



2024

Annual Report

Cape Fear Public Utility Authority



The late author David Foster Wallace began a 2005 college commencement address with: “There are these two young fish swimming along and they happen to meet an older fish swimming the other way, who nods at them and says, ‘Morning, boys. How’s the water?’” One young fish later turned to the other and asked, “What’s water?” Though water was a most basic requirement for their continued existence, its ubiquity kept them from noticing it. After all, water will always be there. Until it’s not.

This was brought into sharp relief this year for tens of thousands of residents in Western North Carolina impacted by the remnants of Hurricane Helene. The City of Asheville’s drinking water system was particularly hard hit. Residents used to turning on taps, flushing toilets, and taking warm showers confronted a world stripped of conveniences water makes possible.

The services provided by utilities such as CFPUA allow businesses, industry, and institutions like schools and hospitals to function and grow and local and regional economies to flourish, providing the jobs, amenities, and conveniences we all enjoy.

Earlier this year, we contracted with an economic firm to estimate the value of CFPUA’s water and wastewater services and the tens of millions of dollars of annual infrastructure investments. The result was a report titled “Economic Impacts of Cape Fear Public Utility Authority’s Water and Wastewater Services and Infrastructure Investments.”

An article on page 8 of this Annual Report provides more details, but we want to highlight two findings. First, each single day of total water service loss would cost New Hanover County \$70.4 million to \$93.2 million in economic output and cost each household \$650 and \$860.

Second, the CFPUA’s investments in our community’s water and wastewater systems do more than replace aging infrastructure and improve and expand our system. Knock-on effects such as increased employment and spending at local businesses reverberate through the local economy. Every \$1 million spent by CFPUA in the 2013-2022 study period generated more than 10 jobs per year. Every dollar CFPUA spent spurred \$1.66 in economic output in the local economy.

In early 2026, construction is expected to start on the largest infrastructure investment in CFPUA’s history: the replacement of the 50-plus-year-old Southside Wastewater Treatment Plant. A preliminary cost based on 30 percent design was being finalized as we write this letter. This crucial investment will position our community to continue to meet regulations, increase system resilience, and accommodate inevitable growth. And, as discussed above, it also will create jobs and invigorate the local economy.

CFPUA staff have worked diligently to reduce the financial impact of this project on our customers, securing \$105 million in low-interest State Revolving Fund loans. Our Board also has embarked on a plan that spread the required rate adjustments across several years, rather than in one sharp increase.

On behalf of our Board and the employees of CFPUA, we thank you for your continued support and invite you to explore our work in the pages of this report.



Kenneth Waldroup, P.E.
CFPUA Executive Director



Jennifer Adams
CFPUA Board Chairwoman

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This Report is available at CFPUA.org.



Connect with CFPUA on social media



Southside Takes Shape

Design and other preparatory work continued in 2024 on the largest capital improvement project in CFPUA's history: the Southside Wastewater Treatment Plant Replacement and Expansion Project.

Southside has been operating at its River Road location since 1972, the year Congress approved the Clean Water Act, aimed at reducing pollution, including from wastewater plants, in the nation's waterways. Southside is one of two wastewater treatment plants in CFPUA's system, the other being the Northside Wastewater Treatment Plant near Wilmington International Airport. Although Southside has been improved and expanded over the

years and continues to meet all regulations, Southside has reached the end of its useful life and must be replaced.

This project also will increase Southside's treatment capacity from 12 million gallons per day (MGD) to 16-20 MGD, with provisions for potential future expansion to up to 24 MGD. This increased capacity is needed by 2030, so wastewater flows may be redirected from the Northside Plant, allowing CFPUA to continue to effectively accommodate our community's growth and protect our environment with enhanced, efficient treatment.

In September, staff held a public hearing on the project's Engineer-

ing Report/Environmental Information Document. In October, design-build contractor Crowder Construction Company completed the project's 30 percent design package, and a preliminary maximum guaranteed price based on 30 percent design is expected soon.

The CFPUA Board and staff have worked diligently to lessen the impact of funding this project on our customers. As of this year, staff have secured \$105 million in low-interest State Revolving Fund loans, and the Board has approved a plan to spread rate adjustments required for additional funding over several years.

Find out more about this project at cfpu.org/Southside. 💧

Merger Ahead



Employee Spotlight:
Kylie Anthony

Ensuring accurate, timely bills for every CFPUA customer requires a fleet of Meter Readers like Kylie Anthony. Every month, Kylie's team is reading each of the 75,000 water meters across our service area.

"CFPUA's staff strives hard to provide and maintain the best services," Kylie said.

Kylie is a Wilmington native who has been a part of CFPUA's staff for three years. When she's not on the job, Kylie is spending time with her 7-year-old daughter, playing games and enjoying the outdoors.

She says one of her favorite parts of the job with CFPUA is not being tied to an office.

"Before this I've always worked in places where I looked at the same four walls," she said.

In September 2025, the Town of Wrightsville Beach's water and sewer customers are slated to become customers of CFPUA. This change will be the culmination of years of work by Town and CFPUA staff to plan a sustainable, non-disruptive, and affordable consolidation of the Town's utility systems.

One of the reasons for the consolidation is ensuring the town's homes and businesses continue to have reliable access to quality drinking water. While Wrightsville Beach has long been a wholesale water customer of CFPUA, particularly during its busy summer months, much of the Town's water is still sourced from groundwater wells on the island. These wells have seen worsening impacts on water quality from saltwater intrusion and PFAS contamination.

Not only will the consolidation eventually provide Wrightsville Beach's customers with drinking water year-round from CFPUA's state-of-the-art Sweeney Water Treatment Plant, it also will make the town's infrastructure more resilient.

