh, District 98 Dr. Beatrice Morse, District 97 Carletta Davis, President, We Matter

Katie Davis, District 2

Clifford Bryant

ABSENT:

Mayoral Representative, City of Chickasaw

Action Item from the February 2024 CACP Meeting

In the February 2024 meeting, the CACP requested feedback from the Receiver on the right to file an insurance claim for the misappropriation/theft of funds by Nia Bradley and others. The policy has a \$50,000 claim limit associated with a single event. The policy requires immediate notification of the claim and numerous other actions by PWWSB. Unfortunately, the Board did not file any notice of claim. Therefore, recovery of any claim under the Public Employee Dishonesty Policy is not possible at this time.

Backflow Prevention

A significant PWWSB deficiency identified in ADEM and EPA inspections and the recent ADEM Consent Order was the lack of a backflow prevention/cross-connection program. All water utilities require these programs to ensure that water from an untreated source does not flow back and mix with treated, potable water before consumption. While all residential services in Alabama require check valves to prevent water from a house from discharging back to the distribution pipes, special backflow prevention consideration is required for commercial, industrial, and irrigation services.

The CACP reviewed the Backflow Prevention Policy. All commercial, industrial, and irrigation customers will receive annual letters and test forms. Certified backflow device testers are required to verify that these devices are properly working and protect public health. ADEM has reviewed and approved the recently implemented program.

Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) Grant Funds

The Receiver of PWWSB has been working to obtain grant funding from ADEM for several months. At the February CACP meeting, a preliminary list of projects that were reviewed with ADEM was presented. In late February, a formal "pre-application" and Preliminary Engineering Reports (PERs) were submitted to ADEM to secure the first phase of grant funding. Projects were prioritized based on their contribution to Consent Order compliance, leakage reduction, and operating efficiency.

The CACP reviewed both the Drinking Water (DW) and Clean Water (CW) PERs. The DW projects include improvements to four (4) water storage tanks in the system and removal of the Office Standpipe. Other DW projects include replacing the Lovejoy Loop pipeline (approx. 9 miles of pipe) and improving monitoring and control of the water operations.

The Clean Water (CW) projects include improvements to a portion of the Morris Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) and better monitoring and control at the thirty (30) wastewater pumping stations.

On March 18, ADEM provided \$5.8M of 2024 funding to initiate all of the projects. These funds will allow:

- 1. The completion of the design, bidding, and construction of the tank improvement project
- 2. Design and bidding of the Lovejoy Loop pipeline
- Design and bidding of the water and wastewater SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition)
- 4. Design and bidding of the Morris WWTP improvements
- 5. Completing three future financial audits

Future grant funding will allow Projects 2 through 4 to be completed by the end of 2026.

The ADEM press release and contract structure were handed out and reviewed with the CACP.

4-Month Progress Report

The Receiver made a presentation (see slides below) focusing on the progress made to date toward improving operations, regulatory compliance, financial sustainability, legal, and communications. Additionally, the scope and approach that will be used to complete the Alternative Analysis and TMF Capacity study was reviewed with the Council. The Receiver's monthly report #4 includes a detailed discussion of the presentation.

The Receiver's Duties

Administer and operate the utility to create a viable, sustainable, and efficient system that protects public health and the environment.

- Comply with regulations and Consent Orders
- Identify system deficiencies and initiate corrective action
- · Solicit technical and financial support
- Establish proper and affordable rates
- Recommend the long-term utility structure and investment needs
- Maintain transparency with stakeholders

OPERATIONAL UPDATE

- Staff has been encouraged to recruit candidates for all open positions to strengthen customer service and improve system reliability
- Financial controls & contracts are being modified to reflect the new management structure
- · Awarded a contract to ASTERRA (funded through an ADEM grant) for leak detection
- Identified potential cost savings through procurement and contract modifications
- Collected data during the Asset Management fieldwork for a proper Maintenance Management system

