



# Assessing Financial Condition

Glenn Barnes

Environmental Finance Center

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

919-962-2789

[glennbarnes@sog.unc.edu](mailto:glennbarnes@sog.unc.edu)



# Session Objectives

- Understanding where your water system is right now financially
- Learning some standard measures that funders will be concerned with



# Can You Sleep at Night?

- Is your system self sufficient?
- Are you able to cover your debt service after paying for your day to day operations?
- If your customers stop paying their bills, how long can you maintain operations?
- Can your system meet its short term obligations?
- How much of your utility's expected life has already run out (and how much is left)?



# In terms of your system's finances, how do you sleep at night?

1. Like a baby/cat
2. Some tossing and turning
3. Insomniac
4. Heavily Medicated
5. I'm not sure yet...



# Can You Sleep at Night?

- Is your system self sufficient?
- Are you able to cover your debt service after paying for your day to day operations?
- If your customers stop paying their bills, how long can you maintain operations?
- Can your system meet its short term obligations?
- How much of your utility's expected life has already run out (and how much is left)?

Operating Ratio

Debt Service  
Coverage Ratio

Days Cash on  
Hand

Current  
Ratio

Asset  
Depreciation





# Whiteboard Video: Financial Benchmarking

<http://www.waterrf.org/Pages/Projects.aspx?PID=4366>





# A Tale of Two Systems That Look Similar On Paper...

- **Bavaria** and **Mayberry**
- Two average small town community water systems from the same state

Note: Actual numbers from actual towns



# They Serve Similar Populations

Service  
Population



Service  
Connections







# They Have Similar Demographics

MHI

Bavaria

\$30,972

Mayberry

\$29,891

Percent  
Poverty

Bavaria

23%

Mayberry

27%

# Quick Overview of Financial Statements

MAYENRY STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS PROPRIETARY FUNDS DECEMBER 31, 2010		BAYARIA STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS PROPRIETARY FUND JUNE 30, 2011	
<b>ASSETS</b> Current Assets Cash Accounts receivable, net Total current assets Capital assets Land and improvements Distribution and collection systems Buildings Less accumulated depreciation Total capital assets Total Assets		<b>Water and Sewer Enterprise Fund</b> \$ 368,001 60,346 5,856 440,203 177,208 209,556 22,982 5,873,709 896,073 1,454,079 (2,883,225) 38,833 5,781,215 5,781,215	
<b>LIABILITIES</b> Current liabilities Accounts payable Customer deposits Notes payable - current Total current liabilities Noncurrent liabilities Bonds Total noncurrent liabilities Total Liabilities Net Assets Invested in capital assets net of related debt Restricted for debt service Unrestricted Total net assets Total liabilities and net assets		9,321 44,225 58,489 108,035 108,035 2,848,277 176,424 30,256 3,044,961 \$ 4,097,570 15,605 233,357 646,873 889,925 1,788,299 4,355,133 114,583 163,263 \$ 4,633,079	



# Statement of Net Assets

- The assets and liabilities of the water system on the day the financial statements were prepared



# Statement of Revenues, Expenses & Changes in Net Assets

- Annual operating and non-operating revenues and expenses for the water system
- Also transfers to and from the general fund



# Statement of Cash Flows

- Money in and money out of the water system





# Notes to Financial Statements

- Explanations, where needed, to the financial statements



# Operating Ratio

$$= \frac{\text{Operating Revenues}}{\text{Operating Expenses}}$$

Please calculate two numbers—  
one including depreciation, and one  
excluding depreciation

# Operating Ratio

## Including Depreciation

**MAYBERRY**  
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES, AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS  
PROPRIETARY FUNDS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2010

	<u>Enterprise Funds</u> <u>Water and Sewer</u>	
OPERATING REVENUES		
Charges for services	\$ 444,231	
Grants	0	
Total operating revenues	<u>444,231</u>	- ①
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Personnel services	178,885	
Contractual services	63,898	
Other supplies and expense	126,202	- ③
Depreciation	<u>142,463</u>	- ②
Total operating expenses	<u>511,448</u>	
Operating income (loss)	<u>(67,217)</u>	



# Operating Ratio – Mayberry

Including Depreciation

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \boxed{1a.} & \frac{\boxed{\$444,231}}{\boxed{\$511,448}} & = \boxed{0.87} \\ & \begin{array}{l} \text{Operating Revenues (1)} \\ \text{Operating Expenses (including depreciation) (2)} \end{array} & \end{array}$$

# Operating Ratio

## Excluding Depreciation

**MAYBERRY**  
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES, AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS  
PROPRIETARY FUNDS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2010

