

**WATER COMMITTEE**  
**AUGUST 8, 2018**  
**MINUTES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

**ABSENT:**

**NON-VOTING MEMBERS:**

Dennis Davenport, County Attorney  
Jason Bodwell, CH2M/Jacobs

**GUEST:**

Alice Reeves, President, Historical Society  
Tony Parrott  
Charles Ellis  
Ben Emmanuel, American Rivers

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Anita Godbee, Parks & Recreation  
Harold Myers, Chief Marshal  
Matt Bergen, Daphne Cousson  
Carrie Gibby, Chrystn White

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pete Frisina at 8:00 A.M.

**I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING ON JULY 25, 2018.**

Steve Rapson made the motion and Lee Pope seconded, to approve the minutes from the meeting on July 25, 2018. The motion passed unanimously.

**II. STARR'S MILL.**

Mr. Rapson introduced Alice Reeves, President of the Historical Society. He said we are talking about entering into an IGA with the Historical Society to open the mill up two or three hours a day, one day a month, the second Wednesday of the month. They would have someone there, very similar to what they do for the annual meeting, talk about the history of Starr's Mill, talk about how things in the mill worked. He said we are actually talking about getting some display cases and maybe displaying some of the artifacts that we have gotten out of Lake Horton and Lake McIntosh, and then they have historical photos and those types of things. He said he is not talking about leaving anything permanently in the building initially. He said they are talking about some improvements that will be made.

Mr. Rapson went on to say the Historical Society would basically staff and operate it on our behalf through an IGA that we would have Dennis Davenport craft for us.

**Mr. Pope said the Water System would still remain in control of the partnership; they would help us open it up. He said he is glad to see the Historical Society finally embrace the fact that we are trying to start sharing this facility with our citizens and making it available. He said he has gone down there many times and had to let people in to see the inside of the building. They have never had an opportunity.**

**He said hopefully we can form some sort of a partnership where the Historical Society will have some involvement with our actions and what we plan to do there. We know we would like to expand and make this some sort of historical educational center. This county, in his opinion doesn't have that anywhere else. So, it is important that we partner with our Historical Society if we are going to do that. He said he does not think the Historical Society, in his opinion, has been very active so hopefully they will be more active once we partner with them moving forward. He said he plans to change that. He said he knows there has been a lot of activity on the Starr's Mill property before he got here that has been questionable in his opinion. He said he does not think the sanded pinewood floors should have been put in there and he does not know that we should have built a pump station on the site. But, that is in the past and we will have to move forward beyond that. He said he thinks it is important that we start making this facility available for our citizens. He said he plans to have more events there where people can be brought in so they can see it. He said he knows a lot of people travel long distances and all they get is a photo of the outside of the building. There is a lot more we can do with this historical piece of property. We are very fortunate to have Jacobs that have brought an individual in from their group that actually is from here and has a lot of historical knowledge and background on the property itself. He said he thinks this will be a good opportunity for us to partner together and he hopes we can do this with many more things as we move forward. He said he thinks there is a lot of history in this county that is missing. If he has anything to do with it, we are going to start locating those properties and see what we can do as a county to protect them and the Historical Society should be a part of that. He said in Rockdale County they just bought the Coston Mill Property that he has been fighting for something to happen with since 2002. The Chairman invited him up there and he said they finally bought your mill property and they are going to protect it. He said this is the county's mill property, but I congratulate you guys on buying it and taking care of it.**

