

WATER COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 9, 2019
MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Pete Frisina, Chairman
Steve Rapson, County Administrator
Charles Oddo, Commissioner
Jimmy Preau
Bill Holland

ABSENT:

Frank Destadio, Vice Chairman
Vanessa Tigert, Water System Director

NON-VOTING MEMBERS:

Dennis Davenport, County Attorney
Jason Bodwell, CH2M/Jacobs

STAFF PRESENT:

Russell Ray, Carrie Gibby
Casey Williamson

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

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2019.

Jimmy Preau made the motion and Bill Holland seconded, to approve the minutes from the meeting on September 11, 2019. The motion passed unanimously.

II. DROUGHT UPDATE.

Russell Ray reported on the ARC Drought call in meeting from yesterday; Bill Murphy, State Climatologist, presented information about the Fall Flash Drought in our area. Mr. Ray showed the Committee slides from Mr. Murphy's presentation. He commented the new term is flash drought. He explained these slides give a status of the drought using the United States Drought Monitor. He said Mr. Murphy did a nice job of showing what is going on at different levels of drought. He said the north part of the county is in an extreme drought condition, with the south part of the county in a severe drought condition; he stated this report was done on October 3.

Mr. Ray explained the different levels of drought are shown, the State adds Water Conservation Education and we are in that level; in the D3 level, and it is declared by the State; the State has not declared a hydrologic drought at this point. If they declare a drought, mandatory water conservation would be implemented at that point.

Mr. Ray went on to explain the next slide which shows one month change from September 3 to October 1; it shows the classes of drought. For example: our area has a two class degradation during that thirty day period. In North Georgia, it went

to 4, there was not hardly any drought in that area and it went quickly to the levels we see on the slide. From August 27 through October 1, the drought progressed over the state; we were one of the first areas to start seeing it at the moderate drought level, as the month went on it progressed very quickly.

Mr. Rapson commented that usually at the State we hear about Level I, Level II, and Level III; he asked if that corresponds to the D0, 1, 2, 3, 4 or not? Mr. Ray said not exactly, these designations are part of the drought monitor program. The Level I, II, and III comes out of the regulations that EPD has for declaring.

Mr. Rapson commented Level I is education, Level II is when you start putting restrictions on and Level III is severe restrictions. Mr. Ray said yes.

Mr. Ray went on to show a slide with a graph of below normal precipitation in September. He pointed out in late July it started leveling off; 2019 accumulation of 31.78, normal would be 37.82. It was a good year up until that point.

Mr. Ray said Mr. Murphy mentioned there are various soil moisture probes throughout the state; he gave Pike County as an example. In August it dropped from about 20% to below 15% soil moisture. He added that Mr. Murphy said mainly what we are seeing in the state now is agricultural effects, more so than the hydrological effects. Mr. Ray said he heard on the news about the peanuts; the peanut crops are difficult to harvest because the soil has become so hard it is breaking apart as they try to harvest. He also mentioned hay, farmers are already having to use their hay now instead of being able to save it for the winter.

Mr. Ray said he was not able to pull together a chart of Lake Lanier, but that would be the hydrologic conditions, that is one of the parameters that the State looks at in declaring drought; several lakes like Allatoona, Lake Lanier and certain wells within the state; looking at water levels in the Chattahoochee River and the Flint River at certain gauge stations.

The next slide showed seasonal outlooks, we are showing in the 30's in our area for above normal temperature and equal chance of above or below normal precipitation. What we do know is it is cooling off, which is nice, but it is still dry. Mr. Ray then showed the drought outlook from the drought monitor web site. You can see the drought persisting in our area, developing in other parts of the state.

Mr. Ray stated this gives us an overview of what Mr. Murphy went over with us yesterday as far as drought conditions. He said the standard for the State now is the 07/08 drought conditions. Back in 07 and 08 he was able to get lake level data and keep up with it at that time. He showed the graph from that time frame. During 2007 and 2008 you can see we reached our low on Lake Kedron in the December 23 time frame of 2007. It was down to 824 elevation, 54% full; 835 is full pool. We release water from Lake Kedron, we don't actually pump out of Kedron.

