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## **Board of County Commissioners Workshop Request**

**Date of Meeting:** April 1, 2008

**Date Submitted:** March 19, 2008

**To:** Honorable Chairman and Members of the Board

**From:** Marlon Brown, County Manager  
Farnita L. Saunders, Community Development Director

**Subject:** Presentation of Final Water/Sewer Infrastructure Engineering and Design Study – Eutaw Utilities, Inc. and Nabors, Giblin & Nickerson, P.A

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**Statement of Issue:**

This agenda item presents and seeks the following from the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC):

1. Presents the final version of the Countywide Water/Sewer Infrastructure Engineering and Design Study.
2. Seeks BOCC approval to solicit qualified firms and/or individuals to provide oversight and implementation of the study in coordination with County staff.

**Background:**

During the 2006 Legislative Session, the Gadsden County BOCC and the six municipalities held several meetings to submit legislative priorities to the Florida Legislature for funding consideration. As a result, the County and the cities recognized the need for and supported a collaborative Water/Sewer Infrastructure Engineering and Design Study and requested the Gadsden County Legislative Delegation to submit a Community Budget Issue Request (CBIR) to secure funding for this critical need.

In July 2006, the BOCC was successfully awarded \$350,000 to conduct the Engineering and Design study and in September 2006, the BOCC was officially notified by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) of the appropriation pursuant to Line Item 1821 of the General Appropriations Act. October 30, 2006, the County issued RFP 06-019 to allow qualified firms to submit bids to conduct the Engineering and Design study.

During the January 9, 2007 meeting, the BOCC approved Eutaw Utilities, Inc. and Nabors, Giblin & Nickerson, P.A as the top ranked of seven firms to conduct the

countywide study. In February 2007 and June 2007, the BOCC received updates from Eutaw regarding the study's progress. Since this time, Eutaw Utilities, Inc. has met with and exchanged information with consulting engineers for the City of Gretna, Quincy and Havana and the Northwest Florida Water Management District regarding water resource activities within Gadsden County. Additionally, staff has conducted several meetings with Eutaw and the utility purveyors to produce the draft presented in this workshop item.

On March 11, 2008, a draft version of the study was presented to the BOCC. Since this time, comments from all utility purveyors, towns, cities and the Florida Rural Water Association were considered and included in the study.

### **Analysis:**

Since the execution of the contract with Eutaw Utilities, Inc., meetings were held with the Cities of Quincy, Chattahoochee, Midway and Gretna and the Towns of Greensboro and Havana. Eutaw Utilities, Inc. has met with each of the seven (7) utility purveyors to discuss the components of the study. These meetings were very productive and resulted in the preliminary draft presented to the BOCC on March 11, 2008. Since the March 11, 2008 presentation of the draft, additional comments were received from some of the utility purveyors and included in the final study. The only exception is a comment received from Preble-Rish, Inc. on behalf of the City of Chattahoochee related to an interconnection between the City of Chattahoochee and Florida State Hospital. The request from Preble-Rish, Inc. was to delete the need for an interconnection from the study as it had already been completed two to three months ago. Further discussions were held with the City of Chattahoochee and it was confirmed that the interconnection was completed approximately two to three months ago. It was agreed between the City of Chattahoochee and Eutaw Utilities the need for an interconnection in the study represented a positive aspect of the study and as such, this completed item will not need to be addressed during the implementation phase of the study.

The final copy of the study represents the final deliverable of the contractual agreement with Eutaw Utilities, Inc. and will satisfy all requirements of the contract.

### **Fiscal Impact:**

Funding to conduct the Engineering and Design Study is from the \$350,000 allocation awarded during the 2006 Legislative Session. This funding allowed the County to address its critical infrastructure needs without utilizing funds from the County's General Fund.

**Options:**

- Option 1: Accept the final Countywide Water/Sewer Infrastructure Engineering and Design Study as presented by Eutaw Utilities, Inc.
- Option 2: Authorize staff to solicit qualified firms and/or individuals to provide oversight and implementation of the Countywide Water/Sewer Infrastructure Engineering and Design Study.
- Option 3: Do not accept the final Countywide Water/Sewer Infrastructure Engineering and Design Study as presented by Eutaw Utilities, Inc.
- Option 4: Provide other direction.

**Recommendations:**

- Option 1: Accept the final Water/Sewer Infrastructure Engineering and Design Study as presented by Eutaw Utilities, Inc.
- Option 2: Authorize staff to solicit qualified firms and/or individuals to provide oversight and implementation of the Countywide Water/Sewer Infrastructure Engineering and Design Study.

**Attachment:**

1. Final Countywide Water/Sewer Infrastructure Engineering and Design Study
2. Letter from Preble-Rish, Inc. Regarding Interconnection
3. Response from City of Chattahoochee Regarding Interconnection



**PREBLE-RISH INC**  
CONSULTING ENGINEERS & SURVEYORS

March 14, 2008

Mr. Brian Anderson  
Nabors Giblin & Nickerson, P.A.  
Attorneys At Law  
1500 Mahan Drive  
Suite 200  
Tallahassee, FL 32302

**RE: Gadsden County Utility Study**

Dear Mr. Anderson:

I have reviewed the referenced report on behalf of the City of Chattahoochee and have the following comments as a matter of clarification. On page 17 of 166, Recommendation 2, (e): the first sentence should be deleted. The City currently has an interconnection (normally closed) with Florida State Hospital. Any other references to this recommendation in the report should be deleted also.

Hopefully, this information helps. Feel free to contact me at (850) 227-7200 if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Philip Jones, PE  
President

cc: Lee Garner, City Manager  
Travis Justice, PE  
Chris Forehand, PE

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**From:** Armstrong, Brian <barmstrong@ngn-tally.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 18, 2008 3:09 PM

**To:** Thomas A. Bryant <ThomasABryant@Comcast.net>; neihaus@comcast.net; Dale Dransfield <ddransfield@gmail.com>; Farnita Saunders <farnitas@gadsdengov.net>

**Subject:** Comment from Chattahoochee Engineer

I left a message at engineer's office, sent an email to Lee Garner and spoke to him about the engineer's comment. The City and Hospital completed the interconnect in the last 2 or 3 months, according to Lee. He does not have a problem with our inability to remove the sentence and he recalled our discussing this interconnect with him. Just another action taken as a result of the County implementing the study.