

WATER COMMITTEE
MARCH 27, 2019
MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Frank Destadio, Vice Chairman
Steve Rapson, County Administrator
Lee Pope, Water System Director
Charles Oddo, Commissioner
James Preau
Bill Holland

ABSENT:

Pete Frisina, Chairman

NON-VOTING MEMBERS:

Dennis Davenport, County Attorney
Jason Bodwell, Jacobs

OTHER STAFF:

Russell Ray, Carrie Gibby, Water System

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Frank Destadio at 8:00 A.M.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING ON MARCH 13, 2019.

Steve Rapson made the motion to approve the minutes from the meeting on March 13, 2019, with one correction requested by Vice Chairman Destadio. Bill Holland seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

II. WATER SELECTOR UPDATE.

Mr. Pope reported the Water Selector is in place and operating. It is not running on auto yet because we are trending some data. He said Vice Chairman Destadio toured the plant last week and Russell Ray has a photo of what the screen looks like. Vice Chairman Destadio commented this is the photograph he took while they went through the plant. This was outside in the water pump house where this is actually done. They were sampling Gate 9 while pulling water from Gate 3.

Mr. Pope explained what it was doing at the time was thinking it was selecting Gate 3, which is the gate we were on. So it was selecting what we would have operating which is good. He explained Kelly with IXOM Water is the engineer that is overseeing the decisions and algorithms for this project. He wants to trend the data for a few weeks and look at it before we turn this thing loose and let it start actually operating, just to verify that we have our algorithms properly adjusted for our reservoir. Every reservoir is obviously different and you have to decide what your critical items for a decision are; it could be turbidity at one, it could be plankton at another, it could be DO at another; so he wants to look at all those before he turns this thing loose and lets it take over. He said it will just be for the next few weeks

but ultimately it is operating as designed. He said he hasn't seen any issues trending the eight different qualities we are looking at.

Vice Chairman Destadio commented it is a little hard to understand until they were there and walked it through. Basically you can see which gate you are at and it is checking those items that he was showing and it would have wanted to go ahead and pull from Gate 3, even though it was checking Gate 9. He asked how long would it take to move each gate. Mr. Pope replied it takes about an hour to two hours to actually do all the sampling for every gate and start changing positions.

Vice Chairman Destadio asked if you were pulling from Gate 6 and you wanted to get the better water coming from Gate 3, how long would it take. Mr. Pope explained as soon as it saw that gate better matched the algorithm we had chosen for the different qualities it would immediately make that change; about two minutes, however long it took the ballast to blow out and open up the other gate.

Mr. Ray went over the photo and described the different colors, the columns and parameters for turbidity, temperature, DO, conductivity, chlorophyll, pH, and oxidation reduction potential. Mr. Pope explained how to tell which gate is being sampled. Mr. Ray pointed out the line that shows which gate water is being pulled from. The best gate for all the parameters combined is chosen.

Mr. Rapson stated this in theory should equate to the least chemicals to produce the water we need to produce. As soon as we go live, we need to be capturing the quantities we have for all these different measurements over the next two or three months so we can compare it to the two or three months once it is operational so we can extrapolate it out. One of the things we talked about in the contract was we want to validate the savings we have assumed in the contract prior to executing a Notice to Proceed with the next gate at Lake Horton.

Vice Chairman Destadio asked who is going to do the validation. Is that going to the contractor? Mr. Rapson replied the contractor is going to use our data, but we are going to validate the data. The plant managers have been told to trend their chemical usage; they run jar test every day, twice a day. If they start seeing a change in their chemical feed rates, they are going to be trending that for us, once it goes live. After it goes live, it will take a day or two before the pond overturns up to the plant. It will be a day or two before we will see the good quality of water.

Mr. Ray showed slides of the installation of the Water Selector at Lake McIntosh. Vice Chairman Destadio commented the water plant building is perfectly fitted for that because it doesn't look like a water plant building, it looks like an old cabin out there. The water selector is installed on the back side of the building. Mr. Ray described the different stages of the installation as he showed the photos.

Mr. Pope explained the signal will be transmitted by cellular phone up to the plant. The computer is totally dedicated to this system and eventually will be integrated into our SCADA system.

III. TANK REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE UPDATE.

Mr. Pope stated the logos are on the 92 Tank. We have about another week or two to go before the tank is finished. Jason Bodwell stated Twin Tank 1 is down. We are doing Highway 92 right now, it is an extra \$132,000.00 to do the inside roof. Mr. Rapson said we are going to do a mid-year realign for all of those to coincide with the tanks and also South Fayette chlorine dioxide.