	<u>Enterprise Funds</u> <u>Water and Sewer</u>	
OPERATING REVENUES		
Charges for services	\$ 444,231	
Grants	0	
Total operating revenues	<u>444,231</u>	- ①
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Personnel services	178,885	
Contractual services	63,898	
Other supplies and expense	126,202	- ③
Depreciation	<u>142,463</u>	
Total operating expenses	<u>511,448</u>	- ②
Operating income (loss)	<u>(67,217)</u>	



# Operating Ratio – Mayberry

Excluding Depreciation

$$\begin{array}{rcl} \boxed{1b.} & \frac{\boxed{\$444,231}}{\boxed{\$368,985}} & = \boxed{1.20} \\ & \text{Operating Revenues (1)} & \\ & \text{Operating Expenses (excluding depreciation) (2-3)} & \end{array}$$

OE \$511,448  
- DEP \$142,463



# Debt Service Coverage Ratio

$$= \frac{\text{Operating Revenues} - \text{Operating Expenditures (excludes depreciation)}}{\text{Principal} + \text{Interest Payments on Long Term Debt}}$$

# Debt Service Coverage Ratio

## MAYBERRY

### STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES, AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS PROPRIETARY FUNDS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2010

OPERATING REVENUES  
Charges for services  
Grants  
Total operating revenues

OPERATING EXPENSES  
Personnel services  
Contractual services  
Other supplies and expense  
Depreciation  
Total operating expenses  
Operating income (loss)

CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES  
Receipts from customers  
Payments to suppliers  
Payments to employees  
Net cash provided by operating activities

CASH FLOWS FROM NONCAPITAL  
FINANCING ACTIVITIES  
Transfers in (out)  
Net cash (used) by noncapital  
financing activities

CASH FLOWS FROM CAPITAL AND RELATED  
FINANCING ACTIVITIES

Loan proceeds  
Purchases of capital assets  
Principal paid on capital debt  
Interest paid on capital debt  
Net cash (used) by capital and  
related financing activities

#### Enterprise Funds Water and Sewer

\$ 437,947  
(187,296)  
(178,885)  
71,766

(60,000)  
(60,000)

0  
( 39,841)  
( 49,655)  
( 35,128)  
(124,624)

Page 1 of 2

# Debt Service Coverage Ratio – Mayberry

$$\begin{array}{r} \$444,231 \\ \text{Operating Revenues (1)} \end{array} - \begin{array}{r} \$368,985 \\ \text{Operating Expenses (2-3)} \\ \text{(excluding depreciation)} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{OE } \$511,448 \\ - \text{Dep } \$142,463 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

2.

\$84,783

Principal & Interest on Long-Term Debt (4)

0.89

$$\begin{array}{r} P \$49,655 \\ + I \$35,128 \\ \hline \end{array}$$



# Days of Cash on Hand

$$= \frac{\text{Unrestricted cash and cash equivalents}}{(\text{Operating Expenses} - \text{Depreciation}) / 365}$$



# Days of Cash on Hand

**MAYBERRY**  
STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS  
PROPRIETARY FUND  
DECEMBER 31, 2010

Enterprise Funds  
Water and Sewer

ASSETS

Current assets

Cash

107,706

Restricted cash

176,424

Receivables, net

41,870

Total current assets

326,000

Capital assets

Land and improvements

10,229

Distribution and collection systems

5,732,845

Buildings

503,398

Less accumulated depreciation

(2,514,933)

Total capital assets

3,731,539

Total Assets

\$ 4,057,539

LIABILITIES



# Days of Cash on Hand – Mayberry

$$\begin{array}{rcl} \boxed{3.} & \frac{\boxed{\$107,706}}{\boxed{\$368,985} / 365} & = \boxed{107} \\ & \text{Unrestricted Cash \& Cash Equivalents (5)} & \\ & \text{Operating Expenses (excluding depreciation) (2-3)} & \end{array}$$

OE \$511,448  
- DEP \$142,463



# Current Ratio

$$= \frac{\text{Unrestricted cash and cash equivalents} + \text{Receivables, net}}{\text{Current Liabilities}}$$



# Current Ratio – Mayberry

$$\begin{array}{rcl} \boxed{4.} & \frac{\boxed{\$107,706} + \boxed{\$41,870}}{\boxed{\$108,390}} & = \boxed{1.38} \\ & \begin{array}{l} \text{Unrestricted Cash \& Cash Equivalents (5)} \\ \text{Receivables, net (6)} \\ \text{Current Liabilities (7)} \end{array} & \end{array}$$