OPERATIONAL UPDATE

4-Month Progress

Contracts Authorized by the Receiver

	Contractor	Scope	
1	Asterra		Funding Source
2	Hazen & Sawyer	Leak Detection	ADEM Grant
3		Storage Tanks -Design & Improvement	ADEM Grant
		Asset Management/ Source of Supply	Bond Funds
4	Tracer & Survyer	Preliminary Engineering Report	ADEM Grant
5	Dominantics Offinitied	Operating Procedures and Training	No Cost
6	Galardi Rothstein Group	Affordability/Customer Financial Assistance	
7	Baker Donelson		Bond Funds
8	Southern View Media	Legal Support	Operating budget
9	JG Communication Group LLC	Website Support & Livestream Services	Operating budget
	30 communication Group LLC	Communication & Community Engagement	Operating budget
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REGULATORY UPDATE

- Met the requirements of the first phase of ADEM's Water Consent Order
 - Completed hydraulic analysis
 - Developed a water tank improvement program
 - Developed backflow prevention program.
- Contracted w/Communities Unlimited-provide operating procedures & training
- Asset Management Study fieldwork completed; Final report in May 2024

REGULATORY UPDATE

4-Month Progress (cont.)

- ADEM-funded projects prioritized based on Consent Order; water leakage reduction, and operating efficiency and effectiveness.
- Design proposals solicited:
 - Water tank improvements
 - Morris WWTP improvements
 - Lovejoy Loop pipeline replacement
 - SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) project

FINANCIAL UPDATE

- The Asset Management Study will provide a 20 -year capital investment program for long-term planning.
- Revised FY2024 budget Over \$5 million budget deficit.
- Submitted "pre-application" and Preliminary Engineering Report to ADEM
- \$5.8 million in grant funds awarded by ADEM
- Anticipate more grant funds in 2025/2026
- Initiated An Affordability Study with a Customer Financial Assistance Program

LEGAL UPDATE

4-Month Progress

- Identified owners of about 500 properties in Alabama Village; half the properties are privately owned
- All legal matters transitioned to the Receiver's legal counsel

ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS

Looking forward to July 31, 2024

- A Source of Supply Study initiated to determine the feasibility of replacing MAWSS-purchased water supply with groundwater or a surface water supply
- Continuing discussions with the "Concession" team
- Preliminary discussions with MAWSS on possible long -term role
- Working w/Moonshot Missions to assist with the Alternatives Analysis evaluation

ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS

Looking forward to July 31, 2024

OWNERSHIP City Independent **MAWSS**

Private

GOVERNANCE Board (existing) New "Public Authority" Contract (Concession) **MAWSS Board** Investor-Owned

OPERATIONS Independent Contract (MAWSS) Contract

WATER SUPPLY MAWSS/MAWSS Groundwater/MAWSS Surface Water/MAWSS

RECEIVER TRANSPARENCY

- Conducted 4 monthly meetings Citizens Advisory Council of Prichard (CACP)
- Prepare and distribute CACP monthly meeting summaries and post on the website
- Post monthly Receiver Reports to the Court on the website
- Launched a website (<u>www.fixprichardwater.com</u>)
- · Post proposals, agreements, studies and analyses, and legal filings to the website

RECEIVER TRANSPARENCY

4-Month Progress (cont.)

- The website used by the public to ask questions and identify issues
- Continually request opportunities to meet with neighborhood groups, community organizations, and church groups.
- The Receiver also follows up directly with customer inquiries from the website
- The Receiver is accessible and responsive to members of the CACP
- Accessible and responsive to the press

Action Items

None

Next Meeting

The next CAPC meeting will be on April 18, 2024, at 2 P.M. The meeting location is at the A.J. Cooper Municipal Complex, 216 E. Prichard Ave, Prichard, AL 36610

Citizens Advisory Council of Prichard (CACP) Meeting Summary April 18, 2024, 2 P.M. to 4 P.M.

