

**WATER COMMITTEE**  
**MARCH 28, 2018**  
**MINUTES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

James Preau, Vice Chairman  
Steve Rapson, County Administrator  
Lee Pope, Water System Director  
Commissioner Steve Brown

**ABSENT:**

Pete Frisina, Chairman

**NON-VOTING MEMBERS:**

Dennis Davenport, County Attorney  
Jason Bodwell, CH2M

**OTHER STAFF:**

Russell Ray, Water System  
Daphne Cousson, Water System

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

Lee Pope made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of making number 5 Discussion of Landscaping and move Public Comment down to number 6. Commissioner Steve Brown seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING ON FEBRUARY 28, 2018.**

Commissioner Steve Brown made the motion and Lee Pope seconded, to approve the minutes from the meeting on February 28, 2018. The motion passed unanimously.

**II. DISCUSSION OF WATER COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP.**

Dennis Davenport explained this is a follow up from the last meeting. There were just some minor changes to make. He reviewed the changes for the Committee. At the top of page 2, a phrase after the sentence that begins in order to make recommendations, there was a blank, we can add other reasons, and the membership was there, so he deleted that. He said he added "i" at the bottom of the page to provide a forum for citizens to express concerns that was a request to add. On the next page, membership under a, under Section 3a is 7 members, under 1 of "a", there was some information added to clarify that there are going to be members that are residents and members that are employees of Fayette County. That played into terms under paragraph 2 because you are not looking at terms for 7 members, you are only looking at terms for 3 members because other members are going to be Fayette County employees and they are going to serve by virtue of their position. This was an attempt to stagger the 3 members out; the first will be

serving for greater than one year, but less than two years. The other 2 would be serving for greater than three years, but less than four years. The end result is after that first staggering, they will all have four year terms and they will be two years staggered.

Mr. Rapson pointed out they have to be residents and customers of the Fayette County Water System. He said that is important because you can be a Fayette County resident and be on a private water system.

Mr. Davenport said what he did was the qualification was at the top of page 4 under “b”, he took it and built it under one and added residents and customer, because you can just say residents. At the top of page 4 clarifies what county positions are there, no big changes, it is the same people that are here now, as far as the positions. On page 6, Section 4, there was the desire to add the office of the Vice Chairman and Secretary, those were added in as well; first paragraph under Section 4. Just some housekeeping changes is all there were.

Commissioner Brown made a motion to recommend approval of the ordinance as written and forward this to the Board of Commissioners for their consideration. Lee Pope seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

### **III. WATER PLANT UPDATE.**

Mr. Pope explained we are waiting on the draft to come back from CH for the Purate Chlorine Dioxide, the Permanganate and the Carbon. CH is doing the construction estimates for us now so we will have that full package. He went on to say we have had some challenges with our South Fayette Plant with some of our computer issues and we are addressing that this week to get things resolved. We have a temporary fix right now, but we will be doing something permanent later on this week, hopefully if we can get the parts. Other than that, the Crosstown Plant is looking pretty good. All the systems there are on line. We are waiting to do some floor coatings there and then we will probably have a meeting so everyone can see the final product once we are completed. He said we will talk about the next stages for that plant. We have installed a new control center there, which makes it look more like a professional operation center as it should. He said he thinks the Committee will be glad to see all the new technology that has been installed at that plant. The operators are starting to take advantage of that by providing a good quality of water to our citizens. Things are going well there. We have a few challenges at South Fayette, but CH is assisting us in addressing that.

Mr. Pope said we are also going to move forward with recommendations from CH on the filter study that was done there; as we had anticipated we might have to completely replace the under drain filters. Fortunately that did not turn out to be the case. We can add some additional media, which will form the recommendations and bring the media back up to the normal elevation. Then we are going to update

the controls on the filter up there. CH is working on a task order to assist us with implementing those recommendations.

Mr. Pope announced we are now an independent water system as we are not purchasing water from the City of Atlanta any more for any of our customers. He said when we get the zero bill, he will bring it in to show the group.

Commissioner Brown asked related to our systems because you can get hacked and shut completely down, as Atlanta has proved; do we have any threat of somebody gaining access into our water systems or whatever, and shutting the thing down? Mr. Pope replied our SCADA is stand-alone computers and we have Phil Frieder. Commissioner Brown asked do we have the ability to manually run everything and get everything going if the computer system was disrupted in the county and held hostage.

