



Water Committee Action Agenda
September 9, 2026
8:30 A.M.

Committee Members Present: Bryan Keller, Chair; Environmental Management Director
Vanessa Tigert, Vice-Chair; Water System Director
Steve Rapson, County Administrator
Jeff Hill, Chief of Fire & Emergency Services
Jim Poff, Citizen Representative
William Yarde, Citizen Representative

Absent: Vacant, Citizen Representative

Committee Non-Voting Members: Patrick Stough, County Attorney's Office
Tom Powell, Arcadis

Staff Present: Susan Lee, Water Production & Operations Manager
Lindsey Poff, Engineering Technician
Carrie Gibby, Business Operations Manager

Call To Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bryan Keller at 8:30 A.M.

Acceptance of Agenda

Vanessa Tigert moved to accept the agenda as written. Jim Poff seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

1. Approval of Minutes from the August 12, 2026 meeting

Chairman Keller noted one correction had been made to the draft minutes prior to the meeting.

Jeff Hill moved to approve the minutes from the August 12, 2026 meeting. Vanessa Tigert seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Tigert commended Lindsey Poff for the quality of the minutes, especially given the short time in the role.

2. System Updates

Carrie Gibby reported that notifications regarding the updated Cross-Connection Control Ordinance had been sent to customers enrolled in e-billing. All other customers will receive

notification with their monthly mailed bill. She explained that the updates clarify customer responsibilities and distinguish between testable and non-testable backflow devices based on the type of customer service. Steve Rapson commented that most water systems have had similar requirements in place. Ms. Gibby noted that the AMI/Beacon software now allows the Water System to identify reverse flow, which may indicate a malfunctioning backflow device. Residential customers are now responsible for maintaining non-testable devices, and notification letters were sent prior to any alerts to ensure customers were aware of these changes. Ms. Tigert explained that the updated ordinance has made backflow requirements more rigorous and that customer expectations therefore needed to be reset. She noted that one significant change is that testable Backflow Prevention Assemblies are now required on all irrigation meters, regardless of size. Ms. Tigert also reported that Water System staff are testing all County-owned devices in-house and that more staff members are currently certified to perform backflow testing than before. She confirmed that customers are financially responsible for the annual testing of applicable Backflow Prevention Assemblies. Ms. Tigert also noted that the Water System now has a dedicated staff member at the administrative office working closely with the AMI team to monitor continuous flow and identify potential issues. Lindsey Poff was recognized for her detailed work in sending notifications and completing CIS updates to maintain accurate customer records. Ms. Gibby reported that the Water System is utilizing a third-party platform, The Compliance Engine, to receive and process backflow test results. Because the platform does not interface directly with CIS, staff must manually verify and update information to ensure records are accurate before notifications are issued. Susan Lee commented on the difficulty of the backflow certification course and noted that the number of Water System employees who have successfully obtained certification reflects positively on the staff.

Ms. Lee reported that Operations continues to experience high summer demand, with system demand reaching approximately 16 million gallons the previous day. She provided updates on several ongoing projects, including the chemical upgrades project, SCADA improvements, and the generator project. Ms. Lee reported that preparations for the generator project are complete and that the generators are expected to ship in October. A site visit and coordination meeting with Georgia Power and the project contractors is scheduled for the following week. Ms. Tigert noted that the meeting will bring together the contractors and representatives from the program providing a rebate for the project. Ms. Lee also reported that Coweta County had been asked to reduce its demand by approximately 25 percent. Although the reduction will result in decreased revenue, the action was taken to help protect reservoir levels. She noted that Lake Horton has somewhat stabilized since the reduction was implemented and that the Water System will continue this approach until significant rainfall is received.

Tom Powell provided an update on behalf of Arcadis. He reported that the task order for the solids processing design is in progress. The Alum project is also proceeding, although a factory test has not yet been scheduled. The chemical project has been bid and will require further discussion. Mr. Powell reported that there were no additional updates regarding the SCADA task order.

3. Director's Report

Ms. Tigert reported that the County remains in a drought and has gone at least three weeks without significant rainfall. She noted that recent rainfall has not been sufficient to substantially improve conditions. The Water System is preparing to distribute drought information again to remind customers that drought conditions remain in effect.

Mr. Rapson reported that staff may revisit the County's ordinance concerning private water systems and emergency connections. He noted that the discussion was prompted, in part, by complaints involving private water systems that are not operated by the County. He stated that staff are working to educate customers about emergency connections, including how they function and the associated costs. In response to a question from Mr. Poff regarding fees, Mr. Rapson explained that accessibility fees are paid for an emergency connection. If water is actually used through an emergency connection, the rate is three times the normal retail rate. He also noted that the current rate is approximately 30 percent higher than the rate QTS pays under its construction rate. Mr. Rapson added that some provisions of the ordinance may not be being followed to the letter.

Mr. Rapson also noted that QTS has fallen from the top 10 list of water users. Ms. Tigert stated that QTS has been cooperative in reducing irrigation in response to the drought advisements.

Ms. Tigert reported that the Water System is working with Public Works to improve the approximately five miles of walking trails at Lake Horton. The trails, which were constructed in 2000, are asphalt and have experienced damage from tree roots, while some trees have grown into the path of the trails. Staff are completing some of the work in-house, including constructing a new path and bringing portions of the trail system up to current path standards to enhance the reservoir property. Chairman Keller stated that the work is expected to take place over the next several weeks and will include the removal of some trees and the reconstruction of portions of the paths.

4. Public Comment

No comments.

5. Committee's Comments

Chairman Keller reported that bids have been received for updates to the Starr's Mill Education Facility and for bringing the building into code compliance. The matter is expected to be presented to the Board at its next meeting. The estimated cost of the work is \$171,000, which includes installation of an air-conditioning unit and other improvements needed to bring the facility up to current standards. Chairman Keller stated that the Committee anticipates holding a meeting at the facility during the first part of next year. The \$171,000 estimate does not include additional technology improvements, including server and camera upgrades, which are expected to cost approximately \$25,000. The planned technological improvements will also support the transition of SCADA communications away from radio frequencies and the establishment of a central server room at the facility. Information Technology is monitoring and participating in this process. Chairman Keller also reported that a task order for the site design of restroom facilities is in progress and is expected to be submitted for approval the following day. The restroom facilities are anticipated to be constructed before the end of the year. Ms. Tigert noted that

bringing the facility into code compliance and providing restroom facilities were among the goals of the SPLOST project. Mr. Poff asked whether the entrance off Highway 85 would be retained. Chairman Keller stated that the internal traffic flow has not yet been determined. He added that staff are working with the nearby church regarding the use of overflow parking and that other internal planning matters are still being addressed.

Adjournment

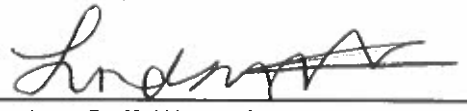
Vanessa Tigert moved to adjourn the September 9, 2026 Water Committee meeting. Jeff Hill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 A.M.



Bryan D. Keller, Chairman

The foregoing minutes were approved at the regular Water Committee meeting on the 14 day of October, 2026.



Lindsey Poff, Water Committee Clerk