

WATER COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 14, 2018
MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

NON-VOTING MEMBERS:
ABSENT:

Dennis Davenport, County Attorney
Jason Bodwell, CH2M/Jacobs

STAFF PRESENT:

Russell Ray, Carrie Gibby

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

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING ON OCTOBER 24, 2018.

Vice Chairman Jimmy Preau made the motion and Frank Destadio seconded, to approve the minutes from the meeting on October 24, 2018. The motion passed unanimously.

II. WATER PLANT UPDATE.

Lee Pope reported we have quotes in for the filter study implementation that Jacobs had given us with their report. He said he will be bringing this report to the Committee, it is not all formulated to what the total cost will be; but we are moving on the recommendations from them on what we need to do with the filters at South Fayette. Originally we had problems with those filters, and we thought they might have to be completely renovated like the ones at Crosstown, but it turned out that there we just need to add some media. He said the controls do need to be updated because they are obsolete as far as getting parts; they are working that out and he is sure we will have more numbers in the future. He said it will probably be after the first of the year before we get all that put together; he stated that project is moving forward.

Mr. Pope reported the Tank Repair was approved and has moved through the Purchasing process for the approval of the contract. He said a notice to proceed has been issued; Russell, Chet and James will be our in-house folks that will be meeting with the contractor to start setting up the schedule and getting that work done.

Mr. Destadio asked if they would be able to see what the figures were for the controls. Mr. Pope said once they get the numbers put together, he will bring them to the Committee. It will be a very expensive project; but we thought we should go ahead and address it, that was what was recommended. Mr. Pope said the Tank Repair should be scheduled by January.

He went on to say the IGA with the Historical Society was approved. We are moving forward with the things we said we would do. Mr. Rapson said we would be getting the improvements that we need to put in place, that program will not go live until after January 1. We are coordinating all those efforts to make sure we have everything in place so that we can go live. He commented we are probably going to take the story boards and probably enhance them.

Mr. Rapson said we have another contract in place which is the curator who oddly enough was one of the original tech guys that worked on the Horton Creek project who is now a VP in the same organization twenty five years later. They are going to come in and help us decide what type of display cases to have and actually what to display. That will be scheduled probably in a couple of weeks.

Mr. Pope commented we want to make sure we follow the proper procedures. He said he and Mr. Rapson have discussed that we are not obviously going to hire a historical curator on the county's budget because that would not be wise, but we can get a consultant to address us to how to handle it.

Mr. Rapson said it is actually part of the Corp of Engineers permitting we have for Lake Horton; it requires us under some federal law under some statute to have a museum grade curator help us look through the stuff to display. We are stepping very logically through that process so we put those out wisely.

Mr. Pope said we will make sure we handle it correctly. We actually have some very nice artifacts. He said he and Steve knew vaguely, but now we have actually thumbed through some of the manuals and there are four manuals, they did a great job of cataloguing it; that is why Steve said let's call these guys; they obviously know what they are doing.

Mr. Rapson commented that Commissioner Rousseau wanted to know what they were, so he gave him the four volumes. Mr. Pope said they took photos and logged them. Mr. Rapson said they did an excellent job documenting what it is. We do not have, as the consultant so eloquently put, twenty five boxes of stuff you can really display; that is not how this works. We are going to grab the good stuff. They will write captions to go with them. As we develop that process we will show the Board what that looks like. We have some pottery, Indian beads, arrowheads, those types of things. We are talking about focusing this obviously at the Starr's Mill site because we are going to be opening that one day a month, but he sees this expanding so we could put displays up in the school system, the library and those types of places too. That is what we will talk to her about.

Commissioner Brown suggested the county have a policy for how to handle those objects, who can handle those objects, because you get into real dicey ground when things start getting broken or missing and stuff like that and you are supposed to retain all that stuff. Mr. Rapson said we have to have it inventoried, where it is all at.

Commissioner Brown said it would be a good idea so everybody knows they can handle it, this is how they can handle it, they have been trained on how to do that and then the other people don't touch it, that kind of stuff. Also, that building is on floor jacks still. We need to look at that at some point and say is that the permit condition for the building to stay on floor jacks or what do we do.