Mr. Bodwell explained they went to the Ellis Road tank and Crabapple to see if there was any additional work to be done when they “popped the top”. Crabapple looks good, they are not going to charge any additional monies for Crabapple because it looks exactly as they anticipated. Ellis Road, unfortunately, looks exactly like Highway 92. When they popped the top, they saw the same corrosion on the underside top of Ellis Road that they saw on 92. The same additional \$140,000.00 will be estimated for the Ellis Road tank. He said he has a complete budget that he has given to Lee and Lisa. He said he does not know how this will be communicated to the Board of Commissioners asking for an increase in funds.

Vice Chairman Destadio commented we have to make sure when we are doing these things that you put in the expected overage on erosion. It is not unusual to expect to find it the way it was. Mr. Bodwell stated they did. Mr. Rapson said what he thinks you have is we are actually putting the maintenance plan in place to do those. Now that we have that maintenance in place we won’t have that. There will be an adjustment they have to make to their M & O budget next year for all maintenance related type issues as opposed to refurbishment. We will do a mid-year adjustment to true up the CIP portion of it, but these expenses are funded out of the M& O. There are a total of four tanks.

Mr. Bodwell said to answer Vice Chairman Destadio’s question, they did put a price per foot in the contract; if the contractor had charged us the price per foot, which they bid, it would have been about \$300,000.00 additional per tank, but we negotiated down. They were willing to do the work for less money because they are already here on site.

Mr. Rapson commented we budgeted \$300,000.00 last year, and this year he thinks we are going to have a one-time increase of another \$300,000.00. We are doing all the tanks, and all we are going to do is structure the payment so we actually pay it over next year. Then the subsequent year, two years out, we will budget a normal maintenance repair. At that point, they will all be caught up.

Mr. Bodwell commented the 92 tank should be done in the next two weeks. Mr. Rapson commented the tank maintenance budget for next year will be increased to

\$680,000.00. That will bring all the tanks up; in subsequent years we are only budgeting \$75,000.00.

IV. WATER PLANT UPDATE.

Vice Chairman Destadio said Mr. Pope took him and Bill Holland to take a look at the plants. He said it was his third time out to the plants, the first two times were in a different role; there have been significant improvements to the plants. He said you guys deserve a “pat on the back”. It is very, very nice; he said he thinks we are seeing definite improvements and significant updates in the plants since the last two times he was out there. He said he thinks a lot of that is leadership from the plant operators and certainly from the Director of the Water System. Unfortunately, for Bill’s perspective they started at the tail end and went to the top, instead of starting at the top and going to where it came down. But, he thinks he figured it out by the time they got to the end of the tour.

Vice Chairman Destadio went on to say there were some great things, there were some capital improvement requirements that he guesses are being addressed, that need to be looked at, but overall he thought it was a great tour. He said thank you very much for taking the time. It took about two hours of walking around, meeting the people. He said he was impressed by the amount of technology that has been added; everything he had seen before seems like it was updated, changed and painted, ready to go. There were some issues he thought were outstanding that Bill brought up, not to be negative, but to be on a positive vein to bring to their attention.

Mr. Holland explained in the packet everyone has the last page that talks about the recognition of the Crosstown Plant as we see it is commendable to all of you here. He said he was particularly impressed with the color coding of the pipes, how finished it looked, it looked like it had just been done yesterday. Not to mention all the various gauges and technical devices that were all up to date. He said he is an architect by his background; so he gets into the issue of what does it look like when you first get there; and how can we improve it. He said he thinks we need to look at that long term. The buildings themselves, the outsides of the tanks, he thinks they need some improvement in terms of repair, maintenance and color improvement. Cracks that have been repaired.

For a water plant to get this kind of recognition he thinks it would help if it looked a little better. He said he was particularly impressed with the process and all that has been done to insure the water for Fayette County is safe to drink and is being processed properly.

Vice Chairman Destadio commented the Sanitary Survey looks at things like cutting the grass, so there is part of the survey that says you are not cutting the grass or the buildings need to be painted, so they are part of that survey. They were probably identified. They are not negative, they are just part of the survey Mr. Holland

happened to pick these because he is an architect. He said he does not think they are negative, he thinks they are still positive, we need to talk about everything, but all together, he thinks they were both very impressed with the plant operation.