# Now You Calculate For Bavaria





# Operating Ratio – Bavaria

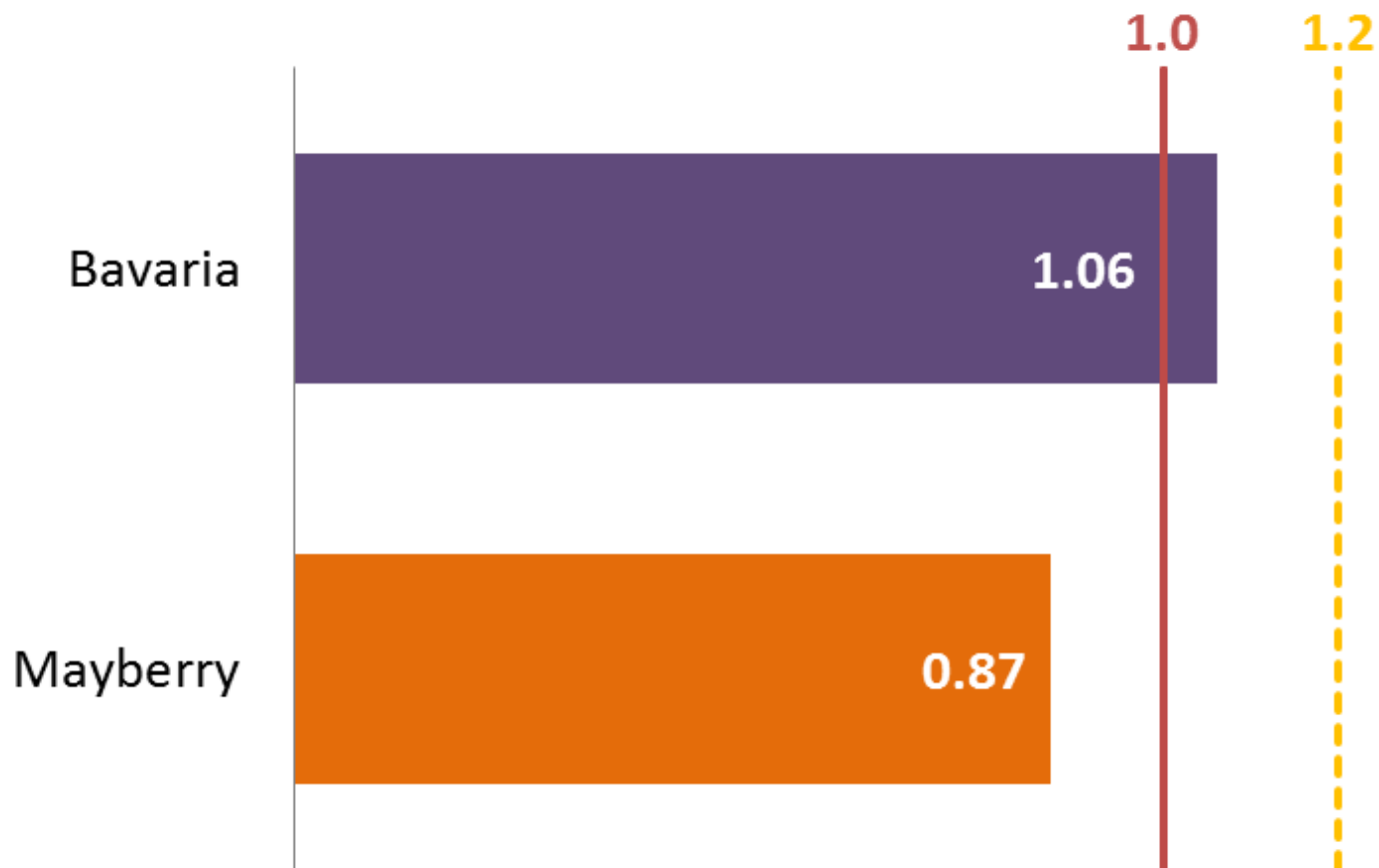
Including Depreciation

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \boxed{1a.} & \frac{\boxed{\$709,972}}{\boxed{\$671,333}} = & \boxed{1.06} \\ & \text{Operating Revenues (1)} & \\ & \text{Operating Expenses (including depreciation) (2)} & \end{array}$$



