

Staff Report

Subject: Wetland Mitigation Credits for Waste Water Treatment Facility

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Department: Project Management, Procurement, Engineering

Meeting Date: April 15, 2025

Item Description: Consideration to approve the purchase of 1.12 wetland mitigation credits from ML South Augusta, LLC for the Effingham County Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) Expansion Project.

Summary Recommendation: Staff recommends the approval of this procurement to fulfill U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) permitting requirements.

Executive Summary/Background:

As part of the Effingham County Wastewater Treatment Facility Expansion Project, the County is required by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Permit Number SAS-2023-08910) to obtain 1.12 wetland mitigation credits under the Wetland (2004) classification. The mitigation is necessary to offset environmental impacts associated with the project in the impacted Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) 3060109.

A *Statement of Credit Availability* dated April 1, 2025, confirms the availability of the required credits from the **Phinizy Swamp Mitigation Bank – Phase II**, managed by ML South Augusta, LLC. The associated *Invoice* reflects a purchase cost of **\$95,200** for the 1.12 credits.

Approval of this purchase ensures compliance with federal environmental permitting standards and allows the WWTF expansion to proceed on schedule.

Alternatives for Commission to Consider

1. Approve the procurement of 1.12 wetland mitigation credits from ML South Augusta, LLC.
2. Do not approve.

Recommended Alternative: 1

Other Alternatives: 2

Department Review: Project Management, Engineering, Procurement

Funding Source: WWTP Capital Budget FY25

Attachments: Statement of Credit Availability, Invoice from ML South Augusta