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COUNTY DEPARTMENT AGENDA REQUEST

Department/Division: Fayette County Water System

Department Head: Tony Parrott

Presenter, if needed: Tony Parrott

Preferred Meeting Date: February 6, 2008

Wording for the Agenda:

Staff report from the Director of the Water System on the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District Toilet Voucher Rebate Program.

Background/History/Details:

On December 13, 2007 the Board adopted the Water Committee recommendation for the County to participate in the Atlanta Regional Commission's program regarding the toilet voucher program with stipulations.

The District is recommending a rebate of $50.00 for 1.6 gpf toilets and a $100.00 rebate for 1.28 gpf toilets. The District will determine customer eligibility, then notify the participating Water Utility to credit the customer account. The Memorandum of Agreement and Program details are attached.

The District will receive no money up front. The Water System credits the customer account which limits the rebate to Fayette County Water System customers.

What action are you seeking from the Board of Commissioners?

Approval of the District plan as presented in the current document. Approval for the Memorandum of Agreement to be signed by the Chairman of the Board.

If this item requires funding, please describe:

Funding will come from the conservation rate collected at $1.00 per customer for usage over 19,999 gallons per month.

Has this issue come before the Commissioners in the past? Yes

If so, when? December 13, 2007

Do you need audio-visual for the presentation? No

Back-up Material Submitted? Yes

STAFF USE ONLY

- (●) Finance Review Complete
- (●) Purchasing Review Complete
- (●) Legal Review Complete
- (●) Administrative Staff Review Complete

Administrator's Approval Yes

Confirmed Meeting Date Thursday, February 14, 2008

- ( ) Recognition/ Presentation
- ( ) Public Hearing
- (●) Old Business
- ( ) New Business
- ( ) Consent
- ( ) Report
- ( ) Other

NEW BUSINESS:

B. DISCUSSION BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE WATER SYSTEM TO CONSIDER THE WATER COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION FOR THE COUNTY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION'S PROGRAM REGARDING THE PROPOSED REGIONAL TOILET VOUCHER PROGRAM:

Director of the Water System Tony Parrott remarked that the A.R.C. would only provide $100 per toilet for the voucher program and these toilets must meet the new standard which was 1.28 gallons per flush. He noted that this program was set up to change out two toilets per household for anyone interested and would pertain to houses built prior to 1994. He said the Water Committee was recommending that the County participate in this program of up to 1,000 toilets in the upcoming year at a cost of $100 per toilet plus the $30 administrative fee or a total of $130,000. He said the funding for this program would be from the revenue that the Water System had collected from imposing the conservation rate for water use, which was income that had been taken in from charging customers who used more than 19,999 gallons per month. He said these customers were being charged an extra $1.00 per thousand gallons. He said there was more than enough revenue in the last eight months to fund this program if the Board wished to do so.

Mr. Parrott discussed the $30 administrative fee and who the recipient would be. He said the district was going to contract with Niagra Conservation Corporation and then they would subcontract with local water systems. He said the customer would apply for the toilet voucher with the program administrator who would pre-qualify the house to make sure it qualified. He said the customer would then be issued a voucher that they could use to get the new toilet. He said the retailer would then take the voucher and provide it back to the program administrator who would handle payment to the retailer for the toilet. He said there would be no tax dollars used for this program and it would only involve user money from the Water System. He commented there would be many questions that would need to be answered and a lot involved with this program and he felt the $30 administrative fee would be a bargain.

Commissioner Maxwell asked if the program administrator would ensure that only households in Fayette County would qualify for this program and Mr. Parrott responded yes.

Mr. Parrott commented that there were 13,400 customers in 1994 and there would be enough customers in Fayette County to handle the start up of this program without any kind of problem. He said the district would want cash in hand and when the money was used up that would be an end to the vouchers that would be issued.

Commissioner Maxwell expressed concern with sending the money in first to the district and not being sure if the Fayette County residents would participate and Mr. Parrott said he felt sure there would be more than enough interest in this program to cover the cost.

Chairman Smith clarified that Mr. Parrott had the funding for 1,000 toilets and Mr. Parrott agreed. Chairman Smith felt the concern was the number of households that would commit to the program, and if they did not could Fayette County get a refund. He felt it was incumbent on the Board to put a commitment on some period of time and he recommended the Board adopt the recommendation to participate in the program and insert

in this that the County would be committed for twelve months and at the end of twelve months the County would re-evaluate its situation. He asked for the Board's pleasure in this matter.

Commissioner Maxwell made a motion and Commissioner Frady seconded the motion to adopt the Water Committee's recommendation for the County to participate in the Atlanta Regional Commission's program regarding the Regional Toilet Voucher Program to the extent of 1,000 units at $130 per unit with the stipulation that there be an agreement drawn up with the receiving agency that Fayette County receive its money back if the money had not been spent on Fayette County homes within twelve months and that the excess funds be returned to the Fayette County Water System as well as the documentation that the toilets had been placed in homes of Fayette County water customers. The motion carried 5-0. A copy of the request, identified as "Attachment No. 3", follows these minutes and is made an official part hereof.