# Operating Ratio

Including Depreciation



# Operating Ratio – Bavaria

Excluding Depreciation

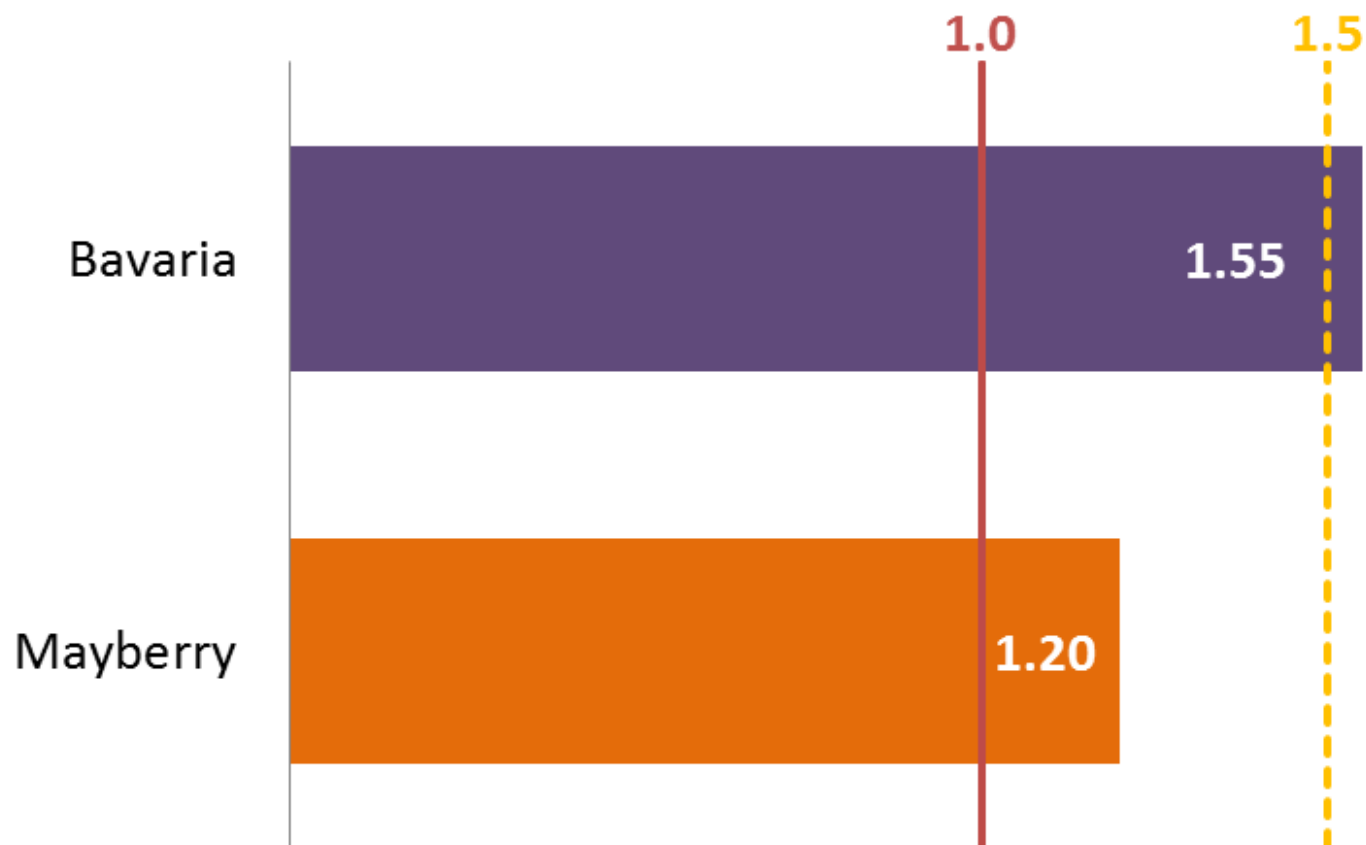
$$\begin{array}{rcl} \boxed{1b.} & \frac{\boxed{\$709,972}}{\boxed{\$459,082}} & = \boxed{1.55} \\ & \text{Operating Revenues (1)} & \\ & \text{Operating Expenses (excluding depreciation) (2-3)} & \end{array}$$