Mr. Ray went on to explain Lake Horton during the same time frame reached 38% full; in 2008. He said we finally recovered in April 2008.

Mr. Rapson asked for a current update on Lake McIntosh. Mr. Ray said Lake McIntosh full pool is 780, the same as Lake Horton; 1.5 billion gallons at 772, which is 8 feet down, 130 million gallons left which is 9% full. We have dropped 10 feet in Lake McIntosh. He said he will do some updates on this data.

Mr. Rapson commented we are getting ready to move forward with Interconnectivity and all that type of stuff; it is good to have a feel for where are the past few months.

Mr. Ray stated Lake Kedron is now at 832 ½ which is 88 % full, that is equivalent to about 425 days of water at withdrawing 4 million gallons a day. He showed a graph he plotted of Lake Horton; the graph was done a week ago, it is now down to 775, equivalent to 64% full; 350 days at 6 million gallons a day. He said we are still in good shape, but it is a significant drop, quickly.

Mr. Rapson commented the problem with Horton is a five foot drop makes our dock a dry dock; our dock at Horton is a horrible location. It is not a good indicator when you drive by and see the dock, of what the water level truly is. Mr. Ray agreed it is such a shallow approach out into the water, it doesn't take much to put it out of service.

Mr. Rapson asked how far down Lake McIntosh is. Mr. Ray responded Lake McIntosh is about two to two and a half feet down. Two feet down on McIntosh is 73% full. Mr. Ray said Carrie went through an exercise and went back and looked at the 2016 data. He said he has not been able to plot that data, but when the State declared a Level I drought in 2016, this is the State declaring it, the level of Lake Horton was at 775/774 which is about where we are now. They declared a Level II drought at that time when Lake Horton was at 772. We have two to three feet to go before we get to that level.

Mr. Ray went on to say Vanessa has Staff and Jacobs assisting us in applying for a Level II Drought status. He said City of Griffin is now at a Level I, they applied and got a Level I; Coweta County Water and Sewer Authority, he can't speak for Newnan Utilities, has gone to Level II. He said this was in the call we had yesterday with ARC. He added, just to be cautious, we are going to pursue that.

Mr. Rapson commented the reason we do it to a Level II is because we basically are always at a Level I, we are always doing education. Level II puts those water restrictions in place. The problem we have, where we have experienced in the past is when the State mandated everybody go to Level II, we actually had capacity to probably stay at a Level I. We are an anomaly for the people that are around us, what we are trying to do is trying to be consistent with those folks around us.

Mr. Russell explained mainly what that will do, as far as irrigation goes, instead of being able to water every day between 4:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m. it is two days a week, based on an odd/even system. You still have the opportunity to irrigate under Level II, and it does restrict some other activities.

Mr. Rapson said he would assume since Kedron is in essence down 2 ½ feet, the flows we have going to Kedron to Peachtree City are consistent enough that 2 ½ feet is not impacting the City of Peachtree City. It does not look like the lake in Peachtree City is down at all, it looks like it is at full pool.

Mr. Ray said it will typically always stay at full pool, Lake Peachtree will. He said he in contact with Tom routinely about withdrawing from Lake Peachtree and using the water that is going downstream. If it gets to the point where we are not using it, we may look at not releasing quite as much from Lake Kedron.

Commissioner Oddo asked if this affects Fayetteville at all. Mr. Ray said he needs to get with Vanessa and have a discussion about that; and talk to the City. In the past, when the State declared, we were hand in hand. Mr. Rapson said he thinks we would have to be hand in hand, their water is us providing them water. If we go to Level II, we would make Fayetteville follow.

Commissioner Oddo asked if they follow independently, or do they wait for us to do something. Mr. Ray replied we do need to talk to them about that. They have their own water system; they certainly can go to the State on their own, but we need to talk to them.

