

WATER COMMITTEE
MAY 25, 2016
MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: James K “Chip” Conner, Vice Chairman
Commissioner Charles Oddo
Steve Rapson
Lee Pope
Jimmy Preau

NON-VOTING MEMBERS: Dennis Davenport

Michael Diaz

GUEST: Stephen Hogan

STAFF PRESENT: Russell Ray

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pete Frisina at 8:00 A.M. This meeting took place at the South Fayette Water Treatment Plant on Antioch Road.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING ON MAY 11, 2016.

Vice Chairman Chip Conner made the motion and Lee Pope seconded, to approve the minutes from the meeting on May 11, 2016. There was no opposition.

II. UPDATE ON WATER TREATMENT PLANTS.

Michael Diaz reported we have had a great couple of weeks of runs on the new filters. When the committee met last at the Crosstown Plant, they were getting ready to send potable water out into the system. They were able to successfully get all four filters operational that day; collecting data. The System Integrator is back this week to complete a couple of units; the data has been forwarded to EPD. At this point, EPD is reviewing the data and hopefully soon we will get it high rated for the summer months. That will give us the flexibility to be able to shut down filters one through four completely and just rely on the new five through eight through the summer. If we are able to get the filters high rated then we really don't have to depend on the other four, with three of those four filters we can meet maximum capacity. He said that will be excellent. The run time for the filters is more than twice what the run time used to be with the old filters. He said we are being conservative because we are not trying to push them too much yet.

Mr. Pope commented we washed the filters on Friday because we were nervous, not because there were any issues with them. Mr. Diaz said everything has been operating as expected. With the System Integrator here we can start getting the filters to backwash automatically. At this point, it has been done manually which is good for the operators to be hands on, kind of get a feel for how they are behaving.

Mr. Pope commented Friday when he was there; they let the operator do the filter backwash for the SOP. It is still not quite in auto yet, we are still tweaking the auto process. She went through the process and was actually the first operator to wash it

in manual with the SOP. She helped point out a few things to improve the process. When she finished, they were all contemplating how we need to shut the plant down. He said that Mr. Diaz stated they are on automatic, when you shut the plant down, they should automatically shut down. When she cut the flow and the filters were starting to see less flow coming in, the effluent slowly began to close until they took themselves out of service. When starting the plant back up, they will automatically see the flow and start opening; and they did. The operator said she had never seen that since she has been here. Mr. Pope said he does not know how far back that goes, he does not know if we ever had full auto. That is new with that plant.

Mr. Pope said he checked in with her on Saturday and the filters were holding. Some of the drains on the older filters leaked because they were so old. She told him when she shut the filters down; they did not lose an inch. They held where they were when taken out of service and when they were put back in.

Mr. Diaz said that is a good point, it is not just on the water potentially draining out of the filters while they are being shut down, but also as you are backwashing them, you are using a lot less water than the old filters. Now, you have the new air scour system, which is a lot more efficient. He said it is very exciting to watch the operators and their perspective of what the old filters used to do and what the new filters are doing.

Mr. Pope commented we are waiting for the state to high rate these filters. We should still operate filters one through four, but we have operators now that don't want to touch one through four. They don't even want to bring those filters online anymore.

Vice Chairman Conner asked about the life of the new media as compared with the old media, anthracite. Mr. Diaz responded it is similar media; the advantage of puracite is that it is a larger particle and lighter. For the existing backwash pumps that are slightly under rated, but eventually, down the road they need to be upgraded. Through the summer, he said we will be optimizing the filters to make sure they have the correct combined air, water, backwash low rate and high rate on the water, and everything else, to make sure they are optimized for the future.

Mr. Ray commented that as the media gets older, the edges start eroding away. Instead of having an angular sharp edge, it will round off. That means it is going to pack down more, and have less voids between the media to collect particles. That is why as media ages, so to speak, it is not as effective.

Mr. Pope went on to explain that what escalates that is the backwash process. If we are washing a filter every eighty or ninety hours, or sixty hours sometimes; now we are going to two hundred plus hours, there will be less backwashing. He said when Vice Chairman Conner asked the question he said he does not really know how to answer that. It will be a good test, because we have such a better process now. Vice Chairman Conner said he was comparing the old sand filter with the new media.