Among the more than \$23.5 million in infrastructure improvements planned as part of the consolidation are two new mains crossing the Intracoastal Waterway: one for water and one for sewer. These secondary mains will ensure Town customers can continue receiving water and sewer services in the event of damage to the existing mains.

The Town's wastewater system includes a network of pump stations, half of which are reaching the end of their useful lives. These will be replaced after consolidation is finalized next fall, reducing the risk of sanitary sewer overflows throughout the Town.

Importantly, the consolidation is designed to pay for itself.

Since CFPUA and the Town began exploring the possibility of consolidation, CFPUA staff has worked closely with our region's legislators to secure funding. The State's 2023 Appropriations Act allocated \$17 million to CFPUA and another \$8 million to the Town for the project. After the final transition in September 2025, Wrightsville Beach cus-

tomers will pay the same rates and fees as other CFPUA customers.

Finally, all current Town of Wrightsville Beach water and sewer employees will be offered a position at CFPUA.

Wrightsville Beach's customers can look forward to better water, more reliable infrastructure, and the same high-quality service that CFPUA customers receive, at the same price. 

Other Major Projects

River Road Booster Pump Station

What: New booster pump station to feed drinking water from the Sweeney Water Treatment Plant to the Monterey Heights Water System

Project Start: March 2025

Project Complete: March 2027

Cost: \$14 million

Details: The booster station will be located on the western side of River Road immediately north of Motts Creek. The project includes construction of a new transmission main along River Road, beginning on the northern side of Motts Creek, connecting to a previously installed water main, and terminating at an existing 12-inch water main at Halyburton Memorial Parkway.

The new transmission main will supply water from Sweeney Water Treatment Plant into the Monterey Heights Water System, which currently receives drinking water from groundwater wells. This will add reliability and resiliency to the Monterey Heights System and reduce costs associated with operating and maintaining the Monterey Heights wells. It will also allow CFPUA to fill the existing Veterans Park Elevated Tank more efficiently. After completion of the project, the Monterey Heights groundwater wells will be converted to emergency status.

Walnut Street Pump Station Replacement

What: Replacement of the Walnut Street Pump Station in downtown Wilmington

Project Start: June 28, 2024

Project Complete: August 2026

Cost: \$6,882,255

Details: This project will fully replace the Walnut Street Pump Station at the intersection of Walnut Street and North Water Street, which has reached the end of its useful life. The project, as well as sewer replacement and rehabilitation work recently completed by CFPUA in the area, will allow CFPUA to decommission Pump Station 11, located in the median of Market Street between Front and Water streets.



Large-Scale Technology Infrastructure Upgrade

What: Overhaul of Information Technology infrastructure across the organization

Project Start: January 25, 2024

Project Complete: August 14, 2024

Cost: \$720,393

Details: CFPUA's Information Technology Department completed a massive overhaul of the organization's technology infrastructure, including replacing 20 aging physical servers with 18 new, highly efficient servers, minimizing the risk of system failures.

To further enhance reliability, two 20-kilowatt Lithium-ion Uninterruptible Power Supplies were installed, offering top-tier protection against power interruptions.

The project was executed with minimal downtime, maintaining seamless access to crucial systems and ensuring that CFPUA's core technology remained operational throughout the transition.



Employee Spotlight:
Allan Upham

Senior Water Control Supervisor Allan Upham helps keep CFPUA's Richardson Water Treatment Plant running 24/7/365.

While it may be the smaller of CFPUA's two water plants, Richardson treats nearly 20 percent of the drinking water CFPUA delivers to customers. Allan and his team ensure the plant's reverse osmosis technology is operating properly to treat clean, high quality drinking water for Wilmington.

"Our customers and their opinions are extremely important to me, especially with all of the challenges that we as a community have faced over the past few years," he said. "I want them to know about the good people that are behind the essential product that we provide, specifically the water and wastewater plant operators."

"Last Frontier" Projects

What: A series of projects funded by CFPUA and New Hanover County to expand water and sewer infrastructure in the northern portion of the county

Project Start: Various

Project Complete: Various, through April 2026

Cost: CFPUA-Funded: \$19,060,000; New Hanover County-Funded: \$35,867,316; American Rescue Plan Act Grant-Funded: \$30,385,000

Details: CFPUA and New Hanover County are partnering on a slate of projects to bring water and sewer infrastructure to northern New Hanover County. Referred to as the "Last Frontier," this area of our community is considered one of the last in which significant development is feasible. Projects include: the Holly Shelter Road Sewer and Water Force Mains, the North College Road Water Main, the Blue Clay Road Water Main Phase 1, Sidbury Road Sewer Force Main, the Greenview West and East Area Sewer Force Mains, and the Northern Regional Pump Station and Force Mains Phases A and B.

The last of these projects is set to be complete in spring 2026.

Water, Sewer, and the Region's Economy

CFPUA invests tens of millions of dollars in our community's infrastructure to ensure families and businesses in our community have access to safe, reliable water and wastewater services.

Such spending, however, has impacts that reverberate beyond treatment plants, pipes, and pump stations, from job creation and spending at local businesses to the support and growth of water-reliant industries.

These were quantified this year in a report titled "Economic Impacts of Cape Fear Public Utility Authority's Water and Wastewater Services and Infrastructure Investments," presented to the CFPUA Board at its February meeting.

The report analyzes changes in employment, economic output, and other economic activity in New Hanover County resulting from spending by CFPUA on water and wastewater infrastructure and

Average annual total value-added and economic output impacts of CFPUA operating and capital expenditures, 2013-2022 (\$M, 2023 USD)		
Impact type	Total value added ^a	Economic output (output multiplier)
Direct	\$40.4	\$88.8
Indirect	\$19.9	\$38.6
Induced	\$17.6	\$30.4
Total	\$78.0	\$157.8 (1.61)
a. Total value added is one component of economic output (i.e., value added and economic output are not additive). It includes labor income, taxes on production/imports, and other property income.		

operations, as well as the loss of business revenues that would result from water service disruptions. It examines economic growth in the region that also includes Brunswick and Pender counties facilitated by CFPUA's system investments and the water and wastewater services they support.

