



What Is The Cherokee County Water and Sewerage Authority?

Most citizens think that Cherokee County Water and Sewerage Authority (CCWSA) is part of the Cherokee County Government, which is understandable because "Cherokee County" is in the name. However, CCWSA is not part of Cherokee County, has no taxing powers, and does not receive tax revenue from county or city governments. CCWSA is a public not-for-profit, governmental entity tasked with providing drinking water and sanitary sewer services to Cherokee County.

You may hear CCWSA described as a quasi-governmental organization, which means organizations are in the private sector but have a public mandate to provide a given service. CCWSA was established as a subdivision of the government of the State of Georgia by an act of the Georgia Legislature in 1955. This Authority was created for the express purpose of providing public drinking water and sanitary sewer services to the citizens of Cherokee County. CCWSA has performed this mission since its establishment, adding infrastructure and treatment systems in response to growing demands for services.

Where does the revenue come from if CCWSA does not receive tax revenue from county or city governments? CCWSA sells the services of high-quality drinking water and efficient sewage conveyance and treatment, the charges for which go to pay ongoing operations and maintenance costs. New customer connection fees are designed to repay any amount the Authority borrows for capital improvement projects. These include new or expanded water and sewer lines or new or expanded treatment facilities.

Have you ever wondered who oversees decisions at CCWSA? A seven-person Board of Directors governs CCWSA. The Board members are representative of the citizens of Cherokee County and must be a customer of CCWSA. Cherokee County is divided into four districts for representation. A member is appointed from each of the four districts. Another member must be a CCWSA customer and is deemed the "at-large" member representing the county as a whole. Another member must be a CCWSA customer in one of the cities within the county that has consolidated its water and wastewater systems with the Authority. The Grand Jury of Cherokee County appoints these six Board members. This appointment process is unique since water/wastewater systems are often part of a city or county government where appointees are elected officials or political appointees. The apolitical appointment process has allowed the CCWSA Board to make decisions about water and sanitary sewer services for the citizens of Cherokee County based on need and economic viability instead of political expediency. The Chairman of the Cherokee County Commissioners is automatically the seventh Board member by virtue of their elected position. Our current Board of Directors can be found at <https://ccwsa.com/about/board-of-directors/>.

Are you interested in what is discussed at the CCWSA Board meetings? All CCWSA monthly Board meetings are open to the public. The Board of Directors meetings are held on the last Monday of each month (excluding holidays). Board meetings are posted here - <https://ccwsa.com/board-meetings/>. They are held in the Boardroom at 110 Railroad St., Canton, GA 30114. Meetings are held in the afternoon (4 pm) on even months and in the morning (9 am) on odd months. If you wanted to attend the Board meeting but missed it, you can find Board meeting agendas and minutes on the Board meeting page.

- If you have any topics you would like covered or have any questions in general,
please email them to ccwsaea@gmail.com.