

Water Committee
Minutes
April 14, 2021
9:30 A.M.

Committee Members Present: Pete Frisina, Chairman
Frank Destadio, Vice Chairman
Steve Rapson, County Administrator
Lee Hearn, Commissioner
Vanessa Tigert
James Poff

Absent: Jimmy Preau

Committee Non-Voting Members: Dennis Davenport, County Attorney
Michael Diaz, Arcadis

Other Staff: Jeff Hill, Natasha Duggan, Russell Ray,
Anita Godbee, Harold Myers,
John Caldwell, Emily Larrimore, Susan Lee,
Carrie Gibby, James Munster, Capri Reeves,
Lindsey Choisnet

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

1. Approval of Minutes from the February 10, 2021 meeting
Steve Rapson made the motion and Lee Hearn seconded to approve the minutes from the meeting on February 10, 2021. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Greater Atlanta Air Show
The Greater Atlanta Air Show is coming back to Fayette County. They will be setting up on May 18, 2021, the event will take place on May 22 and 23, and will dismantle on May 24. They are requesting to close down Lake McIntosh Park on May 21, 22, and 23 because of the flyover zone; they have to have a safety zone which includes a lot of Lake McIntosh. May 21 will be a practice day. Fayette County Marshal's will be staging in the parking lot of Lake McIntosh along with Peachtree City Fire Department. On the days of the show, the entrances to the Park will be closed and also closing down Dividend Drive from TDK Blvd all the way past the entrance to the airport. An electronic message board will be set up at Dividend and TDK a week in advance of the event to let everyone know that the park will be closed.

Mr. Rapson made the motion and Vanessa Tigert seconded to make a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners to approve the closure of Lake McIntosh Park from May 21 – 23. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Food Truck Frenzy
The Parks and Recreation Department is planning to host a few events at a couple

of the lake reservoirs.

The first event is a “Food Truck Frenzy” at Lake McIntosh. This event will take place on April 22 from 11am – 2pm, July 15 from 5pm – 8:30pm, and October 21 from 11am – 2pm.

Next is “Pack the Park Series,” a bike and hike event at Lake Horton on July 10 from 9am – 12pm.

“Night Under the Stars” will be on August 13 from 8pm – 11pm at Lake Horton.

Flint River Astronomy will be joining to take a look at several planets and constellations after sunset.

Parks & Rec is not asking to close the park down, they will just be hosting the event and wanted to inform the Committee.

4. System Updates

Arcadis has been having weekly meetings with the Water System, and has also been working on-site out of Crosstown and South Fayette. They’re got some irons in the fire regarding CIP, upcoming Task Orders, Automated Metering Infrastructure (AMI), and generator and electrical issues.

Field Operations has experienced some recent retirements among staff, so working more short-handed than usual.

EPD requires water utilities to meet a certain criteria for the annual Water-Loss Audit. Essentially, the Audit shows the effort a water utility takes on accountability of their water supplies and implements controls on future water loss. Committee member James Poff is on the EPD water-loss committee and was one of the instructors in the class that Carrie Gibby and Casey Williamson took to become a Water-Loss Auditor. Performing a Water-Loss Audit is now a requirement for our Surface Water Withdrawal Permits, along with a Water-Loss Control Program and a Water Conservation Plan. All this is leading us into the direction of being good stewards of water supplies, implementing water conservation efforts, and doing our best to reduce our water losses, which will assist the county in determining and reducing the financial loss of treated water. A condition of these permits is to submit annual reports to show how we have progressed in areas that need attention and these improvements were addressed in our Water Conservation Plan. The Committee agreed that this Audit is incredibly important, as water loss has a monetary impact. It takes money to treat water. If we don’t keep track of the water we lose, that’s money literally going down the drain. The area that has the biggest financial impact is inaccurate meters. The more we monitor the meters and track where the water is going, the better we’ll do financially. We’ve got about 10 years of data with these reports. Part of the report is a Water Balance sheet which is a diagram showing how we calculate where our water goes. It shows how we calculate real and apparent losses, how much water we are supplying, how much water we imported, etc. Even more, this report points out the top three areas that need to be worked on, so it even does project prioritization. This is our “grade” for water loss. We scored a 77 out of 100, which is up 6 points from our last Water-

Loss Audit. The information from this report is available to everyone.

