

Staff Report

Subject: Approval of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Between Bryan County and Effingham County Regarding the Surface Water Project
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Department: County Manager
Meeting Date: December 16, 2025

Item Description: Approval of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Bryan County and Effingham County that outlines shared responsibilities, rights-of-way access, and future intergovernmental agreements necessary for the construction and operation of the Coastal Georgia Regional Water Partnership's (CGRWP) Surface Water Project.

Summary Recommendation:

Staff recommends approval of the MOU to facilitate continued collaboration with Bryan County on regional water infrastructure projects.

Executive Summary:

Effingham County and Bryan County, as part of the Coastal Georgia Regional Water Partnership (CGRWP), are working jointly on a regional surface water supply and transmission system to meet increasing water demand. This MOU:

- Outlines the commitment of both counties to construct their respective portions of the Surface Water Project.
- Establishes parameters for future intergovernmental agreements (IGAs) and a Water Service Agreement, including ownership, capacity, service areas, rates, and use of easements.
- Grants Effingham County the right to co-locate infrastructure within Bryan's existing sewer easements in unincorporated Effingham County.
- Commits both parties to finalize and adopt definitive agreements within 120 days of MOU execution.

Background:

Effingham and Bryan Counties have both received state funding for their roles in the CGRWP. Bryan has already acquired easement rights in Effingham County for the I-16 Regional Sewer Improvements Project. Effingham seeks to use a portion of those easements to install surface water infrastructure to support long-term regional water supply planning.

Alternatives for Commission to Consider:

1. Approve the MOU as presented to allow project planning and construction to proceed.
2. Do not approve the MOU.
3. Provide staff with direction.

Recommended Alternative:

Staff recommends alternative 1 – Approve the MOU as presented.

Other Alternatives:

None at this time.

Department Review:

- Effingham County Manager
- Legal Counsel

Funding Source:

No direct funding obligation is created by this MOU.

Attachments:

1. Memorandum of Understanding (Bryan-Effingham Surface Water MOU)
2. Exhibit Maps (A-E, as referenced in the MOU)