A.J. Cooper Municipal Complex 216 E. Prichard Ave, Prichard, AL 36610

FACILITATING:

John Young, Jr., Court-Appointed Receiver

Prichard Water Works and Sewer Board (PWWSB)

Eric Rothstein, Galardi Rothstein Group

ATTENDING:

Severia Morris, United Concerned Citizens of Prichard

Pastor Chris Williams, County Commission

Rusty Murdaugh, District 98 Dr. Beatrice Morse, District 97

Carletta Davis, President, We Matter

Katie Davis, District 2

Clifford Bryant

Jessica James, City of Chickasaw (Representing Mayor's Office)

ABSENT:

Mayor Gardner

Receiver Updates

- The Asset Management Study (Hazen & Swayer) is progressing, with the majority
 of the fieldwork completed. Initial findings from the study will be presented at the
 May 2024 Citizen Advisory Council meeting. This report must be submitted to
 ADEM by May 31 to comply with the Consent Order.
- Preliminary results from the Source of Supply study suggest that the
 development of a surface water supply for the system is neither feasible nor costeffective. However, a groundwater supply system could be developed with
 sufficient yield to serve the system. The supply would consist of multiple wells
 with either wellhead (local) or centralized treatment for iron and manganese
 removal. Capital and operating costs are being developed for the alternative
 options. Recommendations will be presented at the May 16, 2024 Advisory
 Council meeting.

Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) grants are funding the following projects:

- A contract has been awarded for the water storage tank design and bidding. The
 project will include improving and painting four tanks, demolishing the Office
 Standpipe, and adding control valves at several interconnections with MAWSS. The
 projects should be advertised for bidding in June, with construction beginning in
 August.
- A design contract has been awarded for the Morris WWTP improvement. The design is scheduled to be completed in early 2025, with construction completed by the end of 2026.
- The design contract for the Lovejoy Loop pipeline replacements (approximately 9 miles of pipe) is in final contract negotiations. The design contract should be awarded in April, and construction should begin in the Spring of 2025.
- The scope of work for the SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) design is still being developed. This project will primarily provide operational monitoring and control for the 30 wastewater pumping stations located throughout the system.

Q2 Financial Performance - 6 Months as of March 31, 2024

	COLUMN 1 Board's 2023-2024 Annual Budget Submitted to Court in October 2023	COLUMN 2 Receiver's Revised 2023-2024 Annual Budget	COLUMN 3 Receiver's 6-Month Budget	COLUMN 4 6-Month Actual	COLUMN 5 Receiver's 6-Month Budget to Actual
Total Revenue	\$14,432,633	\$12,735,742	\$6,367,871	\$6,744,674	376,803
Total Expense	\$14,190,556	\$18,216,969	\$9,108,485	\$7,530,005	\$1,578,480*
Net Income	\$242,076	(5,481,226)	(\$2,740,614)	(\$1,541,423)	\$1,955,282

^{*}The Receiver has not fully paid the Trustee what's owed to the Reserve Fund, monthly interest expense, and attorney's fee for the first 6 months of the Fiscal Year (October 1-September 30). This results in a 6-month cash flow savings of \$1.7M.

The FY2024 2nd quarter financial performance was reviewed. As shown in the above table and previously discussed, the "balanced" budget prepared by the PWWS Board (column 1) was clearly based on incorrect assumptions and oversights since it does not accurately reflect the utility's actual financial performance. Column 2 is the annual budget developed by the Receiver. Column 3 shows the 6-month Receiver budget. Column 5 (budget vs. actual revenue/cost comparison) reconciles the variance between Column 3 and Column 4 (actual revenue and expenses).

Revenues were 6 percent higher than the Receiver's budget. This variance was primarily due to an increase in residential customers' bill payments resulting from more aggressive shut-off notifications and customer payment plans. The \$1.578M reduction in expenses primarily resulted from the Receiver postponing partial payments of Bond Trustee financial obligations during the 6-month period (\$1.7M). Adjusting for this non-payment, expenses exceeded the Receiver budget by 1.3 percent.

Affordability/ Customer Assistance Program

Eric Rothstein of Galardi Rothstein Group, which is conducting the Affordability Study and System Assessment, made a presentation covering three interrelated topics: Water Service Rates, Bill Burdens, and Financial Sustainability.

Four key messages were emphasized in the introduction of the presentation:

- Rates must recover the full costs of service
- PWWSB's rates are burdensome yet inadequate
- PWWSB's crisis and rates demand both immediate and long-term actions
- Crisis resolution and sustainability will require fundamental change in the structure and management of the utility over the next generation

The presentation reviewed industry-standard principles and practices in water and wastewater rate making, noting the fundamental principles that rates are set to recover the system's revenue requirements. These revenue requirements, which include Operation & Maintenance (O&M), capital and financing costs, enable utilities to deliver essential-to-life water services. Rates charged to customers are designed to fully recover the required revenue and distribute costs in a fair and equitable manner. Affordability may be addressed by how costs are distributed to different customers, how rates and charges are structured, and through income-qualified assistance programs.