Mr. Rapson said we had a great example of that Saturday. Mr. Pope said we are still running some things manually at South Fayette, but he thinks it is safe to say that the operators use the computer for email and all those things to correspond with the county, those computers are on the county network. But the SCADA's are not. Mr. Ray pointed there is a separate network at South Fayette and at Crosstown; there are connections, but Phil has firewalls there, but the SCADA system is a separate system. Right now, for example, they are running the lime system at South Fayette manually.

Mr. Pope said that is one of the things when we did the vulnerability assessments in the early 2,000's (he was not here then), but as water systems, we were told to sever our SCADA computers from being on any kind of a network. We can actually do a manual hookup if somebody wants to dial in to do work, but other than that, we keep them off the web. We can run manual.

Mr. Pope announced we will be receiving the Gold Award for both of our water treatment facilities. That was for 100% compliance in the 2017 year. He said Mr. Rapson updated the Board last week at their meeting. He said the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR), which is required to go out to customers, draft is finished and Daphne will make sure it gets inserted in the customer bills by June. He said she is going to talk a little bit about updating and notifying customers in a few minutes.

#### **IV. WATER SYSTEM WATER BILL INSERT (NEW NOTIFICATION SYSTEM).**

Daphne Cousson discussed the insert to be included in the paper water bills, which would be about 25,000. She said this is the new notification system that we have live at the moment. We started using it for our e-bill customers that get inserts such as the Southern Ground Amphitheater notice and the CCR's, so that we don't forget those individuals just because they choose to get their stuff electronically

instead of by paper. She said what she would like to do is send it out, basically requiring the customers to pick at least one, or all three; because they can actually get all three the same way. These are not water bills; they will not get their water bills this way. This would only be notifications that go out that we do not bill for. She said she would like give a brief overview of how the new system works. She said Rob McCool with IT worked hard with some of the lead engineers at Tyler Technologies to get all this in place.

Daphne connected the program on the Tyler Dashboard; she explained with a campaign we would use Munis to send the information out. Customer Service and Billing will be able to see the information at the account level. In the file she accessed, there were 3 records that had an error and needed to be checked, out of 7000 accounts. Using Microsoft 365 was taking a very long time to get the information out to our e-bill customers. To have all of our citizens take advantage of this piece, which she thinks they will love, they can choose all 3 or 1 of the 3. How it is written is this is how you will receive notification moving forward. We were able to use this yesterday. She said we did it from the Munis system. She showed the Committee the process in Munis to send the information out and how to look at statistics. It can be sent out by phone, we customize it, it goes out into the email in a very clean format. You can link certain links and we plan to include Citizen Self Service. That data base is building every month. Then we can text, tweet will be coming if we had twitter.

Commissioner Brown asked if there is a situation where we could figure out the geographical area for the individuals and then if we collect mobile phone information, and we had a problem such as boil water situation, then you can send that out. Daphne replied Boil Water is one of the notifications we can do. Commissioner Brown asked about us having the ability to define those people and then send them a text in that area. Daphne replied yes.

Mr. Rapson commented there could be an issue getting EPD to acknowledge that is proper notification, because they require a written notice. Commissioner Brown said he understands, but this is an extra thing we could do. Even if we still had to deliver the paper notice, because he can't tell you how many people say "I never got the notice, I didn't know anything was going on."

Mr. Pope said that is the key here, that is why we want to implement it, because whether EPD accepts it, he feels like one day they will; he feels like one day they will be acceptable to electronic communications because you can confirm it. But, when we put the notice on the door, the wind blows it away, the dog gets it, or they don't use that door. Commissioner Brown said one of the things too is if I am a parent and I get the text and I know my kids are coming home before I get home from work, I can call the kids and say don't drink the water.

Jason Bodwell commented it is less of a formal communication and the speed is the biggest issue. Mr. Pope agreed, it is the right thing to do and it will give our citizens,

whether EPD will accept it or not, our citizens are just like every day folks like us. They are going to more electronic communications, too. Mr. Rapson commented this is one more tool in the toolshed.

Mrs. Cousson explained this program is more powerful than this, you can utilize it, and it does not have to be data sitting in the Munis system. You can actually import XML files and send it out from an email or phone listing. She showed an example of the file sent yesterday to 7,124 recipients. She did a brief search, identified a window for a street for a boil water notice for Dividend Drive and explained the process. She stated the customer does have to opt in to get texts/and or cell phone because of data rates. As we gather information, we can on board some of the citizens to get notifications, they can choose all three. The committee agreed this is a wonderful enhancement.

