



## OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS AND MANAGER

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## **News Release**

### **CMUD to Assist at Wastewater Treatment Facilities**

**November 5, 2013, Monroe, NC** – The Union County Board of Commissioners on Monday approved an interim agreement between Union County and the City of Charlotte to operate and maintain Union County’s wastewater treatment facilities.

In July, the county issued a request for proposals from firms capable of providing full-service operations, maintenance and management of the county’s wastewater treatment facilities. Subsequent discussions with the City of Charlotte revealed the opportunity for Charlotte-Mecklenburg Utilities (CMUD) to provide these services. Union and Charlotte-Mecklenburg share a long common border and have a history of working cooperatively to optimize water and wastewater utility service delivery to its customers and considering regional solutions for water resource management issues.

In September commissioners approved a non-binding memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the City of Charlotte laying out the contractual framework for a future interlocal agreement for the City of Charlotte to operate the county’s wastewater treatment facilities.

“Partnering with CMUD offers a unique opportunity to Union to benefit from the economies of scale, depth of expertise and established business systems and processes that a large successful organization like CMUD can bring to the affiliation,” Ed Goscicki, executive director of Union County Public Works said in September.

The agreement addresses the interim period when CMUD staff will assist Union County in the operation and maintenance of the county’s wastewater treatment facilities, comprised of Twelve Mile, Crooked Creek, Old Sycamore, Grassy Branch, and Tallwood wastewater treatment plants and in the land application of bio solids. The interim agreement sets forth its scope and authority of CMUD personnel and the compensation to be paid to CMUD for its assistance in the operation and maintenance of Union’s wastewater treatment facilities for this interim period.

Under the proposed interim agreement, CMUD is providing a superintendent and maintenance supervisor three days per week to assess the maintenance management needs, and an Operator IV for up to four days per week to help fill staffing shortages while Union County recruits to fill vacant operator positions. In addition, the county has also budgeted some limited time for a Chief Electrical Engineer and a Water Quality Administrator to provide assistance in these areas as may be requested by Union County.