Mr. Holland said there is no doubt. He said he thinks the environment in which we all work has an effect on our ability to perform. The chairs we are sitting in are very nice. If we were sitting in hard back chairs that didn't allow us to lean forward, we would not be as comfortable and we would want to get out of here quicker. He said he thinks long term he will talk some more about it, he may have some suggestions. Maybe someday we might want to look at a consultant to bring in and talk about how we can improve the appearance. Mr. Pope said he thinks that is his point, when you drive up it looks like a plant. There is nothing wrong with that, but it just looks an institutional plant.

Mr. Rapson said he thinks Crosstown looks like a plant, he would say South Fayette doesn't. He will probably have a different opinion on the South plant. Mr. Pope said it looks like a big home. Mr. Rapson said first of all, we have to make sure we get operational and distribution. Once we get all that done...Mr. Holland said he was strictly impressed. Mr. Pope said unfortunately, we haven't gotten the floors coated at Crosstown because of a hiccup with the contractor. That coating is coming, it is just not there yet.

Mr. Holland said as a citizen you can't just drive into the plant, obviously, which is a good thing. You don't have to worry about what he is talking about too much. What he is talking about affects the employees. Mr. Rapson said to some degree you do because that park is utilized and if they do development they want to do in Peachtree City, you are driving by our plant. Even though it is behind a gate, you can still look at some of the aesthetics you are referring to, he would not argue it probably could look better. Mr. Pope said we have talked about the facade and some of the stuff that goes between the windows outside. They were painted the basic colors that was normal back in the 80's for a plant. But if we had an architect or somebody with that kind of thought, they would look at it like you would and say they would paint those a different color. Mr. Rapson commented if we were an army base we would be fine. It looks like an army building.

Vice Chairman Destadio said the colors were not his issue, it is faded, there were rust stains, and the downspouts need to be fixed. Those kinds of things were as important as what color they are. He said he knows one of the previous Commissioners put a mural on the wall. It was great, especially for people going back and forth to the lake, but there are other things that improve it. Mr. Pope said the aesthetics, he agrees.

Vice Chairman Destadio stated that was not being negative that was just being positive. Mr. Holland commented on the quality of what is going on there and the process of the improvements that have been made under Mr. Pope's direction and the Plant Manager, Tom Henninger. Mr. Pope said Mr. Henninger noted Mr.

Holland's comments. Mr. Holland commented he is a great guy. Vice Chairman Destadio said they were changing an office into a break room, he was doing some other positive things for the workers that he thought were very important. They were very involved in making decisions, SCADA was up to speed, they were sitting there working, looking at the SCADA, even though there was a screen on one side with the NCAA Basketball game on. Everybody has got to have one of those, too.

The next discussion pertained to the PAC system. Mr. Pope explained we are getting the feeder back on line. They are going to use individual 50 pound bags instead of putting Super Sacks up there, because once you put a Super Sack up, you are stuck, there is really no way to remove it without making a huge mess. We are going to manually feed 50 pound bags into it to get it operational and then have Green's Compressor come out to do the moisture analysis on the air coming out of the compressor. We will get that content to Chemco.

Mr. Pope said the chlorine dioxide system at South Fayette has a mixer motor problem. We have ordered the motor. Mr. Ray said it has been ordered. When they had the last Maintenance meeting it had not arrived yet.

Vice Chairman Destadio asked if there has been a response on the Sanitary Survey yet. Mr. Pope said she told him it would be six weeks. Monroe got theirs back in about four weeks, so he is anticipating getting it this month. He said she made some notes and called him before she left that Friday. He said he was off that day, but she called to let him know she did not see anything that alarmed her. As Vice Chairman Destadio pointed out, cutting grass and stuff like that they will always recommend improvement. There will be some of those on her notes.

Mr. Holland commented he looks forward to seeing the other plant.

Mr. Pope said the CIP realignment is one thing Mary is about to do. We are going to make sure everybody understands what we are going to be doing with that before we actually take it to the Board. The other thing operationally is the 92 tank is out of service on the north side. We have the Highway 54 24" waterline out of service for about two weeks for the GDOT 54 widening project. He went on to say that makes the South Fayette plant inoperable at this time. We have a water plant, we really can't operate because it can't pump water anywhere until we get that line back in service. We are under GDOT's contractor, they are working as diligently as they can. He understands from Matt they are going to work Saturday to try to get this thing done as quickly as possible. Unfortunately, right now, the only way we can put water in the Ellis Road tank is to now pump from the Crabapple tank across the county and that works because we had to exercise that a few weeks ago when we had some pump issues at the plant. We can fill Ellis Road tank, but we have to fill it from the Crosstown plant through the Crabapple tank in Peachtree City; and it will work. We are not out of operation, but we cannot use the South Fayette plant at this moment while that line is out of service.