Mr. Pope commented Mrs. Cousson has worked really hard; there is a lot of work behind this. Mrs. Cousson commented that Sean Brown, Billing Operations Supervisor, she wishes he was here, because he will tell you the difference between utilizing this tool and just going through 365. He had to do like an eight step process to get those out electronically. Yes, in turn it still saved us money in postage, but not in employee time, time for employees to be dedicated to his staff. It was like a five second deal.

Commissioner Brown suggested adding some language to the insert that would highlight more of the emergency situation, to give people a real reason to sign up. In other words, I don't want to give out my text number, but maybe say "in the event of a water emergency we are going to tell you not to drink the water, this will be used" or something like that. He said that would make him give out his text number in a heartbeat. Mr. Pope said that is how they did with Code Red in Rockdale, Code Red was for a tornado, everything, but the Water System also could utilize it when they had a main break or whatever. Lots of people signed up because they want those emergency notifications.

Commissioner Brown said the language is great; he would just try to put a line or something that heightens that. In the event that we have a water emergency and we don't want you drinking the water, something; we have a hazard situation, we want to notify you immediately. He said he thinks we will get texts and emails.

Mrs. Cousson stated we plan to send these inserts out in the bills after the CCR's which will be in June. Mr. Pope said once the draft of the CCR is ready, we will bring it in for the Committee to review. Mr. Ray asked if they can mail or email the form, fill out the actual form? Mrs. Cousson said they can actually just email it in the body of an email, just their information. It doesn't have to be in a special format, just say yes, please sign me up, or something of that nature. They do that for new services, terminations, there is a small format that they need to fill out to get them signed up for service.

Mrs. Cousson added this also shows delivered which is a plus, so someone can't say they did not get something. Mr. Pope said we know we put the Boil Water Notices on the front door, but there is no way to justify whether we did or not, but send this one out, we know you got it. Mrs. Cousson commented on the delinquent notices for water accounts. She said the Customer Service Supervisor, Capri Reeves mentioned utilizing it for cut-offs, maybe several days before we actually do cut-offs as a reminder. All of that is integrated in with the process in Munis itself, so there is no outside source. We do not have to do multiple things, it is the click of a button and it is gone.

## **V. DISCUSSION OF LANDSCAPING.**

Mr. Pope commented that he added this to the agenda for Commissioner Brown, he wanted to bring this item up as a topic of discussion, he had asked it to be added at the last Board of Commissioners meeting. Commissioner Brown said yes, he had been contacted late last year, around November by some people in a condominium office complex in Peachtree City, Oak Manor, off of Highway 74. They had had a main break, or something like that had occurred and we had to go and do some work and we fixed the water issue, but the landscaping issue was still left hanging. He said he told them at the time, don't worry, this was an emergency, they have to just go in and fix it, but we would come back and we will clean up the landscaping, we will make it whole and all that. Because that is their place of business, and a lot of traffic flowing in, there are several doctor's offices and things like that in that park.

Commissioner Brown went on to say he got a call a couple of weeks ago when he got back in town and two of them wanted to meet with him. He said they wanted to give him the business over this is still not done and what is going on. That has been an extended period of time. He said he wants to ask what our policy for getting landscaping taken care of is; and what can we do to expedite some of these cases; especially, when you have a business where we have big gaping mounds of dirt or the lawn has been torn up; or whatever, in front of their business. For businesses, there are some smaller businesses that this is really a part of their image and we really need to be respectful of that. He said he was telling Mr. Pope this morning he understands you can't grow Bermuda sod in the winter time, but can we put pine straw down and make an island out of it until which time we can get warm enough weather to put Bermuda sod down or whatever the case may be, but do something to work on the aesthetics after we get through.

Commissioner Brown said when he talked with them the first time, the first guy was understanding, it was an emergency and it is going to take a couple of weeks to come back, but a couple of weeks turned into months.

