

Staff Report

Subject: Ratification of Revised Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) – Effingham County and Bryan County Surface Water Project

Author: Tim Callanan

Department: County Manager

Meeting Date: March 17, 2026

Item Description: Consideration to ratify a revised Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Effingham County and Bryan County related to coordination of infrastructure associated with the Coastal Georgia Regional Water Partnership Surface Water Project.

Summary Recommendation: Staff recommends ratification of the revised Memorandum of Understanding between Effingham County and Bryan County.

Executive Summary/Background: On December 16, 2025, the Effingham County Board of Commissioners approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Bryan County related to coordination of infrastructure associated with the Coastal Georgia Regional Water Partnership Surface Water Project. The MOU outlines cooperation between the counties for construction coordination, easement use, and development of future agreements related to the regional water supply system.

Since the Board's approval, a revised version of the MOU has been prepared to provide clarification and update one exhibit. The primary revisions include:

- **Revised Exhibit F – Utility Encroachment Agreement:** Updated to clarify procedures for Effingham County utilities encroaching within Bryan County utility easements, including plan review and construction coordination.
- **Clarification of Easement Use:** Additional language describing the process for obtaining temporary construction and permanent access easements for installation and maintenance of Effingham County infrastructure.
- **Settlement Language Update:** Minor revisions aligning the condemnation action language related to the Effingham BOC parcel with the Final Consent Order and Judgment included in the exhibits.

These revisions clarify supporting documentation while maintaining the original intent and terms previously approved by the Board.

Alternatives for Commission to Consider:

1. Ratify the revised Memorandum of Understanding between Effingham County and Bryan County.
2. Provide staff with direction.

Recommended Alternative: Staff recommends Alternative 1 – Ratification of the revised Memorandum of Understanding between Effingham County and Bryan County.

Other Alternatives: N/A

Department Review: County Manager, Attorney, Engineering

Funding Source: N/A

Attachments: Revised Memorandum of Understanding – Effingham County and Bryan County