Key findings include:

- Every \$1 million spent by

CFPUA from 2013-2022 created an average of 10.7 jobs per year in New Hanover County.

- Over the same 10-year period, each \$1 spent by CFPUA generated a total of \$1.66 in economic output in the local economy as that spending rippled through various sectors.

Using planned capital and operational expenditures for fiscal years

2024 Timeline

February 14: The CFPUA Board honors New Hanover County's delegation to the N.C. General Assembly for members' work to support our region's utility infrastructure, water resources, and environment. In a resolution, the Board thanked Senators Michael V. Lee and Bill Rabon, and Representatives Deb Butler, Ted Davis, Jr., and Charles

W. Miller for their work during the legislative session. The 2023 Appropriations Act allocated \$35 million to CFPUA, including \$17 million to support regional utility consolidation efforts and \$18 million to extend CFPUA water service to areas dealing with PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) contamination in private groundwater wells. The State Budget also included funding for Lower Cape

Fear Water and Sewer Authority to complete its 54-inch Parallel Raw Water Transmission Main and to support the consolidation of the Town of Wrightsville Beach's water and sewer system into CFPUA.

February 14: The CFPUA Board receives a report titled "Economic Impacts of Cape Fear Public Utility Authority's Water and Wastewater Services and Infrastructure

2023 through 2027, economists predict CFPUA investments would generate \$251 million per year in total economic output and support 1,467 jobs annually. Economists also found that CFPUA's positive employment impacts and economic output multipliers are 8 percent and 9 percent higher, respectively, than the average for utilities serving Raleigh, Fayetteville, Greensboro, and Charlotte.

The report highlights water-dependent industries in New Hanover County – ranging from hospitals and colleges to restaurants and

breweries. In New Hanover County, water-dependent industries account for approximately 37 percent of total direct economic output and 40 percent of total employment. In the three-county region, water-dependent industries support almost 65,500 jobs and contribute more than \$11.1 billion in economic output.

To help frame the importance of CFPUA's ongoing capital improvement plan, the report also examined the potential economic impact of a water service outage on the local economy and individual house-

holds. From the analysis, each day of total outage could result in a loss of \$70.4 million to \$93.2 million in economic output countywide and cost each household between \$650 and \$860, depending on outage duration. CFPUA's ongoing work to maintain, improve, and build redundancy into the water system on which our community relies greatly reduces the risk of water outages, particularly extended outages.

The report was prepared for CFPUA by Loveland, Colorado-based One Water Econ, which prepared a similar report for Charlotte Water. 

Average annual employment impacts associated with CFPUA expenditures, 2013 – 2022

Impact type	Average annual employment (2013 – 2022)	Employment generated per \$1M spent by CFPUA	Average wages (2023 USD)
Direct	591 ^{a,b}	6.2	\$ 66,824
Indirect	215	2.3	\$ 57,125
Induced	216	2.3	\$ 41,988
Total effects	1,023	10.7	\$ 59,532

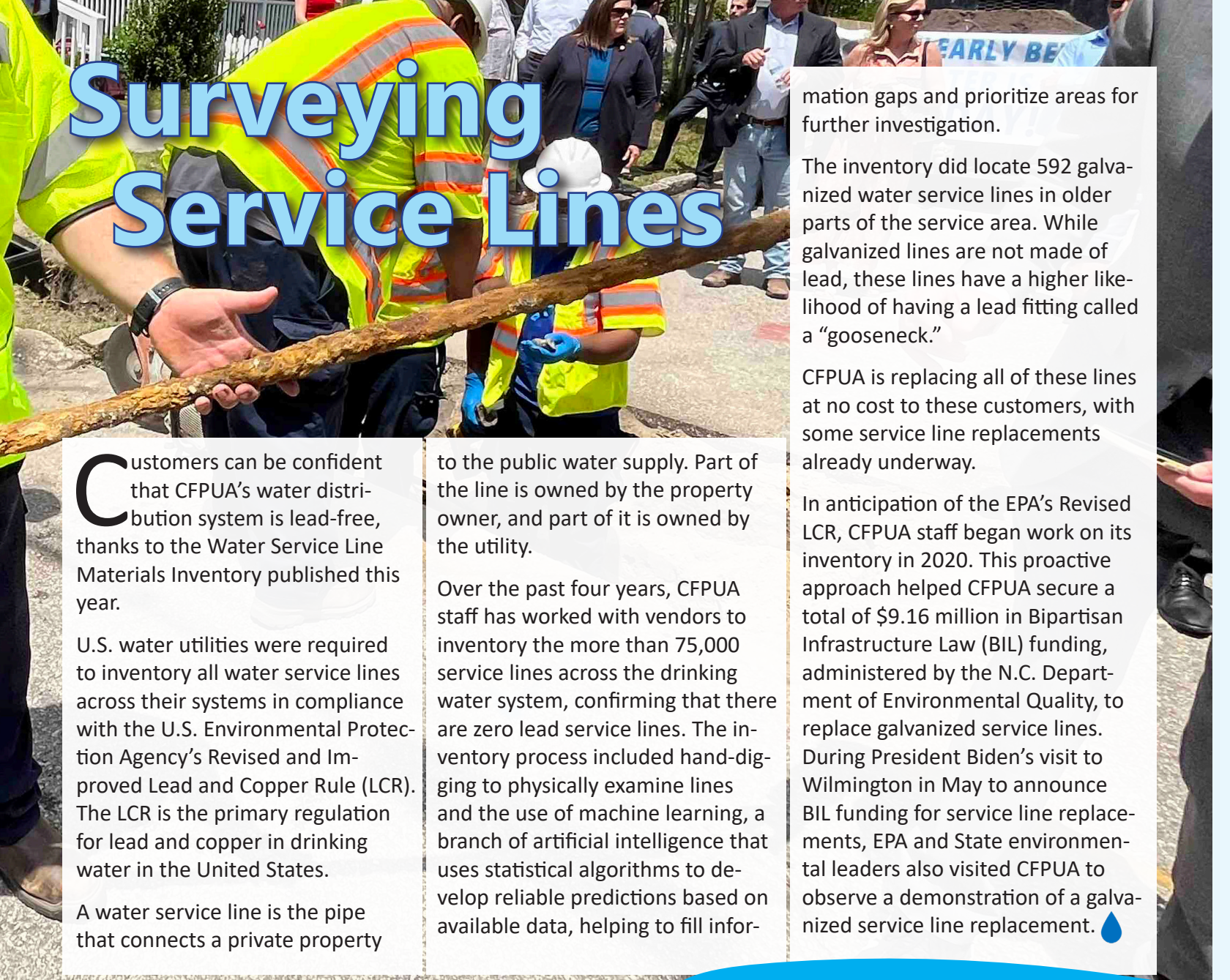
- a. Direct employment reflects jobs filled by CFPUA employees, as well as contractors and businesses hired directly by CFPUA. For direct employment, IMPLAN includes all employment created by direct spending, including jobs filled by non-residents, because these jobs occur within New Hanover County.
- b. Numbers may not add due to rounding