Mr. Rapson commented we had a structural engineer look at it and we see the floor jacks underneath it; he said he agrees those look shaky. There are actually steel pillars up behind the brick of the four corners and it is on solid steel beams as well as the wooden structure. Mr. Pope said our guys went in and cleaned all that underneath and put the floor jacks back because of the footings.

Commissioner Brown commented that his point is do you want to keep floor jacks, if floor jacks have to remain, is there a better looking solution that would blend with the building rather than having floor jacks on four by fours underneath the building. Something that at least looks like period era part of the building; it would be nice to have a solution that is aesthetically working with the building because of its value.

Mr. Pope reported on the chemical system improvements at the South Fayette Plant, it is almost 90%, once we get those drawings. They should be able to finalize those. We are still having issues with the carbon feeder at the Crosstown Plant; we are still working with the vendor and consultant on that to try to come up with a resolution of the carbon clogging; turning into cookie dough every time it rains.

Mr. Ray stated we are not using it right now. We had a visit from an engineer with Jacobs and we had a discussion about a pre-dryer, we have a post dryer at this time. He mentioned our systems outdoor use a pre-dryer, so we looking at that. Mr. Pope said we think it is coming from the compressor. Mr. Destadio suggested comparing the cost before getting the contractor. Mr. Pope said we have considered we might have to enclose it; even though the vendor said we didn't. We have also looked at putting it in a de-humidifying building.

Commissioner Brown asked if we have to put a structure around it; is the site ready for something like that? Mr. Pope said we would have to figure out how to pour footings and flooring. Commissioner Brown asked if we go back on the contractor because they promised us it was going to work. Mr. Pope said he thinks all that would be something we would move forward in the future to see how serious it gets first, we will try to resolve it as cheaply as we can.

Mr. Destadio asked if there is any way to move it inside. Mr. Pope responded no there is no room. Mr. Rapson commented the important thing is the vendor is still working with us to try to figure out a solution, and once we have a solution we will bring it to the Board.

Mr. Pope said it is something he likes because there are two or three other installations in Georgia that are outside that are working. That is why we are leaning towards thinking the compressor is puffing moisture into the mixture. It only makes sense there is something going on, it is an anomaly and we've got to figure out what that is, but everybody is kind of focusing on that compressor pretty heavily right now. We think it is putting moisture into the bag.

Mr. Destadio asked if we are not using carbon, what the impact on the water plant is. Mr. Pope said right now we don't have any issues with not feeding the carbon, since it is winter and we are not having problems with taste and odor. Hopefully, the Water Selectors will go in; we have divers and design engineers coming out with the Water Selectors next week. They are fabricating the current Water Selectors. He explained Water Selectors are enclosures that go around existing intake structures; we basically have three gates at three different levels. This bolts over that and monitors the water quality at about eighteen inch increments all the way down and only lets the best quality of water using an algorithm looking at seven parameters to decide what water we are going to bring into the plant minimizing the amount of impact as far as treatment cost. He said he and Mr. Rapson had already identified that carbon will be one of the chemicals we should save significantly anyway. Hopefully, those will be installed by the spring and the carbon feeder will be as big a serious problem as it is right now.

Mr. Destadio commented that was what the problem was at Horton years ago. It was pulling off the bottom and instead of the top and once we started closing the right gate, we started getting better water. Mr. Ray said what happened was during the drought Lake Horton dropped way down and we had to open the middle gate, then when it filled back up, that gate had not been closed.

Mr. Ray reported the grass carp was delivered for Lake Horton, Starr's Mill and the pond at South Fayette. He mentioned we had a big rain event. Mr. Pope commented the bamboo is not giving us any operational issues right now. We can still address it. He said as Commissioner Brown brought out, it spreads like wildfire, so you have to come up with some sort of a plan; but it is not affecting operations yet. We need to talk to people who have had issues and see what they recommend. He said he had talked with Jason to see if CH had anybody that had addressed a bamboo issue and he said that was a new one on him.