Mr. Pope said an unwritten policy we have is we try to go back with like landscaping where we can. For instance, if they have a big oak tree there and we have to remove that we are not going to plant a big oak back because we don't



particularly want that in our right of way anyway. When it comes to bushes and things of that nature we typically do not replace those. We do go back; by law, he thinks we are required to do soil stabilization, we are required to put some sort of growth in there; seed, straw and make sure we stabilize the soil. That is really all we are required to do. Generally we go above and beyond and go back with like sod for beautification of the people's landscaping. We are not really required to do that. We are not landscapers and we are not really in the landscaping business. Typically, what you have in this situation is you have somebody on call, a landscaping contractor to come in and do that. We work it into our schedule. We don't typically get there as quickly as we probably should in some cases, but again we are not landscapers, we are not concrete people either. What we have to do with the concrete repairs is we put that through our Purchasing department; each individual concrete job. We have to write a scope of services for every individual one. That is extensive time that it takes to do that. He said he does not think we get back as quickly as some people would like for us to, typically he does not think we are required to go back and do anything within a certain time period. We can try to do better, but again, we need to have a landscaper or somebody on call with a unit based contract. Typically, like what we have with CH or with Shockley, so we know the hours for the particular personnel and then a cost of materials, plus. That would be ideal, we don't have that right now, and he does not know if that is something we could get procured, if Mr. Rapson could assist him with that.

Mr. Rapson said we could certainly do a landscape contract; the short answer is it depends. If it is in our right of way, it is a different issue than if it is not in our right of way. Based on what Mr. Pope showed him, it looks like we are on their property doing a lot of this as opposed to in our right of way, because there is a loop that loops through Oak Manor; and we have a few of those. He said with those we probably need to have the conversation with Dennis on what we can and cannot do. Because now you are actually, even though it is our waterline, it is on their property and it is going to depend on where that line is and what is broke in regards to how we fix it.

Mr. Pope explained to Mr. Davenport to bring him up to speed. He said we have an office park, very typical to the Pavilion that we should have a master meter on 74 and it should be their line. They developed it, but apparently we have accepted this as our waterline and we are actually doing work on private property which, in his opinion, we really should not have been in there doing the main repairs, let alone in there doing landscaping on private property because we typically shouldn't be working on private property. This is not on a master meter.

Mr. Rapson said he does not think this is probably the time to answer these questions, because Mr. Davenport will want to go look at the property, look at the plat, look at the parcels, and look at your waterlines. He suggested in those areas where it is not the norm, this is a good example of one that is not the norm. We probably need to get with Mr. Davenport and figure out what our policy is. Right now he thinks we need to have a policy; right now he does not think we do. Our

typical policy, the blanket “we have always done it”, is if the landscaping is in our right of way, we don’t typically replace exactly what is there, we replace landscaping to stabilize it, which is never going to typically be what the HOA or whoever happens to be on that right of way is going to enjoy. He said he thinks this particular one is kind of weird because it is off the right of way. It is really just replacing grass; he does not think there is a huge mound of dirt. He went on to say that we can certainly make it look prettier than the way we probably left it. Especially it being in a business office park, especially if we know, a lot of times, even if you had a mound of dirt, it doesn’t take a lot of effort to put a blue tarp on a mound of dirt, put concrete blocks around it nicely so people can see that it is still in progress as opposed to just having a pile of dirt.

Mr. Pope commented it was seed and strawed, brought back to elevation. In October they couldn’t get sod. Commissioner Brown said he thinks our rule of thumb should be if we mess it up, we should try our best to make it as good as we can get it.

Vice Chairman Preau commented we spent a good amount of time some months ago with a Home Owners Association coming in here and going through the same thing. He said he thinks we have to be consistent in how we do this. Commissioner Brown said he agreed; it is our responsibility. This is why he said the rule of thumb is if we are tearing it up, it should be something that is our responsibility he would imagine.

Vice Chairman Preau said not if it is on our right of way. Mr. Rapson said what we are talking about here is different. You are correct and Mr. Davenport is going to be correct if it is right of way. This is not on our right of way. Mr. Davenport said he has not said anything yet. He said he would like to know what the waterline loops through the business park; was it put in place like a typical waterline is, by the developer and then dedicated to the governing authority.

Mr. Pope said he has no idea what the situation was. Mr. Davenport said that is the first question you have to have an answer to. Mr. Pope said he was going to pull the file this morning, but he thinks this is going to take some research. Mr. Davenport said if you don’t have a dedication as a private line, you don’t have any business being there at all, period. If the waterline breaks and they call you, it is not your responsibility. Commissioner Brown said that is definitely worthy of some research.