He said this is important to know. He said Matt's group falls under Russell, they have been in communications with the Fire Department, so everybody knows and everybody makes sure they are aware of what is going on, just in case we have any issues.

Mr. Rapson said to keep in mind that we are talking about a plant going offline; everybody kind of cringes, but the problem is, that is not as an unusual event as what you would think it is. We make sure we communicate that, because if there is any fire concern, we keep everybody informed.

Vice Chairman Destadio commented in this case it would concern him more if it were more of a pump problem, but it is the line. Mr. Pope explained they are moving the line for the widening of the road. They are going to get it done before summer; that is a critical time.

Mr. Ray showed some pump pictures. Mr. Pope described a photo of what Vice Chairman Destadio and Mr. Holland saw. This is what the operators are seeing, you can see some areas that need to be painted. Mr. Bodwell commented on some wires that need to be tied off. Mr. Ray explained pump #1 has been removed for repair, the control cabinet for #2 has been removed; that picture shows several items we are working on. What Mr. Holland saw was when we did the filter upgrade project, we came up with the new color scheme for the system working with CH we sat down and went through that. He noted these colors are in the pipe gallery.

Vice Chairman Destadio asked about the removal of this pump and the cabinet being removed because now we have those pumps out of service with the line, so it is a good time to take them out of service. Mr. Pope replied no. Mr. Ray stated these are the pumps that were having issues. Mr. Pope said this was not planned. Mr. Ray commented everything breaks eventually.

Vice Chairman Destadio said he thought this plant was out of service because of the line with GDOT. Mr. Pope said there is a third pump running even though the plate on it was leaking like a sieve, but we were able to operate. This was the time he was having chest pains. Mr. Ray explained the pump has been removed now he and Chet went down to the vendor that is refurbishing the pump. He showed a few pictures of what the parts of the pump looked like after being dismantled at the vendor's location. He described the various parts to the Committee and explained how the pump operates. The vendor sand blasted the parts to clean them up, and he showed various stages of the pump refurbishment, including the machinist turning it on his lathe. They clean it up and then put a new bushing on it. He then showed a picture of the motor after being disassembled; the top, the bearings, the center part, the windings, and the rotor. Then he showed another picture of the motor after being painted and put back in. These pictures were provided by the vendor. These were pictures of pump #1 at Crosstown. The cost was about \$29,000.00.

Mr. Ray said we had to put a soft start in on #1 earlier this year, so we have a new soft start, the pump is rebuilt. He then showed pictures of the VFD for #2. He showed the power coming in and going to the motor through the conduits. The new cabinet being installed, the cabinet was dimensionally designed to fit right up to the existing conduit. He then showed the breaker box and the VFD controller, the controls on the front of the cabinet and the control pad.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT.

Mr. Pope announced April 12 will be his last day. He is going to step away from utility management. He said he does not have anywhere he is going. He does not have any plans, just kick back and try to get his health back in order and relax. We are on a pretty tight schedule here to try to get Retreat stuff ready and basic stuff done. He will be putting some documents together for Mr. Rapson and whoever his predecessor is; that they won't come into an unknown, so they will kind of know what is going on. The Commissioners have already been told, so it is not blindsiding Commissioner Oddo. He said he has made a decision that he is going to give a 30 day notice here and step away from utility management. Kind of reset; that is what Lewis called it when he was talking to him. This Water System has obviously turned around, eons of where it was five years ago. The ship is turned, it is righted, headed in the right direction. We have won awards, we are winning awards, we have two Gold Awards coming, and we just had a great Sanitary Survey inspection. He said he told Mr. Rapson he felt like he was leaving everybody in a pickle and Mr. Rapson told him he is not. We are in really good shape. You are not leaving us in a pickle. The work is what is, you really can't change this job from what it is. He said Mr. Rapson has offered him anything possible to make it easier for him. It is just nothing he can do, the job is what it is. It is a very stressful strenuous job. He said Mr. Holland knows that from the sewer system. He said he made the comment yesterday that we watched a caterpillar turn into a butterfly. This water system is probably right where it should be. All water systems have operational issues, this one will always continue to have operational issues, but it is to a norm. Nothing unusual for pumps to fail or those kinds of things. He said he does not mind telling everybody he had applied at some other water systems that had directors; Steve told him if you go north of I-20 you could probably make more money. He said he decided to retract those applications because he does not want to be in utility management any more. That is what is causing him so much stress. There is no plan, there is no grand plan going anywhere, nothing on the list. He said he has told his family we are going to kick back, he lives a very humble life so fortunately they are in a position where financially he can sit back and take some time out. He said he is not retiring, he does not know what is going to open up, but something will. Steve has his own plans and suggestions. He just wants to step out of the role.