Specific to PWWSB, affordability is an especially acute concern with limited options for mitigation. According to U.S. census data, PWWSB customers have relatively low incomes yet face relatively high service rates. This reality was presented visually through the mapping of income distributions and calculated water bill burdens (e.g., bills as a percentage of income). Unfortunately, PWWSB currently has "highly burdensome" rates, and additional rate increases to meet the cost-of-service requirements would increase this burden. Rothstein noted that, based on his experience in many other economically distressed communities, PWWSB's situation is a crisis.

To frame the affordability discussion and over-arching objectives of the Receiver's efforts, Rothstein reviewed industry guidance on the characteristics of financial sustainability for water and wastewater systems. Rothstein's briefing highlighted how

water and wastewater systems are increasingly viewing affordability measures as a component of their Financial Sustainability strategy – and options (and constraints). He also reviewed examples of responses to affordability crises, outlining similarities and differences to the situation at PWWSB. He discussed options and challenges for PWWSB in moving from crisis to sustainability and concluded with a discussion of the Next Steps.

Action Items

- 1. Provide the Advisory Council with the actual FY2023 revenue and expenses.
- 2. Post the more detailed line item Q2 budget vs. actual financial performance on the website.
- 3. Solicit volunteers from the Advisory Council and community to work with Eric Rothstein in the development of a Customer Assistance Program.

Citizens Advisory Council of Prichard (CACP) Meeting Summary May 16, 2024, 2 P.M. to 4 P.M.

A.J. Cooper Municipal Complex 216 E. Prichard Ave, Prichard, AL 36610

PRESENTERS:

John Young, Jr., Court-Appointed Receiver

Prichard Water Works and Sewer Board (PWWSB)

Olivia August, Hazen & Sawyer Ryan Nagel, Hazen & Sawyer Shelbie Dashiell, Hazen & Sawyer Jayson Page, Hazen & Sawyer

ATTENDING:

Mayor Gardner, City of Prichard

Jessica James, City of Chickasaw (Representing Mayor's Office)

Severia Morris, United Concerned Citizens of Prichard

Pastor Chris Williams, County Commission

Rusty Murdaugh, District 98 Dr. Beatrice Morse, District 97

Katie Davis, District 2

Clifford Bryant

PUBLIC

COMMENT:

Paula Blevins

John Johnson, Jr.

MODERATING:

Jim Gilliland

ABSENT:

Carletta Davis, President, We Matter

Asset Management Evaluation

Hazen presented the asset management evaluation of the PWWSB's water and sewer pipes, water storage tanks, wastewater lift stations, and wastewater treatment plants. A summary of the findings is presented below:

Water Pipes

- Based on factors including age, risk, and modeled fire flow, 70% of water pipes were estimated to be in poor or very poor condition and require replacing in the next 20 years.
- Replacing 70% or 188 miles of pipe over the next 20 years will cost approximately \$240M if completed today or \$332M if spread over the next 20 years.
- Hazen recommends using the results of the ongoing ASTERRA leak detection effort to help validate these results and inform short-term water pipe replacement projects.

Sewer Pipes

- Based on a combination of factors, including age and historical sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs), 32% of sewer pipes were estimated to be in poor or very poor condition and will likely require replacing in the next 20 years.
- Replacing 32% or 46 miles of pipe over the next 20 years will cost approximately \$104M if completed today or \$144M if spread over the next 20 years, due to inflation.
- Hazen recommends conducting condition assessments (e.g., camera inspections) of sewer pipes to ensure that short-term replacement projects address the pipes with the greatest structural defects.
- Additionally, Hazen recommends implementing a program to identify and address areas with significant infiltration and inflow into the sewer system.

A visual inspection of the two wastewater treatment plants, four water storage tanks recommended to remain in service, and twenty-nine lift stations. These inspections help develop a 20-year capital needs projection for each of these facilities.