OE \$671,333  
- Dep \$212,251



# Operating Ratio

Excluding Depreciation



# Debt Service Coverage Ratio – Bavaria

OE \$671,333  
- Dep \$212,251

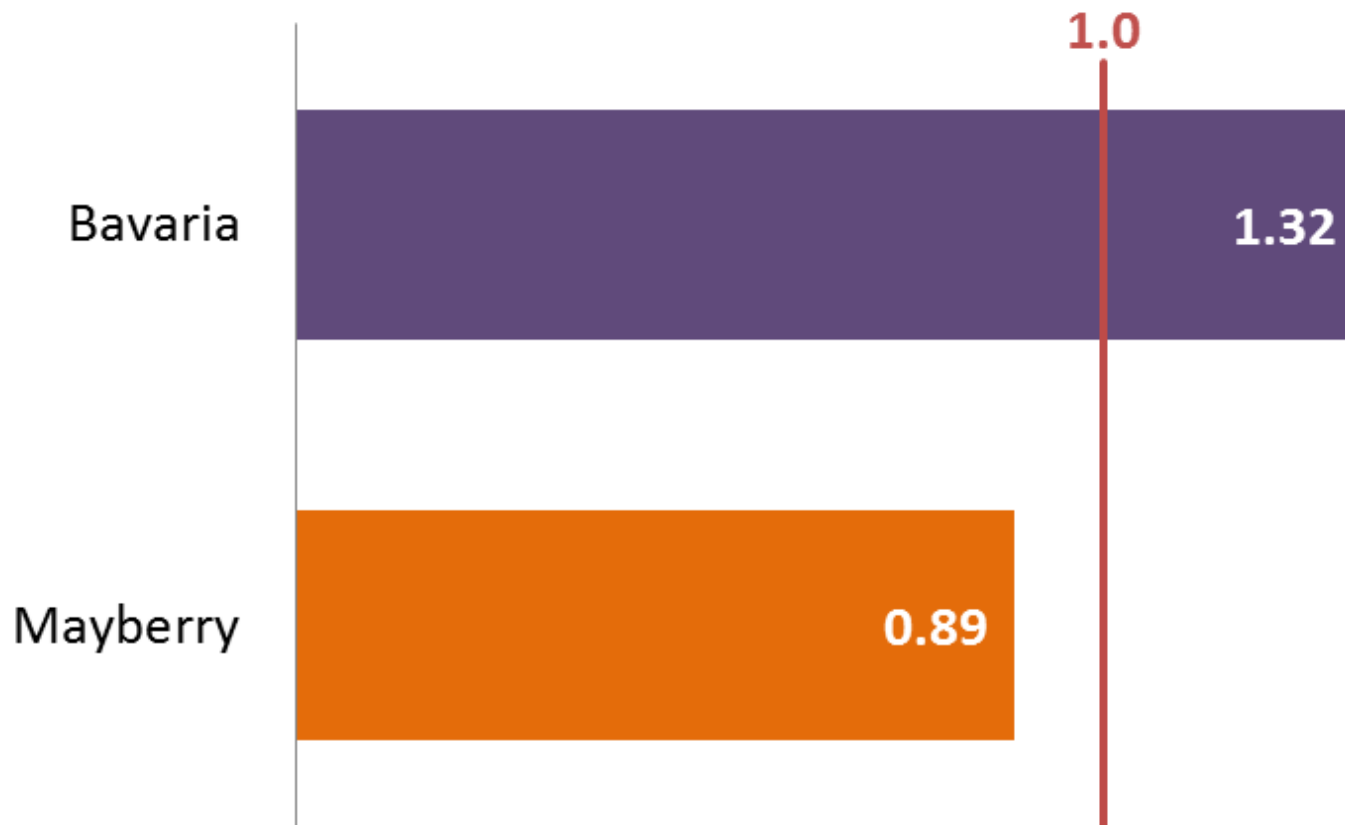
$$\frac{\begin{array}{l} \boxed{\$709,972} - \boxed{\$459,082} \\ \text{Operating Revenues (1)} \quad \text{Operating Expenses (2-3)} \\ \text{(excluding depreciation)} \end{array}}{\boxed{\$190,633} \text{ Principal \& Interest on Long-Term Debt (4)}} = \boxed{1.32}$$

2.