Vice Chairman Destadio said he has known him a long time since he has been here. You have done an outstanding job. He saw it from the beginning, as Steve knows, you have turned the county around and he thinks the county owes him a debt, but

he has also seen the stress and strain on him physically. He said he is sorry to see him go, but he is happy to see him go, too. He knows what it has done to him and his family. He said he is sorry to see him go, but he is glad he finally made that decision, Congratulations. He is sorry we will lose him.

Mr. Pope said he appreciates all the support. He has had support, we have 65 great employees, we have a great set of colleagues in the other departments; he feels very comfortable contacting any of them; Mary in Finance, Ted in Purchasing, and of course Steve and the Board have been very supportive. He said he appreciates them. This has been a full hands on deck to get things to get to where it is today. It was not him. He thinks this is where it needs to be.

Vice Chairman Destadio said there are a lot of good people who can step up and fill the shoes, so you are not going to run out tomorrow and hire somebody else? You will take your time to find another Lee. Mr. Rapson said he agreed and he hopes.

Vice Chairman Destadio said Lee certainly leaves us in a great position. We need to find someone to fill his shoes. Mr. Rapson said as we go through that process and get applicants he said he will keep the Board updated in regards as to where we are in that process.

Mr. Holland commented he is at a loss for words, he just got to know him. He is liking him a lot. Mr. Rapson commented the good thing about it is he is not leaving the country, he will be able to pick the phone up. Mr. Holland said you have a tremendous amount of knowledge, he has demonstrated that over the weeks that he has been here. He said he wishes him nothing but the best. He was trying to think of the scripture he told him about the other day. He looked through Kings and he hasn't been able to find it.

Mr. Pope said he will get that scripture for him. Mr. Rapson said he encourages the Board if they know anyone they think will be a viable candidate that we will be posting the job and send them our way, if you know someone. Mr. Holland asked about the job description. Mr. Rapson said if it wasn't posted yesterday, it will be posted today. It will be on the County web site.

Vice Chairman Destadio commented he is sure we will find people from other counties. Lee was at Rockdale and he knows a lot of people that knew Lee from Steve Lavinder on down, but there are people out there that don't seem to have his knowledge and experience, but he is sure they can do a good job, since he has left us in such good shape.

Mr. Pope said the scripture Mr. Holland referred to is II Kings 2:20, 21, and 22. The only reason it is relevant is a lot of people today say the Bible is not applicable today. It is an old book and it is outdated, but what he likes to let everybody know is what we actually do in the water industry is actually in the Bible. He read "At that he said (this is Elijah) bring me a small new bowl and put salt in it, so they

brought it to him. Then he went out to the source of the water and threw salt in it, and said this is what Jehovah says, I have healed the water, no more will it cause death or barrenness. And the water has been healed to this day.”

He went on to say that aluminum sulphate or ferric sulphate that we use as a coagulant is salt. He put it in the babbling brooks, it says a lake that was the mixture which we call flocculation here. That let all the bad stuff in the water coagulate and settle out. People drew water off the surface in those days that is where the clean water was. That is exactly what Mr. Holland saw in the basins. We cause everything to clump together, all the bad stuff settles to the bottom and we collect the clean water off the top, polish it and send it out. What we actually do in this industry is biblical.

Mr. Rapson said his Bible verse, since we are giving out Bible verses is how you know Jesus attended a Water Committee or a Board of Commissioners meeting because John 11:35 says “Jesus wept.”

VI. ADJOURNMENT.

Steve Rapson made a motion to adjourn the Water Committee March 27, 2019 meeting. Lee Pope seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, Vice Chairman Frank Destadio adjourned the meeting at 8:50 A.M.

Frank Destadio

The foregoing minutes were approved at the regular Water Committee meeting on the 10th day of April, 2019.

Lisa Speegle

Next Scheduled Meeting Date: April 10, 2019