



TACIR

The Tennessee Advisory Commission
on Intergovernmental Relations



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Commission Members

FROM: Cliff Lippard
Executive Director

DATE: 28 September 2023

SUBJECT: Wastewater Systems Operations and Finances Report—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Much of the wastewater system infrastructure in the state is outdated and in need of being repaired or replaced, while Tennessee's population growth is creating the need for expansion of existing facilities or the building of new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 said the study should 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 asked that the staff look at the best methods for financing wastewater systems and reducing operating costs. A draft report for review and comment will be presented at the May 2024 Commission meeting. The final report will be presented at the September 2024 Commission meeting.

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

- Roger Goodson, General Manager, Consolidated Utility District
- John Strickland, Murfreesboro Water Resource Recovery Facility (MWRRF) Plant Manager, Water Resources, City of Murfreesboro