Mr. Rapson said we have taken the plan, executed the plan, and the plan is working as intended. Mr. Pope said the State is happy with the data, CH2M is happy with it and has probably looked at it even more critically than the State, he would think. Turbidity is 0.02 after two hundred hours, which is amazing.

Mr. Ray stated we have processed the last payment for Lakeshore and things are moving along fine there. Mr. Pope stated one reason he wanted the Committee to see the South Fayette Plant is so they could see what the Crosstown Plant will look like, once we tile the floors upstairs, paint the walls, and then downstairs the pipes will be painted, the floor will be sealed and hopefully we are going to paint the walls. CH is having us change out the lighting, so it will be similar to the downstairs at South Fayette.

Mr. Ray commented that AllSouth Constructors added the lime slurry system at South Fayette during our first project. It is identical to the one installed at the Crosstown Water Treatment Plant. Mr. Pope said the filters at South Fayette have electric valves instead of pneumatic, but they are functional and in good shape, so are the valves. It is good to have the same controls at both plants, because you have operators going back and forth. The filter controls at this plant will be an upgrade in the future.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT.

No public comment.

WATER QUALITY REPORT

Mr. Pope presented the Water Quality Report for 2015 to the committee. He also showed a copy of the previous report. He said that Lisa, Pam, and Russell have all had a hand in updating this report. Mr. Rapson commented that this makes us look a thousand times better. Mrs. Speegle said a couple of cycles have been mailed out, but not all of them. Commissioner Oddo said he had gotten some comments from citizens on it. Mr. Rapson asked if the two awards were in the report; Mr. Pope said we had the Gold Award, but not the Best Taste Award.

Mr. Pope said that tomorrow night, Thursday night, there will be a recognition from GAWP for those three awards. GAWP will be here to present them to the county.

Mr. Rapson commented that he thinks this is a significant update because it shows the level of professionalism we have taken the Water System to. Mr. Pope mentioned that the two operators are wearing the new uniforms we just rolled out yesterday. There are some different colors of shirts; red, blue and gray. All the operators have the new uniforms with the new logo on them. For the most part everybody is impressed. Some are not happy they have to wear them. One guy did not like it, went home and put it on and his wife said “Wow” that looks really good. It is a significant change, what we are asking operators to do for their appearance.

He said he thinks it was needed. He said that Candace had commented that it is the first time she has ever had clothes that were cut for a female. They have always had a set uniform and it did not matter if it was male or female. He said there have been some comments from the females that they appreciate that we recognized that, because we do have separate choices for them. He said it has been mostly good.

LAKE HORTON SHED

Chairman Frisina explained that Mr. Cross talked to Vanessa Birrell on Monday. Attorney Davenport stated that a letter was sent saying that he is on our property, please get it off our property, and before you get it off our property contact Vanessa Birrell because you are in the buffer. You can't just do what you want to do in the buffer, you have to do things a certain way.

Mr. Rapson explained that a guy built a shed very close to the water reservoir and it was brought to our attention. Based on some research we found out that the land he actually put it on was owned by the county. So we sent a letter basically saying you need to correct this. Chairman Frisina said the gentleman came in and talked with Ms. Birrell and got information about moving it. It looks like what he is going to have to do is hire somebody with some kind of large trailer. They are going to try to pick it up and put it on a large trailer and move it off the county property.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Steve Rapson made a motion to adjourn to executive session for one item of real estate. Lee Pope seconded and the committee adjourned to executive session. Attorney Dennis Davenport briefed the committee on this item.

Steve Rapson made a motion to recommend the Board of Commissioners accept the Water Committee recommendation on this item of real estate. Jimmy Preau seconded and there was no opposition.

Vice Chairman Conner made a motion to close executive session. Steve Rapson seconded and the Water Committee adjourned from executive session.

There being no further business, Chairman Pete Frisina adjourned the meeting at 8:25 A.M. Once the meeting was adjourned the Water Committee toured the South Fayette Water Plant.

Pete Frisina

The foregoing minutes were approved at the regular Water Committee meeting on the 8th day of June, 2016.

Lisa Speegle