Investments” at its regular monthly meeting. The report analyzes changes in employment, economic output, and other economic activity in New Hanover County resulting from spending by CFPUA on water and wastewater infrastructure and operations.

March 13: The CFPUA Board recognizes outgoing Authority Attorney Linda Miles, who stepped down

from her role after nearly 15 years of service to the utility, its customers, and the community. In a resolution recognizing Ms. Miles’ many contributions, the Board noted her guidance as CFPUA “navigated and fulfilled an Environmental Protection Agency Consent Order with origins pre-dating the Authority’s creation,” and “through litigation in Federal Court regarding PFAS contamination”

May 2: CFPUA hosts a service line replacement demonstration for state and federal regulatory partners as part of a visit by President Joe Biden to highlight funding in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law aimed at replacing lead service lines in municipal water systems. CFPUA’s participation in the event occurred in large part because of its years of proactive work to inventory service lines in its system to



Surveying Service Lines

Customers can be confident that CFPUA's water distribution system is lead-free, thanks to the Water Service Line Materials Inventory published this year.

U.S. water utilities were required to inventory all water service lines across their systems in compliance with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Revised and Improved Lead and Copper Rule (LCR). The LCR is the primary regulation for lead and copper in drinking water in the United States.

A water service line is the pipe that connects a private property

to the public water supply. Part of the line is owned by the property owner, and part of it is owned by the utility.

Over the past four years, CFPUA staff has worked with vendors to inventory the more than 75,000 service lines across the drinking water system, confirming that there are zero lead service lines. The inventory process included hand-digging to physically examine lines and the use of machine learning, a branch of artificial intelligence that uses statistical algorithms to develop reliable predictions based on available data, helping to fill infor-

mation gaps and prioritize areas for further investigation.

The inventory did locate 592 galvanized water service lines in older parts of the service area. While galvanized lines are not made of lead, these lines have a higher likelihood of having a lead fitting called a "gooseneck."

CFPUA is replacing all of these lines at no cost to these customers, with some service line replacements already underway.

In anticipation of the EPA's Revised LCR, CFPUA staff began work on its inventory in 2020. This proactive approach helped CFPUA secure a total of \$9.16 million in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding, administered by the N.C. Department of Environmental Quality, to replace galvanized service lines. During President Biden's visit to Wilmington in May to announce BIL funding for service line replacements, EPA and State environmental leaders also visited CFPUA to observe a demonstration of a galvanized service line replacement. 💧

comply with changes to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Lead and Copper Rule.

May 8: Long-serving Board member William (Bill) Norris, whose term ends in June, is recognized for his service by his fellow members. Mr. Norris was first appointed to the CFPUA Board by Wilmington City Council in September 2013 and served continuously on the Board

since that time, including as Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Treasurer.

May 8: Nicolette Fulton is named Authority Attorney by the CFPUA Board. Ms. Fulton joined CFPUA in May 2022 as Deputy Authority Attorney. She served as interim Authority Attorney following the March retirement of longtime Authority Attorney Linda Miles.

May 23: The CFPUA Board approves the organization's fiscal year 2025 (FY25) operating budget, which totals \$120 million, a 6.3 percent increase over the FY24 budget. Under the FY25 budget, the average residential customer's monthly bill for combined water and sewer services will increase by \$3.38, or 4.6 percent, starting with services delivered July 1, 2024. Major drivers of the FY25 budget

National Honors

In 2024, CFPUA continued its record of national recognition as a leader in the water and wastewater sectors.

CFPUA was honored to receive the Water Research Foundation's 2024 Subscriber Impact Award, recognizing our contributions to research on effectively treating drinking water for PFAS.

The Water Research Foundation (WRF) is the leading research organization for the water industry. CFPUA has been a WRF member since the utility was created in 2008 with the merger of the water and wastewater services of the City of Wilmington and New Hanover County. City and County staff who subsequently joined CFPUA have participated in WRF projects as far back as 1986.

CFPUA is the first water utility in North Carolina to receive WRF's



Subscriber Impact Award and is one of two 2024 recipients of the award, along with the Great Lakes Water Authority of Detroit, Michigan.

This year CFPUA was also named a Utility of the Future Today by the Water Environment Federation (WEF).