Commissioner Brown commented that it is huge and obviously bamboo just proliferates like crazy.

Mr. Ray showed a picture of the newly painted pump station at Lake Peachtree. He pointed out the new stain that was put on the concrete down to the water level. He commented we used concrete stain. He said Peachtree City has done a great job with the whole area down there. The lake is now full. He pointed out the old intake structure that has now been sealed off, he showed the openings where the water used to go in which are now covered. They took away the walkway and just left the concrete structure. We have pumps in this pump house that need some maintenance, but this pump house is usable.

Mr. Ray then showed a graph of the daily average production at both water plants over a two year water period (2017 and 2018).

III. PUBLIC COMMENT.

Commissioner Brown commented he was camping over at the Oconee River last week and he expressed concern about people who fish leaving stuff all over the banks. The people who probably get the most out of the water trash the place up worse than anybody else. He said he has brought it up several times about doing something about changing signage or add some things that would be a little more explicit message about “Don’t be the person who destroys the water” or something like that. He said he was thinking when we have the pay station envelopes printed we could add some messaging on the envelope that says “Do the right thing, don’t throw trash” anything to keep them from throwing all that trash out. He said he sees it all the time. There have been times with the Water Guardians they have picked up more trash on the banks than they have in the water.

Mr. Pope commented sometimes it is wads of fishing line and bait containers. Commissioner Brown said you know it is the guys fishing because it is everything they are bringing to the water, everything they would use, the packaging, bait container, and drink cup, aluminum cans, and food stuff.

Mr. Destadio commented he takes his grandkids down to Lake Kedron to feed the fish and look at the lake. The trash can is over off on the left hand side and you actually expend some energy to walk over and throw your trash away. He mentioned if it could be over by the benches without being obnoxious, it is just an old 55 gallon drum. Mr. Pope stated we are in the process of installing a solar trash can at this location.

Commissioner Brown said he thinks it is generational, a lot of these people grew up, grandad took them fishing, they left the trash, they leave the trash, it was the same thing at the Oconee River; he walked the banks, there was a big trail he was hiking the trail and you could just see one thing of trash every time there was a clearing in the trees where people were fishing there was trash at the bank. He said he just hates seeing that and somehow you have to reach those people. He said he does not know what the way to reach them is. He said he thinks the traditional rule sign they spend about .0009 seconds looking at the rule sign and keep going, so he thinks it

has to be some other way. That is why he thought about the envelopes, at least you get the people from out of the county, put a message on the envelopes, a very serious message “It is drinking water, don’t pollute it, do the right thing” something like that. And maybe some messages around the docks that is not the traditional fifteen rules on a rule sign in small font.

Chairman Frisina commented if there are certain areas we are always seeing trash, if we put a trash can closer to that area, maybe they will be more likely to use it. Mr. Pope said we have purchased more solar trash cans that we tried at Lake McIntosh. The county had already started that program. Mr. Rapson said they are called Big Belly trash cans; they are trash cans and they have a compactor in them and a solar light on top, they compact and when they get full, they send you a signal so you do not always have to hit them. You can wrap them and put a message on them.

Commissioner Brown commented in the backpacking world everybody knows it is “leave no trace”, that is the mantra. There needs to be something for the people who are using the water about leaving no trace, whatever that message is, whatever you have to tell them.

Mr. Rapson updated the Committee on the Peachtree City Rowing Club. Their practice has begun; even though the gate timer is going to be reset now that we are on Daylight Saving Time, they will be in the park after hours like they were last year under the Rec Agreement. Harold has already been notified, we are doing the same exact thing we did last year we will continue to do for the program. They are not out there rowing after it is dark, but they start to come off when it starts to get dark and it just takes them a while to get all those boats off and they are in there after the gate is closed. They are the only ones allowed to do that.

Mr. Destadio asked if Mr. Rapson had talked with Jon Rorie about the town homes and the distance they have to be from Lake McIntosh. Mr. Rapson replied he talked with him. Mr. Rorie said the proposal he had was consistent with the water setbacks. Mr. Rapson said it was denied by the Planning Commission. Mr. Destadio said it was denied by the Planning Commission, but it is coming to the City Council. He thanked Mr. Rapson.