Wastewater Treatment Plants

- At the Carlos Morris Wastewater Treatment Plant, several treatment and overall site deficiencies were observed, including an inoperable Influent Bar Screen and Degritter 1. Several of these issues are being addressed with the \$5M of wastewater projects recently approved by ADEM for funding.
- At the Stanley Brooks Wastewater Treatment Plant, several treatment and overall site deficiencies were observed, including inoperable degritters and structural defects.
- Replacement costs at the Carlos Morris Plant and Stanley Brooks Plant over the next 20 years are approximately \$34M if completed today or \$45M if spread over the next 20 years due to inflation.

Lift Stations

- Hazen inspected the twenty-nine lift stations and found that fifteen of the lift stations had only one functional pump of two or three total pumps. Additionally, three of the lift stations were completely inoperable and had on-site bypass pumping.
- Due to inflation, the replacement costs for the lift stations over the next 20 years are approximately \$8M if completed today or \$10M if spread over the next 20 years.

Water Storage Tanks

- Hazen inspected four of the five water storage tanks. The Office Tank was not inspected since it is planned to be taken offline and demolished in the near term.
- Hazen found several of the tanks to be in poor condition. However, these tanks will be addressed by \$4M in short-term improvement projects that ADEM has already approved for funding. Additionally, the Lott Road Tank is planned for full replacement with a new, larger tank by 2029.

Water Source Options

Hazen presented the initial findings of their study of the drinking water source options for PWW&SB, including MAWSS, surface water, and groundwater.

Mobile Area Water and Sewer System MAWSS)

 Hazen discussed that PWW&SB currently purchases water from MAWSS at a rate of \$2.75/1000 gallons. Rates are subject to annual increases based on cost-of-service analysis.

Surface Water

- Two surface water options were identified, Big Creek Lake and Eight Mile Creek. MAWSS owns Big Creek Lake capacity and will not be an option. Eight Mile Creek contains pathogens and will not be permitted by ADEM as a drinking water source.
- In addition, the increased cost of surface water treatment plant construction and operation would make this option less economical for PWW&SB.

Groundwater

- Hazen identified the Miocene aquifer as a potential drinking water source.
- Hazen identified multiple concerns regarding the Miocene aquifer, including water quality issues (elevated iron and manganese), limited data (only one test well), and that ADEM will not issue well permits with the current technical, management and financial (TMF) issues that PWW&SB is experiencing.
- Hazen presented multiple treatment options for the groundwater source, including sequestration, aeration followed by filtration, chlorine oxidation followed by filtration, and manganese greensand.
 Preliminary process flow diagrams were presented for each treatment option.
- Hazen also presented potential locations for well sites that were prioritized by proximity to current MAWSS purchased water connections.

Net Present Value

 Hazen presented 20-year net present values for the groundwater source and compared the values to the current MAWSS rates. The groundwater source is more expensive if the City uses MAWSS for standby capacity but becomes comparable to MAWSS rates if the standby capacity is achieved through redundancy (N+1).

Summary and Recommendations

Hazen recommends that:

- PWW&SB remain on MAWSS water
- PWW&SB perform a pilot test of the Miocene aquifer to confirm yield and water quality assumptions
- PWW&SB reduces water system losses and improve the City's TMF situation over the next decade to achieve conditions allowing drilling permits.
- When appropriate TMF conditions are achieved, reassess the groundwater alternative with improved yield and water quality data and updated purchased water costs

Alternative Analysis Discussion

The Receiver provided an update on the Alternative Analysis matrix that addresses the future ownership, governance, operation, and source of supply for Prichard/Chickasaw. As the evaluation progresses, several of the alternatives have been eliminated from consideration. For example, private/investor-owned ownership will not be considered since the PWWSB financial and asset condition would not be attractive to a private owner.

The operation alternatives have been reduced to "in-house" operation, the concession operator, or a contract operator. Based on the results of the Source of Supply study (Hazen), the short-term system supply will be MAWSS, with groundwater development being considered after TMF Capacity issues are addressed and more information is developed for well yield and water quality. With these restrictions and requirements, a groundwater option is not viable for at least 10 to 15 years. Additionally, the Cities of Prichard and Chickasaw have been requested to provide input on the potential structure and operation based on individual City ownership.