III. WATER PLANT UPDATE.

Mr. Ray reported on the Lake McIntosh Water Selector. He stated the last time we met, he showed some data that the water quality in the wet well has not been as good as the water quality in the lake. He presented new data including lake level and wet well numbers. He pointed out the numbers we are seeing in the wet well and explained the water selector numbers are the numbers we are seeing from the lake that is being sampled by the water selector equipment.

He explained the Water Plants had not seen any increase in the quality of the water in the wet well after the divers came. The Water Plant is dealing with this every day, and they are being creative; they came up with a great idea; to close the middle sluice gate that is feeding from the water selector into the wet well and open the upper gate that we would normally be using anyway.

He pointed out three different scenarios, the middle sluice gate open with the water coming into the water selector, the middle sluice closed and the top sluice gate open, which would be normal operations with the level of the lake where it is; both the top and middle sluice gate open and going back to middle sluice gate closed and the top sluice gate open. Mr. Ray commented he is going to look at the numbers from the

lake first. Iron is typically below .5, he showed there are very low numbers from the Gate 2 level. He pointed out the manganese is usually below .1, but it did get above .1 in a few scenarios in October. He then looked at the iron and manganese in the wet well; it was obviously high with the middle sluice gate only, then we went to the top sluice gate and noticed quite a drop in the conditions of the iron in the wet well. He said those numbers came down some, but they did go up a little bit, but it also coincides with what level we saw in the lake at that time. Then Kelly at IXOM asked us to try something different. The iron doubled from what it was with just the top gate and the manganese went up also. He said we then went back to the conditions with the top gate only and it started dropping back down. It does not appear that there is more going on than we can see, but there must be something going on with the water selector, whether there is a seal not tight, or what. In talking with Kelly Friday; they are already planning on bringing the divers back when they install the next water selector, however he is going to move that up and try to schedule the divers to come in to look at the water selector.

Mr. Ray pointed out some highlighted numbers on the graph; he said he thinks these are the numbers everybody would like to see, IXOM and us, we would love to see numbers when you can bring it from one of those upper gates; our top sluice gate is at the Gate 5 level of the water selector. He pointed out the information on the Gate 5 level; the Gate 2 level of the water selector, the water quality in the lake was very good at that time. He added it shows a high DO (dissolved oxygen) at that level, also. The functionality of the water selector is the goal.

Mr. Ray then showed the Committee the video they took when they lowered the water in the wet well again. He pointed out a leak at the middle gate and explained that he found out from talking to a couple of the engineers at Jacobs when they were down for the walk through for the Chlorine Dioxide system, it is not unusual, it is common, sluice gates do have a built in leak factor. He said he was glad to find that out. He said he has some more material to look at, but whether that is good or not, he does not know. Obviously, you can see what is going on with that gate.

He then showed the video of the lower gate, water is still coming through that one. The next video showed the upper gate, and the lower gate, from what he knows now, the water coming through is not a significant amount of water to be coming through a sluice gate. It is not enough to cause the kind of problems in what our table shows.

Mr. Rapson asked if the video shows there is leakage coming from the seal. Mr. Ray asked the seal around the gate? Mr. Rapson said we took the structure and attached to the gate, you can see where the sluice gates are leaking, he said he did not see a lot of leakage from the seals for the water selector for the barrier. Mr. Ray commented we can't tell that, it is on the outside, the divers will have to come back and check on the outside. Mr. Rapson asked if they use dye. Mr. Ray said he does not know how the divers will do it, exactly, whether they will use a dye or they are going to get close enough. Mr. Rapson commented the readings at the upper gate were a hundred times better. Mr. Ray agreed.

Mr. Rapson pointed out if you eliminate the middle sluice gate that fixes a lot of the problem. Mr. Ray said that is an indicator that there is leakage around the barrier. They will have to bring their divers back in to evaluate that. Mr. Rapson said all we are trying to do is get this one right before we turn around and attach it to another location. The other one is being manufactured, we just want to make sure if there are six things they need to do to make sure it is correct, we want those six things in place ready to go so we don't replicate this issue.