# Debt Service Coverage Ratio





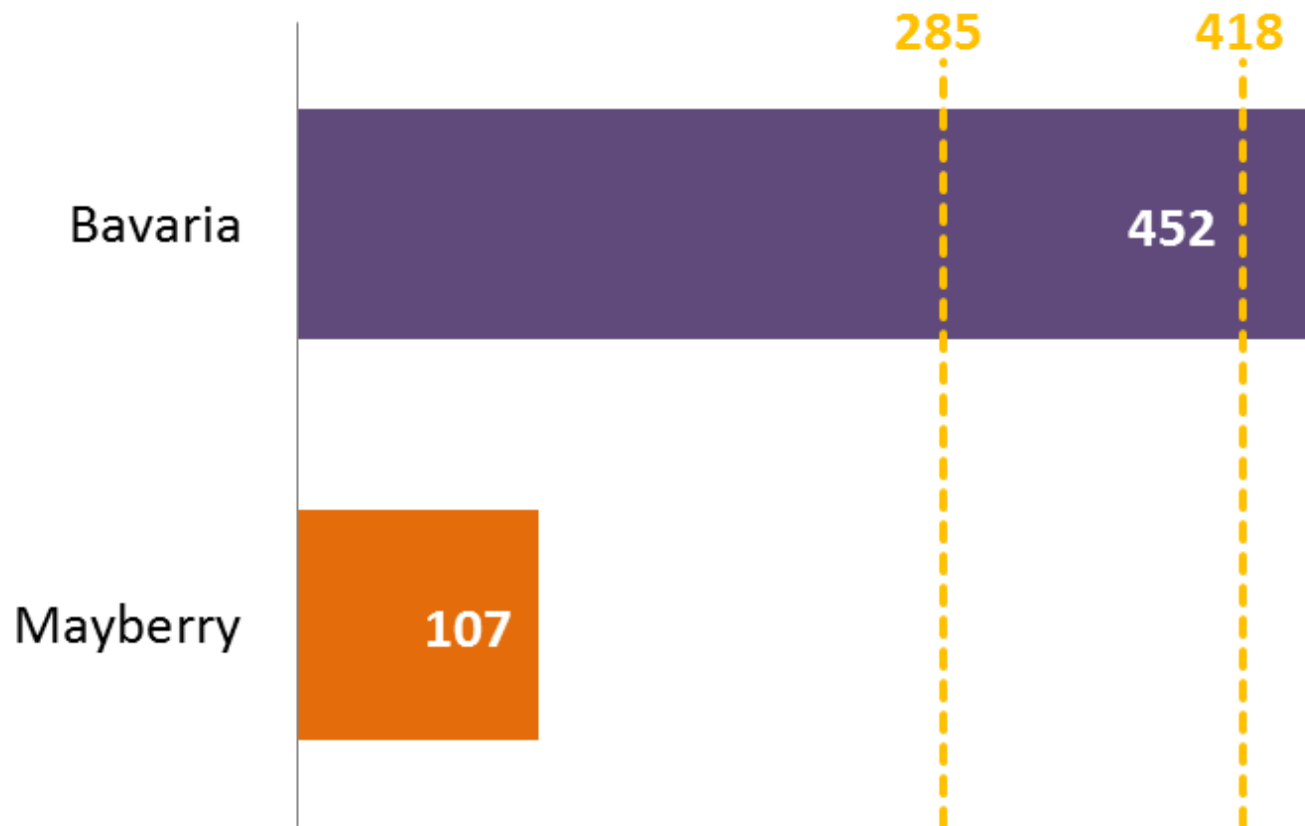
# Days of Cash on Hand – Bavaria

$$\begin{array}{rcl} \boxed{3.} & \frac{\boxed{\$568,061}}{\boxed{\$459,082} \quad / \quad 365} & = \quad \boxed{452} \\ & \text{Unrestricted Cash \& Cash Equivalents (5)} & \\ & \text{Operating Expenses (excluding depreciation) (2-3)} & \end{array}$$

