

WATER COMMITTEE  
JANUARY 20, 2021  
MINUTES

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Committee Members Present: Pete Frisina, Chairman  
Frank Destadio, Vice Chairman  
Steve Rapson, County Administrator  
Charles Oddo, Commissioner  
Vanessa Tigert  
Jimmy Preau

Committee Non-Voting Members: Dennis Davenport, County Attorney  
Jason Bodwell, Jacobs

Other Staff: Russell Ray, John Caldwell, James Munster  
Capri Reeves, Lindsey Choisnet

Public: Tony Parrott

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The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pete Frisina at 9:31 A.M.

I. MOTION TO AMEND AGENDA

Vanessa Tigert made the motion to amend the Agenda to include election of Officers and the consideration of closing Starr's Mill on February 20, 2021. Steve Rapson seconded to approve to amend the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

II. NOMINATION OF CHAIR

Vanessa Tigert nominated Pete Frisina as Chairman of the Water Committee. Steve Rapson seconded the nomination. The motion passed unanimously.

III. NOMINATION OF VICE CHAIR

Jimmy Preau nominated Frank Destadio as Vice Chairman of the Water Committee. Mr. Rapson seconded the nomination. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE OCTOBER 28, 2020 MEETING

Mr. Destadio made the motion and Ms. Tigert seconded to approve the minutes from the meeting on October 28, 2020. The motion passed unanimously.

V. APPROVAL OF 2021 WATER COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE

Mr. Rapson advised that the proposed meeting schedule is to occur the second Wednesday of each month at 8:30am, as opposed to twice a month. The meeting location will be in the Admin Conference Room located at 140 Stonewall Avenue, unless decided otherwise in advance. Ms. Tigert stated the meetings occurring once a month is in compliance with Water Committee ordinance. Mr. Destadio stated he believes one meeting a month is adequate.

Ms. Tigert made the motion and Frank Destadio seconded to approve the 2021 Water Committee meeting schedule. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. CHLORINE DIOXIDE RIBBON CUTTING AT SOUTH FAYETTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT

Ms. Tigert suggested that, because COVID is still rampant, that the Ribbon Cutting be cancelled, instead of just postponed. Ms. Tigert stated if we could wait until we get the Zero2Waste up and running, then we can maybe celebrate both projects at the same time, later this spring. Mr. Rapson said March or April, probably. Mr. Frisina stated he doesn't believe any action is required; it's just something that was going to be done that is no longer going to happen at this time.

VII. SINGLE FAMILY TOILET REBATE PROGRAM AMENDMENT

Ms. Tigert advised the amount of reimbursements is changing. For ultra-high efficiency toilets using 1.1 gallons per flush (gpf) or less, the maximum rebate face value will reduce from \$100.00 to \$50.00 per toilet. The toilets using 1.28 gpf will no longer be eligible for rebate. Mr. Destadio asked if this is for Metro North Georgia Water Planning District. Ms. Tigert confirmed. Mr. Destadio stated he participated in this program for this own house, believed this to be a great program, and asked why the change? Mr. Rapson stated this is not Fayette County's change, this change is coming from the Metro North Georgia. Mr. Frisina called the vote. The amendment passed unanimously.

VIII. CLOSING STARR'S MILL ON FEBRUARY 20, 2021 FOR FILMING

Ms. Tigert advised she met with the Production Manager of "The Conjuring 3." This filming will be much less of an impact to Starr's Mill than the first "Conjuring" filming with all the fire. Mr. Rapson stated that was actually "The Red Witch," but yes, that time they had some sort of burning ceremony and the county got phone calls about it. Ms. Tigert advised the plan this time is to shut down the park all day on Saturday, February 20 for this filming. The other days they are just setting up work zones. The big impact will be digging of a "hatch hole." The Director surveyed the scene last night, they decided the hole is going to be about 7ft deep. Ms. Tigert stated they did not advise how the hole would be dug, but if the movie has to get some sort of mechanical in there, they went over all the appropriate sediment control and that they would return the site better than they found it. Ms. Tigert added they will construct a new door and replace all the rotted wood for the outhouse. As they did last time, some light-weight Styrofoam will be installed as a type of rock wall and they'll probably put up some curtains in the Mill. All the prep will take place in the parking lot. Ms. Tigert added they're going to be working with the Sheriff's office because they're going to shut down traffic on 85 during the filming. Steve Rapson made the motion to close Starr's Mill and post appropriate notices for Saturday, February 20, 2021. Mr. Frisina stated we have a motion for close the park on February 20<sup>th</sup>, Jimmy Preau seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. SYSTEM UPDATES

Ms. Tigert stated there are two Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District ordinances that are required as part of their permit that she did not put on the Agenda. One is to reduce the discretionary outdoor water use and avoid wasting water by adopting more efficient irrigation requirements. It affects HOAs and those installing an irrigation system that's not associated with commercial design. It will have to meet our backflow prevention requirements. Mr. Rapson asked but not single-family residences? Ms. Tigert affirmed. Mr. Rapson stated that's the important part. Mr. Destadio asked if this was retroactive. Ms. Tigert advised no, this is going forward. Mr. Preau said so this is new housing developments that have community parks, HOAs, not residential. Mr. Rapson stated yes, we are just mirroring the

ordinances that they passed at the North Georgia Metropolitan Water Planning District.