This program honors water sector utilities that are transforming their operations through innovation,

technology, and culture change. The program serves as a model for utilities of all sizes to achieve more efficient operations, enhanced productivity, and long-term sustainability.

Both awards are a recognition of the superior services CFPUA provides to its customers, and our contributions to the field of water and sewer management. 💧

and rate increases include costs related to CFPUA's efforts to address Chemours' PFAS contamination in the Cape Fear River and work to replace CFPUA's Southside Wastewater Treatment Plant (SSWWTP).

June 19: The CFPUA Board approves an agreement to consolidate the Town of Wrightsville Beach's water and wastewater services into the CFPUA system. The agreement

resulted from almost two years of negotiations with the Town and subsequently was approved by the Town's Board of Aldermen, engineers of the City of Wilmington and New Hanover County, and the N.C. Local Government Commission.

June 19: CFPUA is named a Utility of the Future Today by the Water Environment Federation (WEF). The program recognizes water sector

utilities that are transforming their operations through innovation, technology, and culture change. The program serves as a model for utilities of all sizes to achieve more efficient operations, enhanced productivity, and long-term sustainability.

August 14: Leslie Hudson is sworn in as the Board's newest member. Appointed by the Wilmington

Continued on next page

Financial Reports

Statement of Net Position*

Date: June 30, 2024

ASSETS

Current assets	\$96,338,882
Non-current assets, including capital assets	\$888,983,926
Total assets	\$985,322,808

DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES

\$17,964,673

LIABILITIES

Current liabilities	\$48,128,646
Noncurrent liabilities	\$272,533,099
Total liabilities	\$320,661,745

DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES

\$1,368,608

NET POSITION

Net investment in capital assets	\$623,633,593
Restricted	\$9,234,916
Unrestricted	\$48,388,619

Total net position \$681,257,128

This statement shows the Authority's net position – the extent to which the Authority's assets exceed its liabilities. This statement categorizes net position into three types:

1) Net investment in capital assets is equal to the depreciated value of the Authority's capital investment in water and sewer infrastructure less any outstanding amount of debt used to acquire or construct those assets. These amounts are not available to fund the Authority's ongoing operations.

2) Restricted net position represents assets and liabilities that are restricted by law, Board action, or outside parties. For the Authority, the amount in this category is the amount restricted to pay principal and interest on outstanding debt.

3) Unrestricted net position is the portion of total net position that is available to fund the Authority's ongoing operations. A relatively high amount of unrestricted net position is an indication of financial health and resilience.

*** Information contained on this page is unaudited. CFPUA maintained Aa1 and AA+ credit ratings from Moody's and S&P, respectively. Both ratings are just one notch below the highest-possible rating.**

City Council, Ms. Hudson works at the University of North Carolina Wilmington as a member of the Vice Chancellor for Business Affairs leadership team, where she manages the University's debt portfolio, unrestricted trust fund cash investments, and the University's credit rating. In addition to the assumption of her Board duties, Ms. Hudson will serve on the Board's Sustainability and Communications

committees in the coming year. Her term ends in 2027.

September 18: CFPUA's Executive Director Kenneth Waldroup, P.E., is elected to serve a four-year term on the Board of Directors of the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies (AMWA), a leading water industry organization. AMWA works with leadership of the nation's largest public water systems to develop

policy recommendations to support safe, affordable, and sustainability drinking water in America.

September 30: CFPUA's Customer Service Lobby at 235 Government Center Drive reopens to the public for the first time in more than a year. The lobby, along with several other portions of the building, sustained significant water damage after a water heater failed.

Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position*
Fiscal year ended June 30, 2024

REVENUES

Operating revenues	
Charges for services	\$97,837,298
System development charges	\$5,773,400
Other operating revenues	\$2,845,432
Nonoperating revenues	
Investment earnings	\$3,712,286
Grants	\$10,164,061
Other nonoperating revenues	\$167,662
Total revenues	\$120,500,139

EXPENSES

Operating expenses	\$74,072,281
Depreciation and amortization	\$31,855,701
Nonoperating expenses	\$7,673,772
Total expenses	\$113,601,754

Increase in net position before capital contributions	\$6,898,385
Capital contributions	\$15,932,427
Increase in net position	\$22,830,812
Net position, July 1	\$658,426,316
Net position, June 30	\$681,257,128

This statement shows how the Authority’s net position has changed from the prior fiscal year.

The Authority’s net position increased by \$22.8 million during FY24. The improvement in the CFPUA’s net position is directly attributable to the continued commitment to fund more investments in CFPUA’s water and wastewater system with rate revenues as opposed to debt.

Because of these policies, CFPUA has limited the amount debt used to fund capital investments, which will save rate payers in the future through reduced interest costs.



Employee Spotlight:
Ken Mendonça

Procurement Analyst Ken Mendonça joined CFPUA’s Finance team in 2023 after two years with our Customer Service Department. In his current role, Ken helps oversee service agreements and purchase orders for the many outside vendors with which CFPUA works.

“I’m learning so much about the tremendous variety of work CFPUA does every day,” he said. “Everyone I’ve worked with at CFPUA puts their duty and responsibility to the customers and our community first and foremost when they come to work every day.”

When not at the office, you can find avid golfer Ken on a local green, often the Wilmington Municipal Golf Course.

October 2: Several members of Cape Fear Public Utility Authority’s staff deploy to Western North Carolina to support water utilities in communities recovering from Hurricane Helene. Two crews from CFPUA’s Pump Stations team helped the Town of Hendersonville bring wastewater pump stations back online, and staff from CFPUA’s Collections Maintenance team delivered a trailer of supplies

to the City of Asheville, including equipment provided by the City of Durham and cases of water donated personally by CFPUA staff. CFPUA also stationed staff at the State Emergency Operations Center in Raleigh to provide logistical support, while IT staff traveled to Conover to provide technological support to the N.C. Division of Emergency Management’s Western Branch.

