



TACIR

The Tennessee Advisory Commission
on Intergovernmental Relations



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Commission Members

FROM: Cliff Lippard
Executive Director

DATE: 25 January 2024

SUBJECT: Water/Wastewater—Panel

Much of the wastewater system infrastructure in the state is outdated and in need of being repaired or replaced while Tennessee's population growth is creating the need for expansion of existing facilities or the building of new wastewater facilities. High costs may affect the ability of local governments to repair and operate existing wastewater facilities or build new ones, creating potential risks for the public and the environment.

The Commission was asked by County Executive Jeff Huffman to study the operations and financing of Tennessee's wastewater systems during the January 2023 meeting. He asked that the study examine the condition of Tennessee's wastewater systems, the governance of wastewater utilities, best practices for management from other states, and new technologies and methods for management. He also requested that staff review the best methods for financing wastewater systems and reducing operating costs. A draft report for review and comment will be presented at the Spring 2024 Commission meeting. The final report will be presented at the Summer 2024 Commission meeting.

Today, the Commission will hear from the following panelists who are knowledgeable about the operations and financing of wastewater systems in the state:

- Brooxie Carlton, Assistant Commissioner of Community and Rural Development, Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development
- John Greer, Program Director, Tennessee Association of Utility Districts

- April Grippo, Deputy Director, Technical and Permitting Programs, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation
- Vena Jones, State Water Infrastructure Grants Manager, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation
- Steve Wyatt, Utility Operations Consultant, Municipal Technical Advisory Service