Mr. Davenport went on to say if it is your waterline you would have either an easement or fee simple title to a ten foot strip where the waterline is placed. If that happens and they put bushes on that easement, that is their problem, because that is our property. If those bushes conflict with our waterline, those bushes go.

Mr. Pope said we need Mr. Davenport to help us address those. Apparently we have several of these. He went on to say that Commissioner Brown wanted us to address landscaping, this one happens to be a special circumstance, but normally if it is in the right of way, we do soil stabilization, which is required by law. Then we go back



and do our best to manicure back to look, we hate to go into a subdivision and tear up somebody's beautiful front yard, but most people aren't educated enough to know that there is a utility right of way there and that is really not their property. Unfortunately, it is not a sense of urgency for us. We are in the business to repair water mains.

Mr. Davenport said there are instances, and the one that comes to mind is the Kedron Chick-Fil-A, where you wind up having a break and it damages private property due to all the water flowing on that property. Now, you have a duty to do something, because you caused that. But, if the break is on private property and it is not your waterline and it damages property, again, you are not responsible for that. It is the person that owns the waterline.

Mr. Pope said this may require two 8" meters and vaults. Commissioner Brown said that is a separate issue and we are going to have to sort some of those particular instances out. But, if we are working and it is legitimately our concern, our water main, in the right of way, and it is in front of a business, whatever we can do to aesthetically make it as good as we can make it, so that it doesn't detract from their business.

Mr. Pope commented that the property manager sent him a letter saying he could have already bought the sod and installed it himself. He said he almost called him and said "go ahead". He also said he wanted to be reimbursed.

Commissioner Brown said if we can figure out a way to streamline the system and make it work better...Mr. Rapson said the take away from this is we cannot communicate too much to whoever is impacted when we are in the process. Commissioner Brown said that is four less phone calls he has to listen to and then have to bring it up in these meetings.

Mr. Rapson suggested we identify the areas that we know that we have this type of situation, get all those areas identified; sit down with Mr. Davenport and give him the research he needs. Then have a meeting, then whatever we decide what that action should or shouldn't be we will come back and report to the Water Committee. Mr. Pope said he has already instructed Mr. Munster to do so, and he will also talk to Mr. Bergen to look at it.

Commissioner Brown commented it would be good to have a winter time strategy. You are not going to get grass to grow in December or January. What can we do? Mr. Pope said we did soil stabilization. Mr. Russell said we could put rye, wintertime grass. Mr. Pope said we did seed and straw. But they wanted sod.

Mr. Davenport commented on what we did with a guy up in North County who had a problem with his driveway and we had to go in and fix the driveway because it was in our right of way and the culvert had collapsed. He wanted a special kind of driveway to replace it. We said we will take care of the standard concrete cost; you

price out what it is you want to do; and he did. We wound up giving him the standard concrete cost and he paid the guy to come in and do the extra on top of that and we were fine with that. We are not going to pay the extra for that, but we will allow them to if they want to.

Mr. Ray said our policy has always been, and within reason as good as or better than what it was; if it was sod we are going to put sod back. It just takes sometimes too much time. In lieu of having the contract we may set up with landscaping eventually it always comes back to Distribution to do it. They like to put pipe in the ground. Mr. Pope said he doesn't want to pay a licensed doctor to cut grass; he hates to pay licensed Distribution people to go out and lay sod. That is just not what they are licensed to do. Mr. Ray said we can certainly look at the landscaping option, companies to help us with that. We do have a new Distribution Assistant Manager; this is another person to help Distribution coordinate these repairs.

Commissioner Brown said to have the length of time to put twelve pieces of Bermuda sod on the ground; surely there is a simpler way. Mr. Pope stated there was twelve here, fifteen at the other, thirty three at another; do we want them landscaping or do we want them fixing mains. Quite frankly, in November and December we had a record number of main breaks last year. Commissioner Brown said these are not major things. You have dirt, you are going to put sod, you are going to put "X" number of pieces of sod on it and then you are going to walk off.

Mr. Ray said in lieu of having a landscaper do it, he is going to be talking to them about doing what we can do expedite these. Commissioner Brown said thanks. When he found out that it was a while ago, he thought wow, this is taking a while to get that done, if I'm still getting complaints on that thing.