OE \$671,333  
- DEP \$212,251



# Days of Cash on Hand



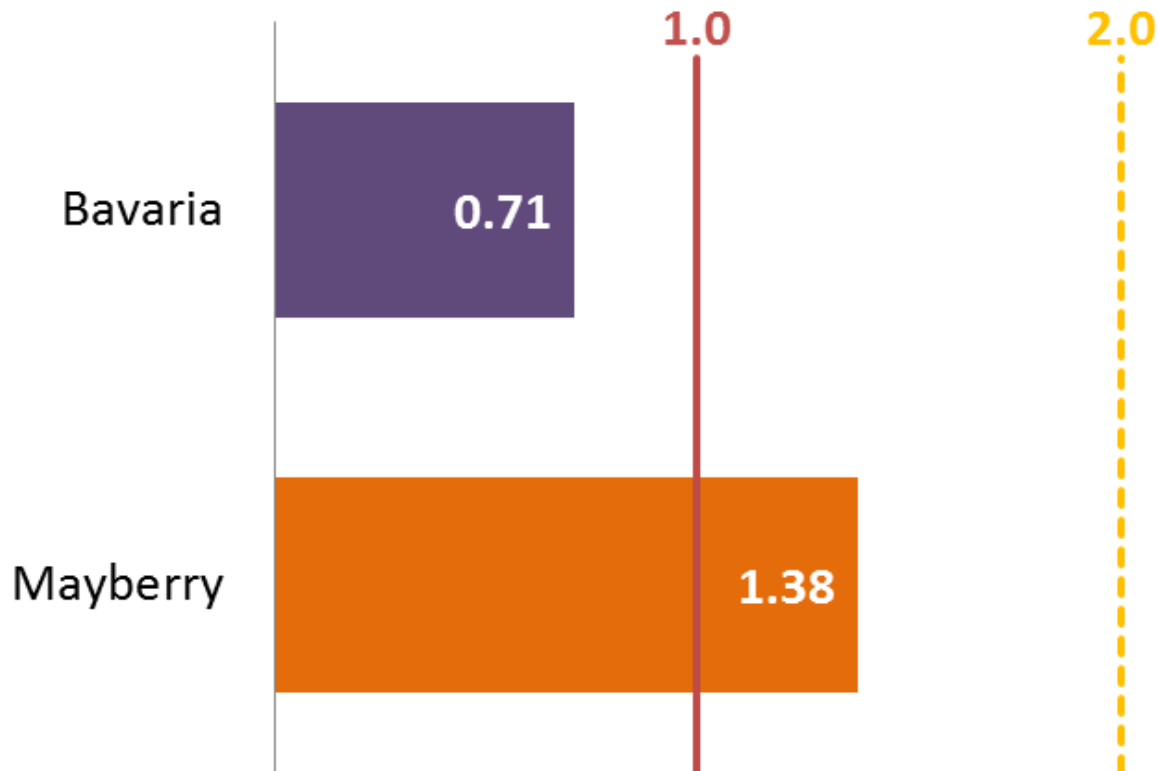


# Current Ratio – Bavaria

$$\begin{array}{rcl} \boxed{4.} & \frac{\boxed{\$568,061} + \boxed{\$66,346}}{\boxed{\$898,474}} & = \boxed{0.71} \\ & \begin{array}{l} \text{Unrestricted Cash \& Cash Equivalents (5)} \\ \text{Receivables, net (6)} \\ \text{Current Liabilities (7)} \end{array} & \end{array}$$



# Current Ratio







# What Happened to Bavaria?

*Or*

# Why the Notes to Financial Statements are Crucial

The accompanying notes are an integral part  
of these financial statements.

15



# Bavaria corrected

C \$568,061  
+ G \$460.005

\$1,028,066

Unrestricted Cash &  
Cash Equivalents (5)

+

\$66,346

Receivables, net (6)

4.