Mr. Rapson pointed out for the public to read these things, everything we are talking about has nothing to do with water quality, we can treat the water. We are trying to treat the water in such a way that we are not having to use more chemicals to get to that good water because we can take better water with the way we are doing this technology.

Mr. Ray said for Crosstown, by using the upper gate, they have not had to bring water in from Lake Horton recently, which is going to help that situation with Lake Horton. They will focus on Lake McIntosh water and Lake Peachtree water.

Jason Bodwell reported he has good news, the Chlorine Dioxide bid came in last Friday. He said they did a decent amount of marketing to get folks to the pre-bid meeting and get interested in the project. He said he, Russell and others were at the pre-bid meeting and they were happy to see a pretty good turnout. We got four bids, Lakeshore Engineering is the apparent low bidder. He said he is sure that Ted and Natasha have done their due diligence to look over their documents and what have you. He said he has written a recommendation of award to recommend Lakeshore, everything from Jacobs end looks sharp, looks good. A low bid of \$934,080.00, which is significantly lower than the other three bids which were all just over a million.

He went on to say the estimate was \$1.4 million, they missed the mark, but missed it in the right direction. He said he was very concerned, given the fact that contractors aren't hungry these days, that the bid would come in well above \$1.4 and he was wrong, so that is good.

Mr. Bodwell stated Lakeshore is a quality contractor, they will still need to have oversight over them, we will need to keep an eye on them like we do every contractor; no matter how good a contractor is, you never let them loose and don't oversee them. He added they have given Vanessa a task order to do all the oversight, all the construction management, all the submittal reviews. He said he believes her plan is to not only bring this \$934,000.00 request for award to Lakeshore, but also Jacobs task order to the October 24 Commission meeting.

Mr. Rapson said she may not hit the 24th meeting, he will not be there. Mr. Bodwell said they will give their recommendation of award to her, today was her deadline to get things ready for the Commission. Good news, there was an appropriate

number of companies, the appropriate number of questions, the standard number of questions, it was a good process.

Chairman Frisina asked if this automatically goes to the lowest bidder, is that how the system works. Mr. Rapson said the most qualified, responsive bidder. It is not always the lowest, in this particular case it was.

Bill Holland asked about the duration of the contract. Mr. Bodwell stated they have estimated nine months. The contractor, once awarded, put together their schedule. Mr. Rapson commented the last one took us from nine to eleven months. Mr. Bodwell commented this is not a very big project, but they have estimated nine months. Once they get awarded, that is the first thing, they will put together their schedule. Jacobs will review that, it is in their scope to review their schedule and make sure it is legitimate.

Mr. Bodwell reported they are continuing to try to replace the media in the filter bays at South Fayette. Before that we need to replace the valves. The Procurement Department has required the valve replacement project competitively. He said they have done that, there was a meeting to get those companies to come out and take a look. It is becoming a slightly more complicated project than they thought. The bid has been pushed out to this coming Friday, and they have some pretty good interest in that. Several companies came to the pre-bid meeting. He said they are trying to figure out the logistics of changing the valves, it is not just unbolting a few things and putting something else in. There are some operational requirements that are needed, including lowering the levels in the basins. He said that is due this coming Friday and they are looking forward to that, looking forward to getting that contractor on board to replace those valves and then replace the media after that.

Mr. Ray said we determined from talking to the engineer and going over those hydraulic levels that we will have to take the plant off line when they open each filter to replace that valve, but we will work with them and limit to normal working hours; maybe they can get two done a day, but we will just have to see.

Mr. Rapson said he imagines the process we use is the same process we have, make sure we fill up the clear well, have enough capacity and then we take the plant offline; then fix one or two, bring the plant back up, fill it back up the next day. Operationally, we can work around it. Mr. Bodwell commented there are six valves and they will probably replace two a day, it will probably be a week long exercise.