Ms. Tigert said the second ordinance is to require those that are authorized to use a fire line, to require installation of a meter to measure their usage at their expense. James Munster clarified that if an industrial site or commercial site were to plumb a bathroom and they were to plumb it off of the fire line dedicated for fire, they would be required to move that tap to a domestic water or to put a domestic water tap in for that allocation. Mr. Rapson said to email the Water Committee a copy of those resolutions. Ms. Tigert stated these are two ordinances that were in the 2017 Metro update that were late getting adopted. All of our new Surface Water Withdrawal Permits state that we are to comply with all of the Metro North Georgia Watershed Planning District and these are some of the ordinances that are to be adopted. Mr. Destadio said so these are more preventative measures. Ms. Tigert replied they are to account for unaccounted water usage. Mr. Rapson said what Water Committee had discussed before, is if you have a commercial customer that has a leak, and for whatever reason they don't want to fix the leak, they're paying for the water so we don't have a lot of teeth to make them fix it. This will give us the ability to tell them we have an ordinance that says you can't waste water even though you're paying for it.

Steve Rapson made the motion to recommend approval by the Board of Commissioners of the two ordinances. Mr. Destadio seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Frisina asked if there were any more System Updates. Ms. Tigert said she's just going to go around the room real quick. Ms. Tigert asked Susan Lee if we have anything out for bid. Ms. Lee stated the lagoon dredging is out for bid, that's happening next week on February 28<sup>th</sup>. The replacement lagoon pump is going to go out pretty soon. The pumps at Lake Peachtree and Flint River are being repaired, we've got a change order on that. The filter management project is moving along swiftly. Chlorine Dioxide is finished and seems like everything is going beautifully.

Ms. Tigert asked if John Caldwell wanted to give an update on Veteran's Parkway and what the next steps are. John Caldwell said Shockley's got to apply for a DOT permit and can start at the far end of the road and work this way. Just need to get it on his calendar. Mr. Rapson stated that is an important project, in case the Board has forgotten. It connects the two systems by providing the redundancy to Piedmont Hospital, which currently doesn't have a redundancy. It'll also be the major line that comes down that connects the data center that they're talking about at the Lester property. This will be providing that access as well. Mr. Destadio stated we've been talking about that redundancy around the hospital for several years. Mr. Rapson said right now we're at the point where we're going to issue a notice of receiving calendar and get it done. Mr. Destadio asked what's wrong with the water pumps at Lake Peachtree. Ms. Lee stated that several months ago we had a bid out for repair, it's been in a state of disrepair for several years. Ms. Tigert said that's part of our ongoing pump upgrading projects.

Ms. Tigert asked if James Munster had anything to add. Mr. Munster stated we've had a rash of water main breaks with some older infrastructure. Friday, January 15<sup>th</sup> we had three water main breaks in the same neighborhood, which in all his years he's never had anything like that. But all the infrastructure was installed in the '70s. A good bit of it was Peachtree City.

We did have one last night on White Road, which was also in the late '70s, early '80s. Mr. Munster said he received a text that Double Trace had a water main break this morning, which is also mid to late '70s project, so our aging infrastructure is something we need to pay attention to in the future.

Ms. Tigert stated that was a good segue into our Interconnectivity study, which has four tasks in it: mapping, establishing a pressure model, looking at our rate structures, and water demand models. Mr. Destadio asked if we got out notices to the public about the water main break and how it will impact people. Mr. Munster advised these were all emergency situations so there was no advance notice to the residents who were affected. We're following our emergency water main break protocol. If we follow that protocol, we will not have to issue Boil Water Advisories.

Mr. Munster brought two separate maps. When we first started building the water model, the first map was of the first couple weeks of what was able to be input into the GIS for the model. We've been working on it steadily over the past several months, and we have filled in quite a bit of the infrastructure within the county. There are still a few gaps where we're missing some As-Built plans. The Engineer at ISE and Mr. Munster are working to fill in those gaps based on Mr. Munster's memory and the memory of others. Ms. Tigert said that Mr. Munster has been going to ISE once a week. Lindsey, our new Engineering Technician, came on board at the end of October and has really helped with getting ISE the data they need to produce this map, getting it all digitized. Tyler's GIS technician updates the map every week and Mr. Munster goes because a lot of the data we have sent them is wrong, because we didn't require As-Builts in the '70s and '80s.