October 25: CFPUA and other regional utilities join LCFWASA to celebrate the groundbreaking of the region’s newest raw water transmission main, which will significantly increase capacity for water utilities in Southeastern N.C. This final section of raw water main will run 10 miles from Brunswick County’s Northwest Water Treatment Plant to Pender County and CFPUA facilities on U.S. 421. 

Board Members



**Jennifer
Adams**

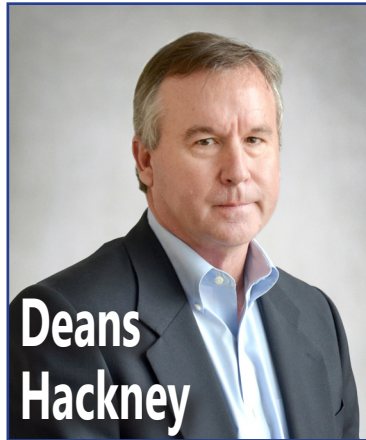
Chairwoman

Appointed by New Hanover County

Seated in 2016

Term ends 2025

Committees: Executive, Finance, & Human Resources



**Deans
Hackney**

Vice-Chairman

Appointed by the City of Wilmington

Seated in 2018

Term ends 2025

Committees: Executive, Finance, & Long Range Planning



**Jessica
Cannon, M.D.**

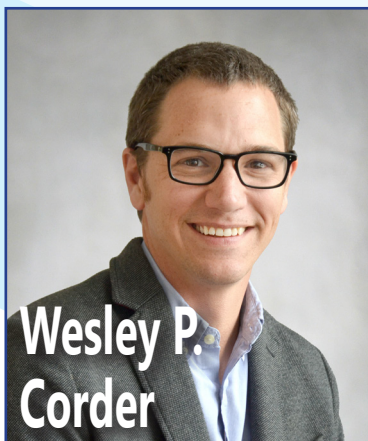
Secretary

Appointed by the City of Wilmington

Seated in 2019

Term ends 2026

Committees: Executive, Human Resources, & Sustainability



**Wesley P.
Corder**

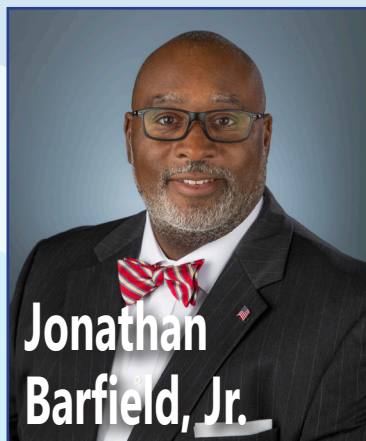
Treasurer

Jointly appointed by the City of Wilmington and New Hanover County

Seated in 2017

Term ends 2026

Committees: Communications, Executive, & Finance



**Jonathan
Barfield, Jr.**

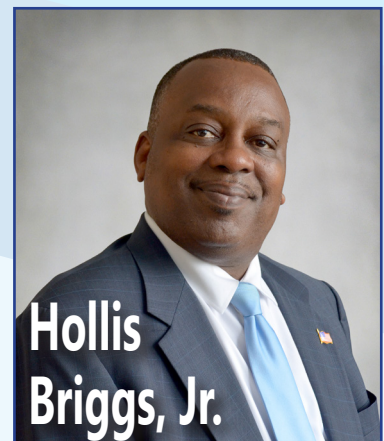
Commissioner

Appointed by New Hanover County

Seated in 2019

Term ends 2024

Committees: Communications & Human Resources



**Hollis
Briggs, Jr.**

Member

Appointed by New Hanover County

Seated in 2019

Term ends 2024

Committees: Communications, Human Resources, Sustainability, & Long Range Planning