**Mr. Pope went on to say there is a lot of historical property in this county that he does not think has been identified. For example, he knows of three, the church on the north side of the county, the courthouse, the library and now we will have Starr's Mill. He said he thinks there is more property in this county that needs to be identified and protected and taken care of. He said he is going to do everything he can to identify investors that are willing to come into this county and help us protect this property. We block people coming into our community a lot of times because they will bring big business and we don't understand. If we will sit down and talk to these people they are concerned about our heritage and they will be willing to invest in our community and help us protect our history. He said he has done that with large organizations before and we are going to start doing it here in this county. He**

said he does not mind making partnerships with his adversaries that is what he has done. He said Ben is here from American Rivers, they are not our adversaries, they are here to protect our rivers and we are partnering with them on a grant. He said we are also partnering with them on one of the first historical permits that will ever be permitted on a reservoir. We are bringing them to the table and working with them. He said he has never worked with a river community group that would say we don't want you to draw any water from the basins. They just want us to be efficient. There is a partnership there, we will work together with them, we are not going to push them away anymore, and we are going to bring them in. He said we are going to do the same thing with the Historical Society; we are going to bring them in and make them a partner. We are going to change the individuals we work with, as long as he is at this Water System to make this community better. He said he has already done it. We are partnering with you guys, we have never partnered with you before, we are about to partner with the Historical Society. The Historical Society does not particularly care for what he wants to do at Starr's Mill, but we have changed them because they have already agreed to come and open it up one day a month to help us share it with the community. So, he has already changed the Historical Society by this one action. He said he thinks as we move forward we can continue to change and grow together and that is what he plans to do.

Mr. Rapson commented that Mr. Pope was very passionate. He said we didn't talk about one of the suggestions they have and he agrees with it; it is to have a three foot smooth concrete ramp over the spillway; so you can actually access the building. He said he is sure there will be improvements that are coming. He said Alice is here today. He asked if she has anything to add.

Mrs. Reeves said for the record she does not think we are adversaries now. She is the president of the Historical Society; she is not just an observer here today. She has been the president for ten years. She has been in the county for five generations. She may be a little passionate in a different way; she added they like to work with folks. Unfortunately, they don't own the building or have the money to buy it so they are proud the Water System bought the building and helped them preserve it. They do want to partner with you. They have worked hard with their Board to come up with some displays. She said she hopes you will come to the meeting September 16. That hopefully will be a jumping off point for that. The meeting will be that Sunday at 3:00 p.m. as they have done the last many years; and have invited the community to come to see inside and to hear the stories from those who lived there and those who have done research on it.

Mr. Rapson said we will get with Mr. Davenport to get the terms of the agreement written up. One of the things we are talking about doing is officially opening up Starr's Mill and to start doing that, we are thinking in September to actually start that. Then, we would probably develop some of the cut outs and some of the things that Lee has been talking about for the pump house and doing nothing more than taking everything out of that. If you want to come see Starr's Mill, here's this kind of stuff, then have the Historical Society maybe point them up the hill if they want to

walk through to see about the Water System; kind of baby step us into having them there for those three or four hours. That is the proposal.

Mrs. Reeves mentioned the upgrade of the porta potties. Mr. Rapson agreed we would have porta potties down there because we obviously probably need something. He said what we are talking about now is everything on the first floor, but eventually we will take a look at upgrading the second floor, maybe putting some stuff up there and maybe, way in the future doing something on the third floor. He said he has been on the third floor; it is kind of rough, you have to watch where you walk around up there.

Mr. Pope commented he does not know that we will ever do very much up there. Maybe the first and second, but we are looking at ordering some of the solar powered trash cans to get rid of the 55 gallon drums chained to sign pipe. We are going to get rid of that. Then, we are looking at building an enclosure for the porta potties at all our parks. We had a boy scout that had a project down there last year and he did a great job on building an enclosure for the trash cans. We are going to try to mimic that and build something for the porta potties so they are not just porta potties sitting out there, but they are enclosed, which is something he did at Rockdale and he brought some photos in to show staff what he would like to do there. We definitely want to make them look decent for this historical property.

Mr. Rapson said with that, we will provide this information to Mr. Davenport and then the Board will be seeing the IGA when it comes back and we will go from there.

Mr. Rapson told Mrs. Reeves he appreciates meeting with her, it has been a pleasure working with her. Once the IGA is prepared, it will come back to the Water Committee for review, consideration and approval.

