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News Release

Union County and Charlotte Working on Operational Agreement for Wastewater Treatment Facilities

September 17, 2013, Monroe, NC – The Union County Board of Commissioners on Monday 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.

In July, the county issued a request for proposals (RFP) 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.

“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,” said Ed Goscicki, executive director of Union County Public Works.

The MOU also provides for consideration of opportunities where it is practical and cost-effective for Charlotte's wastewater facilities to treat wastewater from Union County and Charlotte's wastewater to be treated at county facilities. If agreed upon by directors of both organizations that such an opportunity exist, recommendations will be submitted to the respective governing bodies.

Under the agreement, Union County will continue to own the wastewater treatment plants, own and operate the wastewater collection system, set and collect rates and user fees for its customers and plan any future expansions.

Following the MOU, CMUD and Union County will work through a due-diligence phase that will help both organizations establish the terms and conditions of the interlocal agreement. The interlocal agreement must also be approved by the Charlotte City Council and Union County Board of Commissioners.