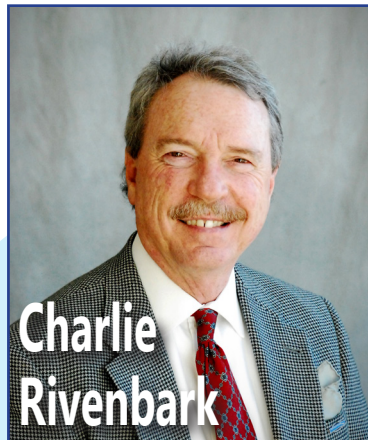
Member

Appointed by the City of
Wilmington

Seated in 2024

Term ends 2027

Committees: Communications,
Sustainability



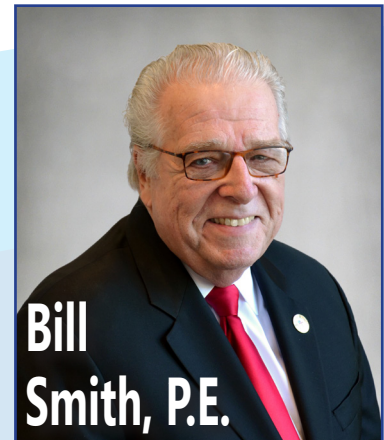
Councilman

Appointed by the City of
Wilmington

Seated in 2010

Term ends 2027

Committees: Long Range
Planning



Member

Appointed by New Hanover
County

Seated in 2023

Term ends 2026

Committees: Long Range
Planning



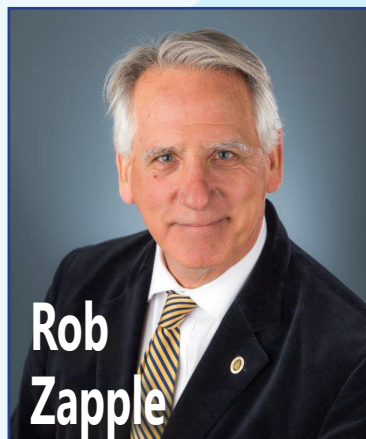
Councilman

Appointed by the City of
Wilmington

Seated in 2022

Term ends 2025

Committees: Finance and
Sustainability



Commissioner

Appointed by New Hanover
County

Seated in 2019

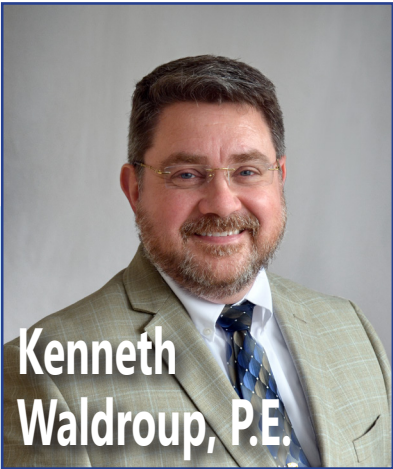
Term ends 2024

Committees: Finance, Long
Range Planning, &
Sustainability



Clerk to the Board

Executive Team



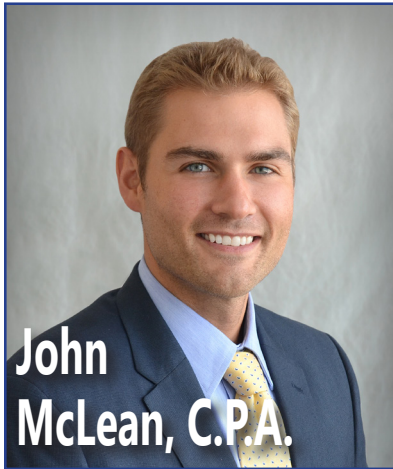
**Kenneth
Waldroup, P.E.**

Executive Director



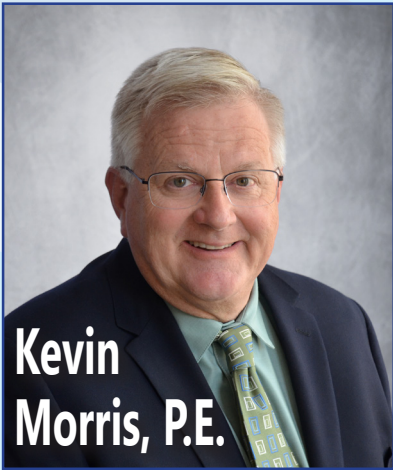
**Beth
Eckert**

**Deputy Executive Director,
Environment, Sustainability, &
Linear Assets**



**John
McLean, C.P.A.**

**Deputy Executive Director,
Chief Financial Officer**



**Kevin
Morris, P.E.**

**Deputy Executive Director,
Treatment & Engineering**



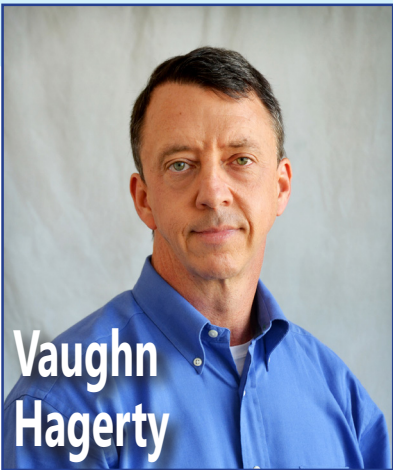
**Cord
Ellison, C.G.C.I.O.**

Chief Information Officer



**Nicolette
Fulton**

Authority Attorney



**Vaughn
Hagerty**

Director of Communications



**Lori
McKoy**

Human Resources Director

Committee Reports

Communications Committee

The Communications Committee is a standing committee that meets as needed to provide guidance on CFPUA's communications strategies to deliver information to customers and stakeholders.

In 2024, the Communications Committee received a presentation from staff outlining options for enhancing the appearance of CFPUA's elevated water storage tanks.

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee, which comprises officers of the Board, met monthly to review Board meeting schedules and agendas, appoint committee members, and receive legal advice. The Executive Committee also reviewed legal issues that affect CFPUA.

The committee consults with other members of the Board who have expertise or interest in certain areas and solicits input from the public. Members oversee and monitor the performance of the Executive Director.

Finance Committee

The Authority's Treasurer serves as Finance Committee Chair. During Fiscal Year 2024, the Committee reviewed and recommended agenda items relating to a variety of financial issues including the approval of significant construction and services contracts, the approval of strategic plan initiatives, the approval of the Fiscal Year 2025 operating and capital budgets.

The Committee approved important contracts like the ARPA funded Northern Regional Pump Station Phase A & B projects. Additionally, the Southside Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade is progressing, with the Committee approving the first design build contract and a \$35 million low interest loan for the project. The Committee was also presented the Economic Impact Study that was undertaken the prior year as part of the Consolidation Study. The Committee received and discussed the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024, prepared by CFPUA staff. The auditor presented a "clean" opinion on this report, which also received the Government Financial Officers Association's Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting.