Vice Chairman Preau asked for an update on the Emergency Water Supply for Private Water Systems, the Randy Padgett issue. Mr. Rapson said we met with Randy and he said it was a very extremely cordial meeting. He understands now. We went out and physically shut it off at the curb stop, he is aware if he turns it back on, he has to pay the fee and the other rate and he actually had requested at the time that the staff evaluate another connection for Redwine Road. Staff is currently looking at that. As of right now, he has the only connection under that policy, but that has been discontinued.

Mr. Pope said we locked it off and explained to him that if he needs to utilize that when he has an out of water event, as the ordinance points out, he has to call us. Mr. Rapson said Mr. Padgett has asked for a connection and we also have another request from Mr. Jeffares at Newton Plantation. Those two are currently under evaluation.

Commissioner Brown asked if he has the proper vault and everything that he needs according to our regs. Mr. Rapson said he has the meter that was put in, and that is one of the things they are evaluating, whether what he currently has in place is consistent with our resolution. Commissioner Brown stated he would definitely make sure he is up to standard; because the last thing you want is somebody saying why am I spending this money and he is not.

Mr. Pope stated that CH will do a flow per person, they just got Newton's size done and they will be doing his other locations.

Vice Chairman Preau asked for an update on Newton Plantation. Commissioner Brown stated the State gave him a certain period of time in which he had to remedy all of those things on that Sanitary Survey. Mr. Rapson said we are in very very early discussions with if there are any grant opportunities to acquire these. He said he thinks there might be some grant opportunities to acquire them which is one of the reasons why he asked Lee to go ahead and do an evaluation of the other six systems because at some point if there is a grant opportunity, then this Board is going to have to decide, of the thirteen we have which is the one we are going to go after with the first grant. He said he does not know how we go about doing that if we haven't done an analysis on all the systems we have. He said there are another six that we have not done so we will be entering into a contract with Jacobs to have them evaluate those systems similarly to what they did with the other seven they already did.

Mr. Pope said we need all that data, so we can come to some sort of methodology on how we are addressing it. Right now we have two active systems that are interested in selling so that kind of puts them at the top, but they may not be the most critical, so we have to figure out how the Board wants us to address it.

Commissioner Brown said it would be good, if one day we could say we got rid of those private contracts, it would be a great day for us because of when emergencies happen. Mr. Rapson commented that is something as a Board we need to think about how we are going to prioritize those. Are we going to prioritize those? Are we going to prioritize those based on which system is the most seamless to integrate. In other words, the systems that is the best or are we going to prioritize them based on the worst system and is it going to cost more money. In his mind those are the type of quantifiers you have to have, or are you going to do it based on the number of people. Are we trying to go after the five hundred systems or the twenty systems? He said he thinks they have the same warts with any system you buy, which is why he thinks we need that financial analysis conducted. That is what we are in the

process of doing. Mr. Padgett's system, according to Lee and Mr. Padgett; he used to work at the Water System, he thinks he has done a really good job at taking care of the system from what he hears.

Mr. Pope said his system is in pretty good shape. Commissioner Brown commented when we talked to the people at EPD his understanding from their conversation was there are some systems that may qualify for the grant money more so than other systems, so you have to take that into consideration if you are getting a huge grant. It is all done on demographics and income levels.

Mr. Rapson commented fortunately or unfortunately, depending on your perspective, most of the systems will meet some of those qualifications. We are quietly in the background working on that, but we don't bring a grant and say here's one we can have and then only half of the systems qualify. We are trying to fast track the evaluations so that we have them all in front of us before we make a decision.

IV. ADJOURNMENT.

Commissioner Steve Brown made a motion to adjourn the Water Committee November 14, 2018 meeting. Vice Chairman Jimmy Preau seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, Chairman Pete Frisina adjourned the meeting at 8:35 A.M.

Peter A. Frisina

The foregoing minutes were approved at the regular Water Committee meeting on the 12th day of December, 2018.

Lisa Speegle

Next Scheduled Meeting Date: December 12, 2018