Mr. Rapson mentioned the media is sole source so he is assuming we have that ordered and are just waiting, if we didn't we might as well order that and stock pile it, as soon as the valves are done, we are going to need the media. Mr. Bodwell said we have not done that yet, Filter Rehab, which gave us the quote is just sitting on the sidelines. Hopefully they will put in a bid for the valves and we can do it all in one package and we can get them to do just that, go ahead and order the media and

have it waiting for when you get done. We haven't moved forward on that with Rehab.

Mr. Rapson said he is just trying to prevent the conversation we would have a month from now where we did two valves, but we couldn't bring them on line because we didn't have the media. Now, we have to wait. Mr. Bodwell commented, hopefully, Filter Rehab will win and then it will be real easy to do all this.

Casey Williamson asked Mr. Bodwell if there is a cost estimate. Mr. Bodwell said Filter Rehab came out before the Procurement folks said we had to do this competitively and said they could do it for about \$60,000.00. That was kind of the baseline. He said we got a quote from somebody that was \$24,000.00, he said he thought he does not even know if you can buy the valves for that price. They were shocked. They have not seen the \$24,000.00 bid, but to him that jumps out as a big question mark. He does not even think you can buy six of the valves for that price. It came in really early, but bids are not due until this Friday.

IV. TANK MAINTENANCE UPDATE.

Mr. Bodwell reported Ellis Road is being renovated right now, they are doing all kinds of things. Unfortunately, when they got in there and started cleaning the bowl and pressure washing, they found some additional corroded metal, more than they anticipated. Sometimes, you just have to pressure wash things and expose the steel and the metal to actually determine how bad it is corroded. After they did the pressure washing they sent some pictures and said there is more corrosion than anticipated. Southeastern Tank would like to do the work and are site, Fayette wants to do the work, so they gave us a really good quote, an extra \$37,000.00 to fix some of the additional things in the tank and we gave them the go ahead.

Mr. Bodwell explained the timeline is probably a little bit more extended; they had hoped to have Ellis Road finished in the month of October, it will probably be pushed out an additional couple of weeks because of the additional work, but the quote they gave was great. Fabio, the Construction Manager is on site, looking over their shoulder. He sent some pictures last night. The pictures are of them blasting; there is dust and you can't really see very much.

Mr. Bodwell stated we will have to figure out additional monies to do Crabapple, we have the money in the existing contract to finish Ellis and to do Peachtree City tank, but because we have added additional work to the Highway 92 tank and Ellis, we don't currently have all the money to do Crabapple. He said we can do one of two things, and he will talk to Vanessa about it; either push Crabapple out to fiscal year 21 or go to the Commission and ask for another \$287,000.00 to put that money in fiscal year 20's budget and get Crabapple done toward the end of this calendar year when Southeastern is still here.

Mr. Rapson stated we will just find the \$37,000.00 we need out of M&O for this year. Mr. Bodwell said we could do that, but we added money into the budget for Highway 92 tank last time, so we are already kind of behind anyway and then you add the \$37,000.00.

Mr. Rapson said we need to look at the M&O budget, but he thinks we have addressed all those concerns, other than this change order, in this year's budget. He said he knows we have, we just need to find another \$37,000.00. Mr. Bodwell said he has all the numbers down to the penny on exactly what is needed.

Mr. Bodwell spoke about the logos; he has not gotten with Southeastern to talk about logos for the Peachtree City tank yet. They were supposed to come out and measure the Peachtree City tank and give us a mock up for the logos. We are still a few months away from that, but we want to make sure to engage Jon Rorie.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT.

There was no public comment.

Mr. Rapson commented there is a film proposing to shoot down at Starr's Mill during the month of December. He said we are coordinating with Historical Society who opens it up one day a month. We are in the process of doing this.

VI. ADJOURNMENT.

Steve Rapson made a motion to adjourn the Water Committee October 9, 2019 meeting. Bill Holland seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, Chairman Pete Frisina adjourned the meeting at 8:40 A.M.

Peter A. Frisina

The foregoing minutes were approved at the regular Water Committee meeting on the 13th day of November, 2019.

Lisa Speegle

Next Scheduled Meeting Date: October 23, 2019