Human Resources Committee

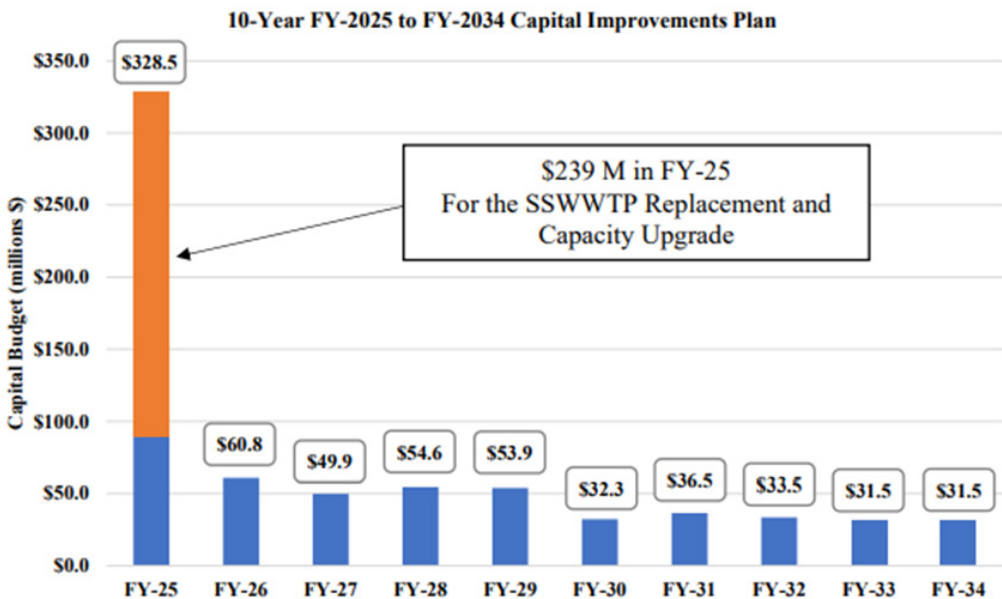
The Human Resources Committee is a standing committee that meets as needed. The committee reviews, advises on, and recommends actions on matters involving CFPUA employees or as designated by the Board. The Human Resources Committee met periodically during the fiscal year. The Human Resources Committee met periodically during the fiscal year. Items considered at the meetings included initiatives on staff and leadership development; inclusion, equity, and belonging related to the Strategic Plan; and employee benefits and compensation.

Committee Reports

Long Range Planning Committee

The Long Range Planning Committee is a standing committee that met monthly to receive updates on projects and the Fiscal Year 2025 Capital Improvements Plan. Projects discussed in 2024 included:

- Connecting Private Well Owners to CFPWA Water Service
- Prioritization of Water Main Extensions to Private Wells
- Large Meter Testing Program and Meter Vault Upgrades
- Cross Connection and Backflow Update
- Southside Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade and Expansion Site Layout
- Easement Acquisition Team Progress Report
- Positive Impact of Growth Projects
- Parallel Raw Water Transmission Main



Sustainability Committee

The Sustainability Committee is a standing committee that meets as needed. In 2024, the committee reviewed the organization’s Source Water Protection Plan, as well as greenhouse gas (GHG) emission inventories for 2022 and 2023. At these meetings, the Sustainability Committee discussed water conservation, strategies to protect our surface water intake from upstream contamination, and tracking progress toward meeting the organization-wide carbon emissions reduction goal of 43% by 2030. Staff have made substantial progress toward meeting this emissions reduction goal, but the Sustainability Committee understands that the upgraded Southside Wastewater Treatment Plant will be emission-intensive and will slow progress toward this goal.

Staff are actively exploring projects that will continue to reduce emissions, including options for solar installation and to incorporate sustainability and energy efficiencies into the Southside Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade, and are currently gathering bids for the LED lightbulb change-outs at several facilities. The Sustainability Division also oversaw the installation of two low emission vehicle charging stations at the Environmental Management and Sustainability Building to support further fleet electrification.

2024 Awards

Water Environment Federation:

- Utility of the Future Today

Water Research Foundation:

- Subscriber Impact Award

Government Finance Officers Association:

- Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting, 15th consecutive year
- Distinguished Budget Presentation Award, 13th consecutive year

N.C. Department of Labor Achievement in Outstanding Health and Safety:

- Administrative Services: Gold
- Centralized Maintenance: Gold
- Customer Service: Gold
- Customer Service - Meters: Silver
- Engineering: Gold
- Environmental Management and Sustainability - Community Compliance: Gold
- Environmental Management and Sustainability - Laboratory Services: Gold
- Utility Services - Collections System Operations and Maintenance: Gold
- Utility Services - Pump Station Maintenance: Silver
- Wastewater Treatment - Northside: Gold
- Wastewater Treatment - Southside: Gold
- Water Treatment - Richardson: Gold
- Water Treatment - Sweeney: Gold

Employee Years of Service

45 Years

Jeff Cermak

30 Years

Jeremiah Peoples

Donna Pope

20 Years

William Frye

Alan D. Layh

Edward McCrea

Sonny Porter

Darryl Tindall

10 Years

Greg Bennett

Kevin Denson

Michael Dombrowski

Latasha Edney

Liz Evans

John Jernigan

Amy Lem

Marco Merrick

Michael Morton

Richard Moses

Jarrell Myers

John Nixon

John Payne

Danielle Smith

Steven Styers

John Tarasco

Craig Wilson

Stephen Worrell

5 Years

Harold Andrews

Theodore Beeson

Doyle Boyd

Melissa Braam

Michael Britt

Ashley Garrason

Jameel Golden

Tifanie Hansley

Justin Lawson

Levar Lea

Gail Meares

35 Years

Danny Sullivan

Lelia Hankins

Milton Vann

25 Years

Alexander Brock

Anthony Grady

Aundria Miracle

Lawrence Southerland

15 Years

Sherri Alexander

Brittany Cummings

Beth Eckert

Jude Eden

Cord Ellison

Ricky Faucette

Adam Glidden

Irving Greene

Adam Poore

James McDonald

Alan Melton

Steve Mongeau

Larry Redenbaugh

Allyson Ridout

Elizabeth Severt

David Sickle

Louis Smith

Joseph Valade

5 Years

Elmer Mosley

Jennifer Peterson

Gerardo Racioppi

Michael Rich

Da'Von Robinson

Makeba Robinson

Terry Smith

Erin Tremblay

Allan Upham

David Vealey

Courtney West



Cape Fear Public Utility Authority

235 Government Center Drive

Wilmington, N.C. 28403

910-332-6550 | CFPUA.org