



## **Living Water Utilities Hired to Operate Tannehill Sewer System Serving the City of Lake View and Surrounding Areas**

***Agreement with Bankruptcy Trustee moves responsibility for  
operations, billing & collections, and lab testing to LWU***

***Agreement effective September 1<sup>st</sup>***

***Result of bankruptcy proceedings involving  
ECO-Preservation Services, LLC***

***Approved by judge, and supported by creditors and City of Lake View***

***Agreement requires no ECO-Preservation Services involvement  
beyond operational consistency, software & data transition, and  
historical knowledge***

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Lake View, Alabama, September 3, 2025:** Living Water Utilities (LWU), a water and wastewater utility company overseeing contracts for more than 100 sites in Alabama, is proud to announce it has reached an agreement with the Bankruptcy Trustee for ECO-Preservation Services, LLC, the operator of the Tannehill Sewer System, to take over Tannehill's system operations, billing and collection operations, and sampling and lab testing processes as of September 1, 2025.

The agreement, the result of bankruptcy proceedings in the U.S Bankruptcy Court, Northern District of Alabama concerning ECO-Preservation Services, was approved on August 28<sup>th</sup> by Judge D. Sims Crawford. It is supported by the attorneys for the Bankruptcy Trustee, the City of Lake View, and the creditors who previously won a \$4.7 million judgment against Tannehill.

LWU is a water and wastewater treatment operations and service company founded in 2012 in Hoover, Alabama. It provides a broad range of services at more than 100 sites in the State of Alabama alone, including treatment facility operation and maintenance, operation and maintenance of pump stations, water and wastewater laboratory testing,

preparation of Municipal Water Pollution Prevention programs, permit renewals, and Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) coordination and correspondence. They are the largest NPDES permit holder in Alabama, with 40 permits in their name.

Based on the long history between ECO-Preservation Systems and many of its customers – including the \$4.7 million judgement made against ECO – LWU agreed to the contract only after being assured that ECO's owners will not be involved in LWU's operation of the system or its customer-related operations beyond the need for operational consistency, software and data transition, and historical knowledge.

Among the services to be provided under the agreement with LWU, LWU will:

- Become the certified operator of record for the East Tuscaloosa-West Jefferson Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Visit the facility on an established, documented schedule to ensure proper performance and permit compliance
- Conduct all operational adjustments to the plant
- Interact with the Trustee about any deficiencies to maintain plant performance
- Institute a sampling process that uses industry best practices to test plant influent and effluent flows to track permit performance
- Conduct lab analyses utilizing approved methodologies and instrumentation
- Generate monthly reports detailing sampling results
- Communicate system performance to ADEM
- Perform all routine and responsive maintenance on all system equipment
- Provide 24/7 availability with on-call service personnel and equipment to assist with emergency response

"We're proud to have been asked to provide a comprehensive, short-term solution to the situation in Lake View," said Bryan Pate, CEO, Living Water Utilities. "Our mission is to please God by improving the quality of life, and we believe that we can absolutely do that for the customers in and around Lake View. We understand the deeply rooted issues within the community about how the system has been operated in the past. We are fully prepared to earn the trust of the community we've been brought in to serve."

Over the coming weeks and months, in addition to the services listed, LWU will also institute several utility best practices to improve the system's administrative processes, including customer service, billing, and collections, to make them fairer and more accessible to the customers. The current operators of the Tannehill Sewer System will not be involved in future administrative, billing, or collection decisions.

Public information will also be increased, with customers being directly informed of this agreement and what it means for their accounts moving forward. LWU will seek to create a web platform and a smartphone app for customer information and work with local officials, community leaders, the news media, and social media platforms to communicate with the public about key developments as its efforts take shape.

The cost of the agreement is \$24,330 a month for six months, with a contingency that pricing may change after 60 days, depending on the condition of the facilities LWU is operating. Along with signing off on the agreement, the judge approved options to potentially extend it long term. These options will be considered while LWU's six-month agreement is in effect, and LWU hopes to have the opportunity to serve the community well into the future.

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