### **III. LAKE MCINTOSH SPECIAL EVENTS.**

Anita Godbee reported the Remote Control Sailboat Regatta has provided the insurance. They have paid their fees and have provided a parking pass that they are giving their participants. They have provided everything the Water Committee had asked about. She introduced Charles Ellis with the Sailing Club if anyone had any questions for him. He said the boats are five foot long hull by eight foot long hull. This event is scheduled for September 8 and 9.

Mrs. Godbee reported the next event is the Peachtree City Triathlon on September 15. They have requested the gates be opened at 4:00 a.m. They have provided the insurance and paid the fees; they have provided the site map that was requested due to the question of where they are entering and exiting the water. Mr. Pope said he will contact EPD and they will ask us to do some testing during the event. They won't need the site map; we need the site map, because it would not make sense for us to sample an area different than where they are entering the water. Mr. Pope clarified testing will be before and after the event. Mrs. Godbee stated they will set

up on the day of the event; September 15. The parking permits will be prepared by the County as needed and the opening of the gate will be coordinated at the appropriate time. Parking will be handled by them, they will contact the church to use their property and they will be busing some people in according to the plans they submitted. Peachtree City is handling the cones; they are hiring the policemen and the fire. The Special Events Committee meeting with Peachtree City is scheduled for the near future; Mrs. Godbee said they were waiting on their check and the insurance. Mr. Rapson said this is a Peachtree City sponsored event.

Mrs. Godbee reported on the Dragon Boat Races event which is scheduled for September 21 and 22. The actual event is on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. They are going to be setting up on the 21<sup>st</sup>. They provided insurance and a site plan; the gate will need to be opened by 6:00 a.m. They will also be setting up on Friday. She asked if we need to close the park that day as well. Mr. Rapson commented he does not think we should for the setup, just for the day of the event. Mrs. Godbee said they will be putting some of the tents up; some of the vendors may be coming in.

Chief Myers mentioned last year we had an issue with boaters trying to get in while they were setting up. Mrs. Godbee said we did and they addressed that yesterday. They had a meeting with Peachtree City Special Events Committee and it was addressed yesterday. They cannot block that ramp because even the police and fire couldn't access the boat ramp to get their equipment in for the actual race. They are aware they cannot block that boat ramp this time.

Mr. Pope asked about porta johns and trash dumpsters. Mrs. Godbee said they are putting in the porta johns; they are putting some in the parking lot and by the judge's stand as well as by the team registration. There will be three areas with porta johns. She said they will be contacting the church about parking on that adjacent property as well as cutting that field, getting permission to cut it. From her understanding, Peachtree City will be cutting it, they did it last year.

Mr. Rapson commented the only problem we had with them last year was they put down some temporary rock, it rained and they had to come take all of the rock out, but they eventually did all that. Mrs. Godbee said they brought that to their attention yesterday and told them they needed to make some major plans for if it is raining and wet in that area because they cannot be parking there. The Peachtree City Auxiliary will be doing the policing and parking for them, and they will have the police, the fire and the water taxi will be patrolling the lake and helping out with any issues they have there. They will also have EMS on the scene.

Mr. Pope said we need to coordinate with Steve Hoffman to use his Park Closed sign. We have one in the budget this year, but it won't be purchased by then. Mr. Rapson commented he thinks they have three of them, unless he is using them for SPLOST. Mrs. Godbee said we will probably need to set it out there for five or six weeks. It is four weekends in a row.

**Mrs. Godbee reported the PANS/PANDAS race event is October 6. They have provided their insurance and the site plan. Nothing has changed on it. Participant and Vendor fees have been waived. The park will be closed until noon for this event.**

**Mr. Rapson commented the most helpful thing is everybody having a site plan of what they are doing, so there are no surprises when people show up. Mrs. Godbee said it will help our Marshal's and other law enforcement. She said she thinks one of the concerns that may be with the gate is are we going to open and close it, or are we going to leave it open all weekend. She asked how would we like to address that; with having to open up so early, some at 6:00 and some at 4:00. Mr. Rapson said once it is open at 4:00 a.m. there is no point, otherwise we will just wear the gate out. Three of these events are going to have Auxiliary and Police Officers there, so we just need to make sure with the event coordination with Peachtree City that means an Officer needs to be there. Mrs. Godbee clarified the gate will be open for the day, not leave it open for the whole weekend. Mr. Rapson said yes, put a sign out there saying the park is closed for this event. He suggested putting a sign out with the dates and the events so when folks show up they understand what event it is. He said the Board asked us to actively utilize these water parks and he believes we are achieving those results.**