=

1.22

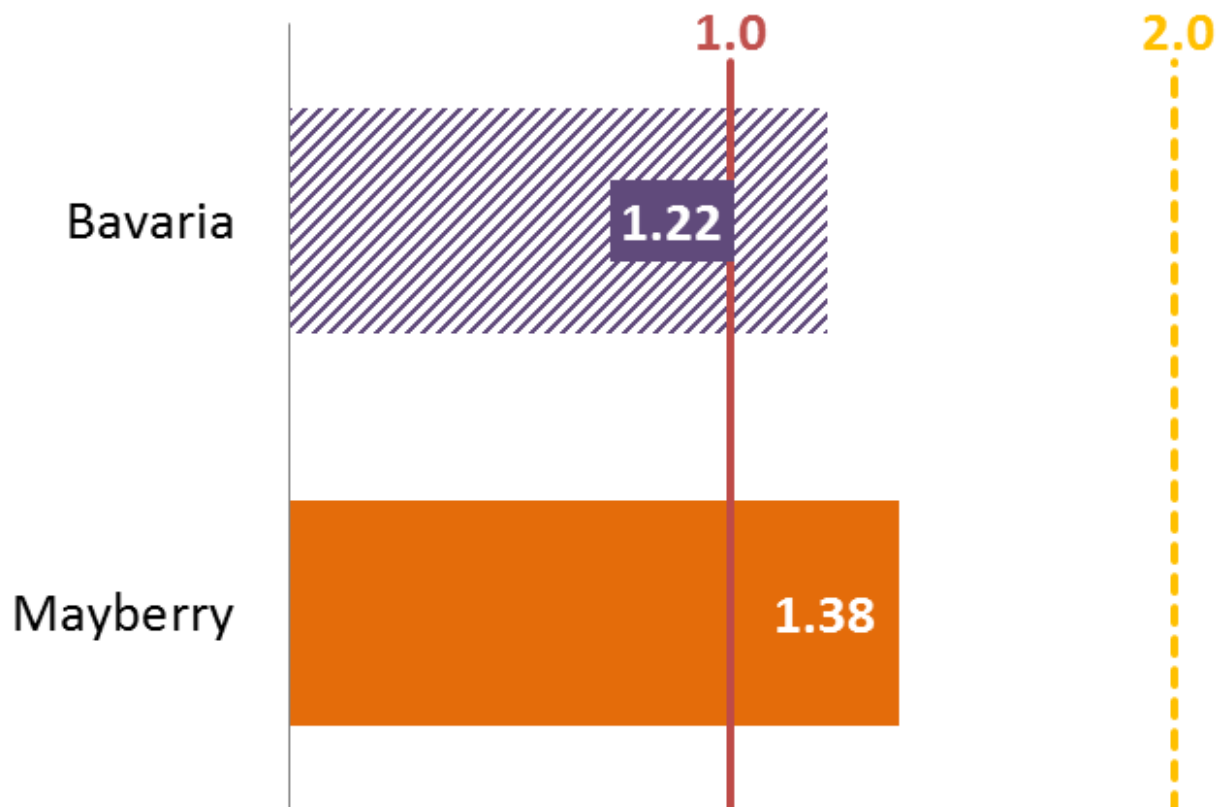
\$898,474

Current Liabilities (7)



# Current Ratio

Bavaria Corrected for Missing Grant Funds





# One More: Asset Depreciation

$$= \frac{\textit{Accumulated Depreciation}}{\textit{Gross Plant and Equipment}}$$

Benchmark?  
Don't get close to 1.0

\*Caveat – This indicator is only as good as your depreciation schedule



# Why Care About This?

- Funders and ratings agencies care about this
- As you think about the future needs of your system, you have to know where you are starting from







<http://efc.web.unc.edu/2015/02/27/operating-ratio/>



# Key Financial Indicators for Water and Wastewater Systems: Operating Ratio

FEBRUARY 27, 2015 / GLENN BARNES / COMMENTS OFF ON KEY FINANCIAL INDICATORS FOR WATER AND WASTEWATER SYSTEMS: OPERATING RATIO

 Print  PDF

In previous posts, we have discussed where to find [data](#) to help water and wastewater systems make smart financial and managerial decisions. Another vital data source for any water and wastewater system is its own financial

SUBSCRIBE

[Sign Up](#)

TOPICS

[Drinking](#)

[Energy](#)

[Financial](#)

[General](#)

[Smart Management for Small Water Systems](#)

[Wastewater](#)

[Waters](#)



<http://efc.web.unc.edu/2015/04/23/debt-service-coverage-ratio/>



# Key Financial Indicators for Water and Wastewater Systems: Debt Service Coverage Ratio

APRIL 23, 2015 / GLENN BARNES / COMMENTS OFF ON KEY FINANCIAL INDICATORS FOR WATER AND WASTEWATER SYSTEMS: DEBT SERVICE COVERAGE RATIO

 Print  PDF

In a previous post, we outlined how to use the financial statements of a water or wastewater system to calculate the [key financial indicator](#) of [operating ratio](#), a measure of self-sufficiency. Another key financial indicator is debt service

SUBS

Sign L

TOPIC

Drinki

Energ

Finan

Gener

Smart  
System

Waste

Water





<http://efc.web.unc.edu/2015/06/24/days-cash-on-hand/>



# Key Financial Indicators for Water and Wastewater Systems: Days of Cash on Hand

JUNE 24, 2015 / GLENN BARNES / COMMENTS OFF ON KEY FINANCIAL INDICATORS FOR WATER AND WASTEWATER SYSTEMS: DAYS OF CASH ON HAND

 Print  PDF

In previous posts, we outlined how to use the financial statements of a water or wastewater system to calculate the [key financial indicators](#) of [operating ratio](#) (a measure of self-sufficiency) and [debt service coverage ratio](#) (a measure of a

SUBS

[Sign L](#)

TOPIC

[Drink](#)

[Energy](#)

[Finan](#)

[Gener](#)

[Smart  
System](#)

[Waste](#)

[Water](#)



<http://efc.web.unc.edu/2015/10/01/key-indicator-current-ratio/>



# Key Financial Indicators for Water and Wastewater Systems: Current Ratio

OCTOBER 1, 2015 / GLENN BARNES / 0 COMMENTS

 Print  PDF

In previous posts, we outlined how to use the financial statements of a water or wastewater system to calculate the [key financial indicators](#) of [operating ratio](#) (a measure of self-sufficiency), [debt service coverage ratio](#) (a measure of a system's ability to pay its long-term debts) and [days of cash on hand](#) (a measure of a

Search

SUBSCRIBE

Sign Up

TOPICS

Drinking

Energy

Financial

General

Smart Water  
Systems

Wastewater

Water





# Soooooooooooo....

- Once we figure out where we are, how do we know where we are going?
- How do we estimate the future costs and revenues?