## **VI. PUBLIC COMMENT.**

Mr. Davenport gave the Committee an update on the Emergency Water Ordinance. He said the Board of Commissioners did adopt the Emergency Water Ordinance at the last meeting. They adopted it in full, the way it was presented. It raises a question now, that we need to deal with; and that is how to deal with the water meter at Dix-Lee On subdivision. That is the only one out there. We need to put together a strategy to take care of that because just not doing anything is not a strategy. We have to do something. He recommended finding out from the water system owner if he wants to continue to have a meter. If the answer to that question is yes, then he recommends the Water System do an analysis to determine what size meter to use. Not whether the two inch meter is appropriate, but what size meter he needs.

Mr. Pope said we will ask CH to do that with their analysis. Mr. Davenport said once we do that, that triggers whether or not they need a vault. Let's assume he doesn't need a vault. He is still going to have to abide by our provisions and the biggest one is he is in the habit of turning that meter on and off whenever he wants

to. That has got to stop. There has got to be an education component specifically with him because his is the only active meter out there. He said we have some homework to do on this one to get it in shape.

Mr. Rapson said at a minimum we need to communicate with him in writing that the ordinance has been adopted and he needs to follow it and we are in the process of having an analysis done and then we will meet with him. Just kind of laying out, don't do anything different with the rates now, do what we have always done, but put him on notice that this relationship now has changed based on a Board action.

Mr. Davenport said you have to ask him to confirm he wants the meter. He may not want the meter anymore. If that is the case, fine. Mr. Pope said he is very familiar with the ordinance. Commissioner Brown said he is going to want the meter. Mr. Davenport said once he says he wants the meter, then we will run the analysis and tell him what size meter he needs based upon our analysis, not what he thinks he needs. It is our Water System. Mr. Rapson said as far as he is concerned this is just the first of those private water systems that have approached us and said we want to enter into this agreement.

Mr. Pope said we will make contact and verify whether he wants the connection or if he wants any more connections. He said he knows he owns several systems and if the answer is yes, we will have CH take the data they have on the system and recommend the meter size needed. Mr. Rapson said as if there was no connection there at all, what we would do. Mr. Davenport asked if there is any other private system in the county that has a meter. Mrs. Cousson said not that she is aware of.

### **WATER GUARDIANS**

Commissioner Brown announced Water Guardians is this Saturday. It is the first one of 2018 at Lake McIntosh. According to Carrie, we are going to have a record number of people showing up. He thanked CH for providing lunch, he said they appreciate it and they are looking forward to getting it started. They will hit one every month. He said he left June open because of the Lake Peachtree Spillway project. He did not necessarily say that was what they were going to do, because they have been so badgered with the rain and everything and he knows they said they delayed it already.

Mr. Ray said he was at the Lake Peachtree pump station walking down in the lake bed and there is a good bit of debris down there. Commissioner Brown said he told Jon Rorie and Betsy Tyler awhile back that is probably a good project to do since the lake bed is largely exposed, that we could do a little something out of the ordinary with that and do a walk of the lake bed and pick it all up. But, wait until just before they are going to open the new project, and the spillway is complete. Mr. Ray commented we have two Polaris now that might be helpful.

Commissioner Brown commented on the Coweta thing, he said a guy came up at the Board meeting and said that we have been negotiating water with Coweta and all

that kind of stuff. Through someone at Coweta they said yes, they are interested in having water from us, but this is what he would strongly urge. That we don't enter into any conversations with Coweta unless the Board of Commissioners says enter into conversations with Coweta related to water usage. One of the hottest issues in Peachtree City right now is running sewer over there and then possibly, there is a conversation about Peachtree City annexing parts of Coweta; he said he can't imagine Coweta doing that without really pitching a royal fit about it, but there is a lot of heated conversations about the relationship between Peachtree City, Fayette County, and Coweta and what is going to transpire, land development and traffic problems. He said it is best if we keep our irons out of that fire until the Board directs the Water System to have some talks with Coweta. Otherwise, we will probably get ourselves into a lot of whiplash.