**Mr. Rapson commented that we appreciate the Regatta. It has become one of our events that people ask us about. Mr. Pope said in the future he would like to get some photos from these different events to put on our Facebook page and share it so people can see. Mr. Rapson commented there are an abundance of photos out there. He said one thing that happens is you become a success of the event, and what has happened, especially with the Dragon Boats is they actually prefer being over here doing it this way. They think it is much prettier. They like Lake Peachtree because of Drake Field, and of course now Drake Field is now getting a pavilion.**

**Mrs. Godbee commented one other thing with the Dragon Boats, their biggest thing against Lake McIntosh is they have to expend a lot more money because they have to bring in generators. They have to expend that, they have electricity at Drake Field. They also need water. The Triathlon is going to need water also. Mr. Rapson said we have the water behind the rest rooms, but he is not sure it is down by the dock yet. Mr. Pope said Carlos and James are supposed to be getting together. He said he would get an update on that.**

#### **IV. NEW SIGNS AT RESERVOIRS.**

**Mrs. Godbee explained they are looking at updating the signs in the parks and at the Water System. She referenced photos of the existing signs and photos of examples of the new suggested signs. The updated signs will be less wordy, there will be pictures and will not be so large. She said they have come up with a new design. They took out the words "no smoking" and put a picture instead. There are pictures to say some of the rules. She reviewed the signs for Lake Horton, Lake McIntosh, Lake Kedron and Starr's Mill.**

Mr. Pope commented the main thing was to make all the signs uniform. Mrs. Godbee said yes. Mr. Pope said if a person is at a park and they see this and they go to another park and they see that, it is kind of confusing about where is the signage, where is the directive. Mr. Rapson said he thinks having the pictures is really good. We are not all just from Fayette County anymore.

Mr. Pope said basically all the signs say the same thing; there are just a few items that are different for each one of the parks. For the most part they have the same verbiage. He said Chief Myers had added some things about the life preservers and children operating boats; that has been included on every one of them as well. Mr. Rapson suggested sending the new signage to each Board member for review. If they have any edits, send them to Mrs. Godbee by next Friday.

Mrs. Godbee commented the good thing is the signs in the parks will be consistent as well. The only difference will be that where they have the Water System logo, those signs will have the Fayette County logo at the top. There will be some consistency throughout the County. Mr. Rapson said he likes it.

Mrs. Godbee also explained the kind of signs these will be. She said they are advocating instead of the old signs, on those the actual sign shop has to pick every word and every symbol. She said they are looking at the AlumaCorr sign. She showed a sample of it to the group. She said she would like the group's opinion before we go out to bid. Mr. Pope commented the key to this is it will hold up better to the elements. Mrs. Godbee said it is light weight, it holds up, it doesn't rust, it doesn't corrode and it has the ability to be digitally printed. It is not as time consuming, which drives the cost up.

Chairman Frisina asked if we need to send this to the Board with a recommendation from us that we like the design. Mr. Rapson stated he thinks this is an operational item; we are updating our signs. The Board has already given us a budget for it. This is an informational item that we are updating the signs in the park.

Mrs. Godbee reminded everyone to send their edits by the next Friday.

## **V. CONSERVATION GRANT UPDATE.**

Mr. Pope introduced Ben Emmanuel from American Rivers. He said Daphne is here, she has been working with Ben and Ben can answer all the questions about the grant from the last meetings discussion.

Ben Emmanuel apologized for the logistical goof several weeks ago. He said he had a lot of travel earlier in the summer and had planned to be here via Skype and it did not work out that particular morning. He said he appreciates your patience and is glad he could get down this morning. He said his name is Ben Emmanuel; he is with an organization called American Rivers; they are a national nonprofit river conservation organization. He said they are 45 years old, based in Washington D.C.