Ms. Tigert advised we're going to have our pumps analyzed, because our data is so old and we don't know how reliable it is. The model is only as good as the data. We're going forth with our wholesale water calibration, that's the next big task. Mr. Rapson asked so mapping-wise, we're about 65 - 70%? Mr. Munster said he thinks we're a little further along than that, maybe about 75% range. Over the next several weeks, we'll be hand-drawing in a lot of what we're missing. Once we get the distribution system in the GIS map, we go to the pumps, get them all recalibrated and rated, and the next step will be modeling that, showing pressures, and we'll actually have a model. We'll be doing water leaks eventually. Ms. Tigert added in that task order, there are 60-100 field pressure tests. Mr. Munster will pull the model together, see where we're missing data or doesn't make sense, and we'll go out and take some field measurements. At the end of all these different studies, we'll have a discussion in regards to interconnectivity with other systems, what capacity we have, and see how that relates to our model.

Ms. Tigert advised that Casey Williamson, our Senior Financial Analyst, went back and looked at some past line extensions, what the payoff was, to understand our line extension program to date. We looked at the last five years of data. Mr. Rapson said Kirkley Road is a good example of our current extension program. Fiscal year 2020, 880 feet, 8-inch pipe, cost us about \$65,000. That cost to the System is about \$57,000, we have five customers, they all connected, that's about \$1,000 worth of revenue a year, it'll take us 51 years to pay back. That's under the existing policy. Ms. Tigert affirmed. Mr. Rapson said that, per the waterline policy we're looking at, if we were running a line because it makes sense to connect this line

to this other line, then this would be the analysis. But again, that's an operational decision we're making because of flows, or whatever the case may be. A good example is Veteran's Parkway. Everybody wants to connect to that, they're not paying the cost for that but they'll get the benefit of that. So one of the things Vanessa is looking at with the policy we're putting in front of the board, is having customers that want to connect but already have water, they have a well, that they pay the cost of that connection based on their need. Trying to shift that cost to the individual for their individual decision as opposed to a Water System decision.

Mr. Destadio stated we've already had this discussion. Ms. Tigert agreed, but said the Board asked her to get more information. So we've gotten more information, such as the number of potential customers this is going to effect. Using GIS data, there are 1,100 potential residents that could request to tie into our system that are within that 2,500 foot limit from the end of our pipe. Mr. Destadio stated if he remembers correctly, this Committee said it made sense that if you put this loop in, you have a first-time opportunity to elect, and if you decided not to, you can't come in later on and get a one-time good deal of tying in at minimal cost. Mr. Rapson responded this Committee's focus is on the Water System and our rate payers.

Ms. Tigert said another point she would like to make is we will have a distribution model where we can identify areas where we need redundancy, where we need to be taking this and extending our monies on either upgrading, or fixing our System so it's more efficient. That's one of the reasons we want to look at this data and just not do any extensions until we've developed an extension line program that has some goals and an end-point.

Mr. Rapson wanted to go back to discuss the picture of the Water System comprehensive flow chat. Ms. Tigert advised we can thank Russell Ray for the chart. This is good information because we have a really complicated system. This flow chart was put in all our surface water permits. It shows all our surface water withdrawals, where our production meters are, and the storage ponds. It's really important that EPD understands how we are able to pump from Lake Horton to both Crosstown and South Fayette, and how we measured the amount we withdrew. Also important to understand is that the Flint River pump station is supplement to Lake Horton. Also you see how Lake Peachtree and Lake Kedron is a must for Crosstown plant. There's a lot of potential with this System. Ms. Tigert said she got into the weeds looking at our electric bills, to look at the difference in pumping you can really see in a month. When we had to pump from Lake Horton over to Crosstown, and the difference that made in our electric bill. So that's why it's still very keen to have Kedron and have those pumps in working order.

Ms. Tigert wanted to add we've been really fortunate to be able to hire some people, move people around. We're working hard at getting some good training. Susan has a jar testing training that we're offering to all our water operators and everybody in her section. It's the silver-lining of COVID that we've been able to offer this training in-house with GWWI. There is a program offered by GWWI, Effective Utility Management. It was offered it last year, but it got canned because of COVID. Now we're got our 13 managers signed up to take this two-day Zoom training.

#### X. PUBLIC COMMENT

Tony Parrot stated we're missing one of the withdrawal permits at Whitewater Creek, Starr's

Mill. Ms. Tigert stated we no longer have that permit. Mr. Parrot stated it took 26 months to get it, he is wondering why it's missing. Ms. Tigert responded that was a decision that was made before she got here.

Mr. Destadio stated he received an email from Mr. Ricards about how he was concerned about the capacity of Kedron. Mr. Destadio told Mr. Ricards if he had any concerns to bring them to Ms. Tigert, that it wasn't something they needed to bring up at the Water Committee. He said he doesn't see any concerns with the capacity of Lake Kedron being too much, which was Mr. Ricards' concern. He just wanted to make sure Ms. Tigert was aware of that. Ms. Tigert stated that she'll be happy to talk to him.

XI.         ADJOURNMENT

Vanessa Tigert made the motion and Frank Destadio seconded to adjourn the Water Committee meeting on January 20, 2021. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the Water Committee was adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

  
Peter A. Frisina

The foregoing minutes were approved at the regular Water Committee meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2021.

  
Lindsey Choisnet  
Water Committee Clerk