The Alternative Analysis must be filed with ADEM and the Court by July 31, 2024.

Citizens Advisory Council of Prichard (CACP) Meeting Summary June 20, 2024, 2 P.M. to 4 P.M.

A.J. Cooper Municipal Complex 216 E. Prichard Ave, Prichard, AL 36610

PRESENTERS:

John Young, Jr., Court-Appointed Receiver

Prichard Water Works and Sewer Board (PWWSB)

Andy Koester, Moonshot Missions

ATTENDING:

Jessica James, City of Chickasaw (Representing Mayor's Office)

Severia Morris, United Concerned Citizens of Prichard

Carletta Davis, President, We Matter

Rusty Murdaugh, District 98 Dr. Beatrice Morse, District 97

PUBLIC

COMMENT:

Beulah Scott, 4242 Everett Road

MODERATING:

Jim Gilliland

ABSENT:

Pastor Chris Williams, County Commission

Katie Davis, District 2 (showed up as meeting was ending)

Clifford Bryant

Mayor Jimmie Gardner, City of Prichard

Updates

The status of the various studies was reviewed.

- The Asset Management Study (Hazen & Sawyer) is completed, posted on the website (www.FixPrichardWater.com), and submitted to ADEM.
- The Source of Supply Study (Hazen & Sawyer) will be sent to the Citizens Advisory Council members by the end of June 2024 and will be submitted to the Court as part of the draft Master Plan in July 2024.
- The Affordability/Consumer Assistance Program (CAP) (Rothstein Galardi Group).study will be completed in July 2024 and submitted as part of the draft Master Plan. The study's conclusions will not change from previous presentations, which acknowledge the financial burden associated with high water bills and the need for third-party funding for the CAP due to a lack of revenue among the current customer base.
- The design of three ADEM-funded projects (tank improvements, Morris WWTP improvements, and Lovejoy Loop pipeline replacement) is progressing. Over the next

few weeks, bids will be solicited for the tank improvements. Requests for Qualifications are being requested for the SCADA project.

Alternative Analysis

Both the Receiver Order and the ADEM Consent Order require the completion of an Alternative Analysis/draft Master Plan by the end of July 2024. This report will evaluate the various ownership, governance, operating, and water supply options available to Prichard and Chickasaw (combined or individually) and recommend a structure to promote the utility's long-term sustainability.

Options

During May 2024 and June 2024, input was solicited from stakeholders to better define the ownership, operation, and financial options. While the City of Chickasaw prefers an option that includes ownership of their assets within Chickasaw, the City of Prichard supports a return of the existing Water Board with a Concession contract. MAWSS continues its due diligence of PWWSB and has not committed to pursuing a future ownership role of the system. Currently, the options being evaluated are:

- Return to the PWWSB ownership with a Concession contract
- MAWSS ownership and operation
- PWWSB ownership with a Concession contract for the City of Prichard with the
 Utility Board of Chickasaw purchasing and operating the system's assets that serve
 their customers.

Evaluation Criteria

The evaluation criteria for the Alternative Analysis are currently being developed with the assistance of Moonshot Missions (MM), a 501c3 non-profit entity dedicated to clean and healthy water and waterways in underserved communities.

MM made a presentation to the Citizens Advisory Council, which described their work and mission, their role in the Alternative Analysis, the proposed ownership, governance and operating alternatives, and potential evaluation criteria.

Their proposed evaluation criteria included:

- Protection of human health and the environment
- Cost and affordability
- Management experience and capacity
- Community impacts

The Citizen Advisory Council reviewed an issue with operating licenses. Options are being reviewed to meet future ADEM licensing requirements.

Next Meeting

The Receiver will confer with Moonshot Missions regarding the timing of their additional analysis, and then contact each member of the Advisory Council to set a date for a virtual Workshop Meeting in mid-July to discuss the Alternatives Analysis.

The Advisory Council Meeting will still meet on Thursday, July 18 for its standing meeting.

Citizens Advisory Council of Prichard (CACP) Meeting Summary July 18, 2024, 2 P.M. to 4 P.M.