**Their headquarters is there, but they have offices all across the country. There are two of them in Atlanta. They have had their office in Atlanta for 10 years. He said he is out of Atlanta; he is not coming down from D.C. He said he appreciates the chance to be here this morning.**

**He gave a brief background. He said he has been doing a lot of work in the Upper Flint River Basin for several years now, for 5 years now he has been communing a group of Water Utilities and local Conservation Groups in the Upper Flint River Basin area to talk about drought resiliency and to talk about low flows that we have seen in the Flint River and the severe drought that we have had going back almost 20 years now, a repeated severe drought. Things that we can do in a variety of water management; line management, etc. collaboratively address some of those.**

**Mr. Emmanuel said he is working with the airport on storm water up in the headwaters, working with Clayton County Water Authority, City of Griffin Utilities, Coweta and Newnan and everyone, kind of working with Water Resources in the upper part of the Flint River Basin.**

**Mr. Emmanuel said this grant came about through an opportunity that he saw last year when he saw a grant opportunity posted through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation that is a private charitable foundation, about 30 years old. They were actually chartered by the US Congress back in the 80's, but they are a private foundation and their model is to take both private funds and public funds, largely federal funds from conservation agencies and move those through the foundation to on the ground conservation projects. They are very interested in habitat restoration for fish and wildlife. This came about through a brand new program of NFWF called the Southeast Aquatics Program where they say they want to focus on the aquatic natural resources and mostly native fish resources of Southeastern River banks. They have actually stated a focus on the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee Flint River Basin recognizing that water use is a big issue in this basin with the Tri State Water Wars and everything you hear about with the ACF River Basin, so they wanted to focus here.**

**He said he saw an opportunity in that first year of their Southeast Aquatics Grant Program to capitalize on some of the partnerships that they had through the Upper Flint River Working Group he mentioned; to bring in an innovative way for American Rivers as the Conservation Group to bring in funding from NFWF the Foundation and pass through most of it to local partners on the ground to do some conservation action. He said he and Lee had talked and they had seen that there was probably an opportunity in particular with outdoor residential water use in the county in your service area for at least some of your customer base to be somewhat more efficient with their outdoor water use. He said they began talking about knowledge he had from past experience in the water efficiency realm about industry standards and best practices for educating your customers, mostly residential but commercial as well; being efficient with their outdoor water use, being efficient with their own dollars in terms of the water bill they are paying to the county. Doing it**

the way it is financially sustainable for the Water System and really just bringing industry best practices to work with those folks in a way that works for those folks and as well as for the Water System going forward.

Mr. Emmanuel explained the grant total is \$75,000.00 for this year and next year. It closes out at the close of the calendar year 2019. He said American Rivers is passing through \$34,500.00 to Fayette County Water System. They are working on the sub grant administration and also a smaller pass through from a sub grant to their partners at the Flint River Keeper Organization of \$4,500.00 for them to help down the line with communication about water resources and the value of the water resources here in the Flint River basin. He said he thinks they have seen the work you all have been doing on social media connecting with your customers and with your community and they have seen some opportunities to partner there in terms of the water resources available. They will also be helping with monitoring of product results down the line.

Mr. Emmanuel commented there is another partner of the grant, the Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership. They are a fish habitat partnership of state fishery agencies all across the southeast, so they do a lot with these grants on farm water use efficiency in southwest Georgia, on removing outdated mill dams that are arming fish habitat and things like this. He said in the first slate of the Southeast Aquatics Grant Program through National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, they are actually the little guy with the smallest grant, by far. He said he was appreciative of the Foundation that brought the opportunity to work with municipal water managers which is not something they have done a lot, to just conserve natural resources in general in the Flint River basin. He said he could talk more about various details, he said he was very proud they were funded, but also as part of the proposal package they had support letters from other water utilities in the basin; Clayton County Water Authority, City of Griffin Utilities, Georgia Association of Water Professionals, Georgia DNR Wildlife Resources Division, everybody from water managers to wildlife managers in the area as well as the partners he mentioned who were on the grant. Essentially, the heart of the work, in working with Daphne and he is very excited; as he said just kind of bringing industry standards and best practices. There is a national non-profit called the Alliance for Water Efficiency that has done a lot of work documenting how to work with your customers.

