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**PWWSB Receiver's Progress Has Bought Time;
Still Working to Achieve a Sustainable Long-term Solution.**

PRICHARD, Ala. – Tuesday night, John S. Young, Jr., the court-appointed Receiver for the Prichard Water Works & Sewer Board (PWWSB), outlined measurable progress, continuing infrastructure challenges, and the next steps in long-term planning during a public meeting hosted and moderated by United Concerned Citizens of Prichard.

Young reported that the receivership has secured approximately \$11.2 million in work funded by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM). The work includes water-storage tank improvements, monitoring and control technology, water-quality enhancements, financial audits and analysis, design work for the Morris wastewater-treatment plant, \$5.3M for the Lovejoy Loop pipeline design and construction, and a \$600,000 ADEM contribution toward an integration feasibility study.

Young also reported that PWWSB reduced the amount of water purchased from the Mobile Area Water and Sewer System (MAWSS) by 12% in 2025 by reducing leakage. PWWSB purchases its wholesale water from MAWSS. The reduction helped the system absorb a 6% increase in wholesale-water costs in 2026 without immediately passing that increase through to PWWSB customers.

“We have made important progress, and customers should know that the work is producing results,” Young said. “The progress has bought us some time, but it has not solved the underlying infrastructure problem. The system still needs significant investment, and the people of Prichard and Chickasaw cannot bear the full cost of water and sewer bills.”

Young explained that the integration feasibility study is being done in cooperation with the Mobile Area Water and Sewer System (MAWSS) will define the infrastructure needs, potential savings, rate implications, and the level of grant support that would be required before any reasonable integration proposal.

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“Potential funding partners want the confidence that major investments will be administered by a utility with long-term technical, managerial, and financial capacity,” Young said. The study is a due-diligence process, not the announcement of a transaction. It will evaluate capital requirements, compatibility of business systems, potential operations and maintenance efficiencies, PWWSB’s updated financial outlook and rate implications, and wastewater treatment alternatives.

The study will be completed by the end of 2026. While MAWSS has not agreed to acquire, operate, or assume responsibility, they have offered their expertise to PWWSB in the performance of the integration feasibility study. Young emphasized that any potential integration would have to protect the quality, reliability, and affordability of service provided to MAWSS’s customers.

“Now is the time for everyone to get on board and start working together to solve the underlying problems before customers face future multiple double-digit rate increases,” Young said. “The people of Prichard and Chickasaw deserve clean, affordable, and reliable water service.”

About Prichard Water Works & Sewer Board Receivership

Prichard Water Works & Sewer Board (PWWSB) is the public utility system serving the City of Prichard and the City of Chickasaw. On November 10, 2023, Mobile County Circuit Judge Youngpeter issued an order to appoint a Receiver to manage the PWWSB’s water and wastewater services and system. The court-appointed Receiver’s job is to stabilize operations, improve accountability, and protect public health and safety.