Charles E. McConnell Civic Center, 224 Grant Street—Chickasaw, AL

PRESENTERS: John Young, Jr., Court-Appointed Receiver

Prichard Water Works and Sewer Board (PWWSB)

ATTENDING: Mayor Jimmie Gardner, City of Prichard

Mayor Barry Broadhead, City of Chickasaw

Jessica James, City of Chickasaw (Representing Mayor's Office)

Severia Morris, United Concerned Citizens of Prichard

Carletta Davis, President, We Matter

Rusty Murdaugh, District 98 Dr. Beatrice Morse, District 97

Katie Davis, District 2

Clifford Bryant

ABSENT: Pastor Chris Williams, County Commission

PUBLIC

COMMENT: Mrs. Young

MODERATING: Jim Gilliland

Operation/Capital Updates

PWWSB intends to fill the certified water operator position by the end of July 2024. Regarding the certified wastewater operator position, we have contacted a couple of contract operations companies. Qualified operators continue to run the wastewater treatment facilities.

The water storage tank improvement project has been advertised for bid, and competitive bids will be received in August 2024. Painting and improvements on four tanks should begin in the Fall of 2024. The Lovejoy pipeline replacement design continues, and the 3-phase, 9-mile pipe replacement is projected to be completed in early 2026. The Morris WWTP improvement design is continuing, with bids solicited early next year. An RFQ (Request for Qualifications) has been issued for the SCADA design.

Financial Update

The FY2024 3rd quarter budget results were reviewed. As shown in the table below, revenues continue to track closely with the Receiver's budget. Actual expenses are below the Receiver's forecast primarily due to terminating payments to the Bond Trustee

for replenishment of the Reserve Fund, monthly interest expenses, and legal fees from earlier in 2024.

	COLUMN 1 Board's 2023- 2024 Annual Budget Submitted to Court in October 2023	COLUMN 2 Receiver's Revised 2023-2024 Annual Budget	COLUMN 3 Receiver's 9-Month Budget	9-Month Actual	COLUMN 5 Receiver's 9-Month Budget to Actual
Total Revenue	\$14,432,633	\$12,735,742	\$9,551,807	\$9,604,174	\$52,367
Total Expense	\$14,190,556	\$18,216,969	\$13,662,727	\$11,398,740	\$1,578,480
Net Income	\$242,076	(\$5,481,226)	(\$4,110,920)	(\$1,794,566)	

Alternative Analysis

Most of the members of the Advisory Council met at the Chickasaw Civic Center at 9 a.m. on July 18 to discuss the alternatives with an expectation of providing the Receiver with feedback regarding preferences.

Rusty Murdaugh spoke first indicating the workshop group that was present earlier that day met for about an hour to discuss the Alternatives for the long-term management and operation of PWWSB using the Moonshot Missions Draft Table showing five alternatives as a primer for that discussion. The purpose of the workshop was to provide feedback to the Receiver about which Alternatives would work for the long-term operation of the PWWSB. At least three were supportive of the concession alternative, a couple preferred the MAWWS alternative, and some were still undecided.

After Mr. Murdaugh concluded his comments, a lively discussion continued with the Advisory Council about the various Alternatives. The suggestion was made by Dr. Morse that the Advisory Council needed more time to discuss the Alternatives before giving feedback to the Receiver.

The decision was made by the Advisory Council to meet again on Monday, July 22, 2024, from 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. with the location TBD and the meeting notification to be sent ASAP. It was requested that the Moderator be present to facilitate that discussion and that the Receiver be available to respond to specific questions from the group regarding the Alternatives.

Communication Plan

There was a discussion about the communication of the Receiver's Draft Plan to the Advisory Council, community, and all other stakeholders.

With respect to timing, the Receiver is prepared to share the plan with the Advisory Council on the morning of July 31, 2024, after it has been shared with the management and staff of PWWSB. The document is likely to be quite large so arrangements are being made to ensure everyone can access it when the Receiver sends it electronically on July 31, 2024. After that, the Draft Master Plan would be provided to the media and the public and made available at FixPrichardWater.com.

At a later date the Receiver would be available to respond to questions about the Draft Master Plan from the Advisory Council.

Next Meeting

The next public meeting of the Advisory Council was not discussed.