He said they are really addressing what is called the industry peak demand. That high volume of water that the water system supplies throughout the water system that typically occurs in the summer, associated with that uptick in water use from outdoor landscape irrigation. Really their model is the San Antonio Water System in Texas; they have been a great model. Funding the residential customer is chiefly who they consider to be their super users; those folks who are using quite a lot of water on outdoor landscapes. Obviously, that is their right to do that, they can do that, they are paying for it, etc. but we do find in many of these cases, people are either over watering, maybe watering daily or more frequently than they need to.

They might have some leakage in their irrigation system; they might have poor design where it is watering areas that don't need to be watered (pavement, certain portions of landscape, etc.) It is really working directly with those folks, so we know they are being efficient in their water use and working with enough of those users that we are able to shave that peak demand that the Water System has to provide throughout our Distribution network which should have benefits for you all here as well. He commented those are the high points.

Mr. Rapson asked how many top super users we are looking at. Mrs. Cousson replied 20. He asked what Fayette County's match is, in kind or direct. Mr. Emmanuel replied in kind. Mr. Rapson said this grant will have to be taken before the Board.

Mr. Rapson made a motion to approve the recommendation to partner with American Rivers on this project. Mr. Pope seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

## **VI. WATER PLANT UPDATE.**

Jason Bodwell commented that he understands that at tomorrow night's Board meeting they are going to potentially approve or at least entertain the additional amendment to the chemical system improvement. Mr. Rapson said that would be correct, hopefully. He said he would let him know at 9:00 tomorrow night.

Mr. Bodwell said if that gets approved we will continue on the chemical system improvement design for now for chemicals and they will move that forward as fast as they can. He went on to say the bid date has been extended for the Tank Repair bid; it is now due next Thursday. They have had a ton of questions. He said he thinks that means that is a good thing. He thinks that means that folks are actually interested in this bid.

Mr. Rapson commented when you get a lot of questions, it is a good indication you have a lot of interest and a lot of competition. Mr. Bodwell said they have done two addendums and he has a third one written as well, which Trina just emailed him and she will have it out on Friday. He said he thinks extending the bid and all the questions means that they have a lot of good interest. He could tell by the questions that people are interested and want to take at all the work. That is good, so we will see what happens next Thursday when we open those bids.

Mr. Pope mentioned there has been some equipment ordered for the carbon feeder. Chemco has partnered with somebody local to get that installed and see if we can get this carbon feeder issue resolved. Hopefully, by the next meeting we will have some results on that.

Mr. Rapson stated the solid handling for both South Fayette and Crosstown task orders as well as the standby engineering contract have been approved. Mr.

Bodwell said they will tackle the filter media replacement and filter control replacement at South Fayette quickly. That can have a pretty quick turnaround. Mr. Pope commented they met with the vendor on that, he has sent the information and the managers are reviewing it now.

**VII. PUBLIC COMMENT.**

Charles Ellis mentioned with the RC Sailboat Regatta they do not expect the park to be closed. They are such a small impact in such a small area; they certainly hope people will come to watch, fish or whatever they want to. Mr. Pope replied we are not closing the park for the regatta. Mr. Ellis said they are fortunate to have an able photographer amongst their group, he has lots of photos from the past. He will take some this coming September. He asked who to send them to. Mr. Rapson said to send them to Carrie.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT.**

Vice Chairman Jimmy Preau made a motion to adjourn the Water Committee August 8, 2018 meeting. Lee Pope seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, Chairman Pete Frisina adjourned the meeting at 8:41 A.M.

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Peter A. Frisina

The foregoing minutes were approved at the regular Water Committee meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2018.

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Lisa Speegle