Mr. Rapson commented that is a bullet point on Mr. Popes' Retreat. He asked if he is going to leave it on the Retreat, to have that discussion, interconnections is one of the things that EPD is talking about. Mr. Pope said he thinks we will discuss that. CH will be there to speak to that, too, because we may see a project come out of that requiring Coweta to connect to this county as part of the interconnect study. We really don't know what, but the District has revisited that plan and they are having CH and some other firms look at that. He said CH did the original work on that. The long term plan is for the Metropolitan Planning District communities to be all interconnected, so the County better get ready. Either we can do it on our terms or we can do it on their terms, but he thinks that is coming soon. It has been resurrected again and he thinks the only reason it hasn't been breathed to life is we haven't had a drought yet. If we have another drought, they will probably call us up and say you have to help your neighbors out.

Mr. Rapson stated there have been no conversations with rates and we are not selling any water to Coweta County. That is what the guy was saying. Commissioner Brown said having the connection that we have had with the City of Atlanta when you need the water and you are deficient in the amount of water that you can provide to your customers, that is one thing, but creating a development scenario in the neighboring county by creating water customers and sewage customers and stuff like that, that is different.

Mr. Pope explained what he was going to bring up at Retreat is the fact that they expressed interest, we know that there is interest from the District and from EPD. He does not know that EPD is going to come down with a heavy hand and tell us tomorrow to connect, but wait until we have another drought and then that is when those things surface. He said he thinks it would be better for us to be ahead of the game and have an emergency connection for them should their system have an emergency some time.

Commissioner Brown said chances are you have to recall too, if Coweta has a drought, then primarily we have a drought, too. We are going to have the same drought that they are having. Mr. Pope said EPD will tell you if you have 50 million

**gallon a day yield and you have 13 million gallon a day demand, and you have communities suffering, they are either going to downgrade your withdrawal permit the next time they come up for renewal or else they are going to ask you to share with your neighbors, because we are definitely water wealthy here in this community. We have way more yield than we can use at this time. That is being heavily looked at right now because of the law suit with Florida.**

**Mr. Rapson said that is for a discussion with the Board. He thinks that is the appropriate place to take it. Jason Bodwell said the interconnect study mentioned is not for drought purposes. It is more for a catastrophic failure inside one system or a contamination of water source inside one system. The reasons that drive the connection is not drought related. He said he knows it came out of the drought back in 2011, but it was really, just a reliability situation. A lot of the failure points CH looked at the system and saw here is one failure point. If this one line were to break inside your system, you're in trouble and therefore you need to connect with a neighboring system to guard against that one failure. That is not necessarily drought related.**

**Mr. Rapson said even though we are now independent and we don't need the City of Atlanta's system, we are also not removing that valve; because if we have a break and lose our northern system we can turn the spigot back on. Mr. Bodwell said a lot of the suggestions in that study are just making sure that connection still exists, making sure the connection still works, exercising it from time to time. What the study realizes is a lot of folks know they are connected to somebody but nobody has touched that connection or valve for decades.**

**Mr. Pope stated we are checking our Clayton connections. We are not so sure that they have enough pressure to put water in our system, but we still need to verify. If we were to come to a crisis, he thinks they could put water into our system, if our tanks were low. At current operating pressures, they probably can't but we don't need them right now. We are working on checking that interconnect right now.**

**Mr. Bodwell commented everyone should have a plan to exercise that and maintain that annually. Commissioner Brown added cross contamination obviously when you start having all these different connections to all these different jurisdictions, you really have to worry about how do we safe guard to prevent that type of thing. He said he remembers when we had the algae thing we bled into Fayetteville's system. He said you have to figure out how you prevent that kind of scenario.**

**Mr. Rapson said the discussion is a whole lot different with him pushing and selling you water than him either buying the water or allowing you to go into a pipe and go through my system. Those are three different discussions. Commissioner Brown commented he knows it is a heated debate right now about what is going on right now on the border there; whatever we can do to not exacerbate the problem.**

**Mr. Pope said to make it clear to the Water Committee members, there have been no discussions with them about rates or whatever. He said he knows they talked about it at their meetings and they discussed it.**

**Mr. Rapson said we have not sold them any water. He asked Mr. Pope if he is bottling any water and selling it to them. Mr. Pope said no, he has no way to get water to them, even if they had an emergency.**

**VII. ADJOURNMENT.**

**Commissioner Steve Brown made a motion to adjourn the Water Committee March 28, 2018 meeting. Lee Pope seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

**There being no further business, Vice Chairman James Preau adjourned the meeting at 8:50 A.M.**

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**James Preau**

**The foregoing minutes were approved at the regular Water Committee meeting on the 25th day of April, 2018.**

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**Lisa Speegle**