Emily Larrimore is our newest member of staff and has taken over management at the lab. Ms. Larrimore is a graduate of Barry College and comes to us from DeKalb County where she was a lab analyst. She has been here a week and a half and already accomplished a lot, especially with our "Compliance Calendar."

Seasonal basin cleanouts are happening at both treatment plants. Filter Magic installation at South Fayette has been going along a little slow; we had to pause the process for automation because we had some valves that weren't working exactly right. The installation is expected to be finished next week. Filter Magic was installed at Crosstown a couple years ago and saved the utility a lot of water, so we expect great results for South Fayette.

The Lagoon Dredging contract has been awarded and they are mobilizing this week. This contractor bid an alternative to landfilling so we were thrilled that they were the low bid. They will be dewatering out of the lagoons and hauling the sludge to a cattle ranch in Newton County to do a land application. The contractor asked for permission to haul sludge to a second site; he was advised that as long as EPD approves, go ahead. This method is one of the simpler and cheaper methods of sludge removal. We've got improvements planned for the solids-handling portion of Crosstown that will cut down on the number of solids that are loaded on that lagoon every day. Once we get the new thickener built, we'll have extra capacity. We need to get some flow metering into that part of the process so that we can keep track of how we're loading it. Crosstown is being loaded faster than South Fayette because of the source water, the lagoons are smaller, the thickener is smaller; there are a lot of differences. Lake McIntosh is a whole different animal than Lake Horton so there are a lot more solids to remove at Crosstown. Tom Henninger and Susan Lee have appointed a project management team of water operators who have maintenance experience. The team has been walked through the inspection and documenting process, and understand what is expected on a daily basis. There will be somebody from that team every day of the week to interact with the contractor, to keep detailed records of what's going on and any problems that may arise.

Some projects our Engineers have been reviewing are D.O.T. plans, S.R. 85 widening, S.R. 279, the Hampton Road/92 roundabout, and the culvert and SPLOST projects.

One of our CIP items is the Pump Refurbishment Project. The pumps have been installed at Lake Peachtree and so far the data is good overall. Pump #1 is a little low on its capacity. The design capacity is 4 million gallons per day (MGD), and pump #1 is at 3.6 MGD. Pump #2 is above capacity at 2.4 MGD; its design capacity is 2.0 MGD. We're going to get a report from the vendor on the items that were looked at yesterday before we go into full production. A motor at Flint River Pump

Station was installed yesterday, but we might have to replace the pump itself. The Flint River does have three pumps, and two are ready to run.

Customer service is still working through some system phone changes and updates that were made by IT. We are working to get a meeting with IT regarding data collection of the phone systems and upgraded software so that we may retrieve some of the data that we need from customer calls. At some point, our phone system was setup where we are essentially the operator for all the McDonough Road buildings and sites. Our staff is taking calls from various departments, but there have been changes in the phone system to where department calls are being routed elsewhere and there is no real tracking right now.

5. Director's Report

Interconnectivity Initiative is a project that was out for bid when Ms. Tigert started in August 2019. We awarded this bid to Integrated Science and Engineering (ISE) out of Coweta County. It's packed full of information that they're obtaining and delivering to us. Becoming resilient is the focus and that's what the Interconnection and Redundancy Reliability Act is all about. ISE has produced a Safe Yield Water Analysis, a long-term water demand study, a pressure model, and from all of that we are determining a wholesale rate. We needed to update our Safe Yield Analysis, as it was not updated during our last Surface Water Withdrawal Permit exercise ten years ago. Lake Horton has not been updated since the 1959 Drought of Record.

With the Safe Yield 2070 Projection model, we do have a downward change in the amount we can safely withdrawal during a drought. Part of this initiative is calculating the long-term demand. Our current annual average daily demand is 10.42 MGD and our projected future demand in 2070 is 16.65 MGD. The reason this is so important is because, when we talk about Interconnectivity, the question is: what are we comfortable selling to another county? As of today, we've got 12.5 MGD in reserve; during a drought we have about 8 MGD in reserve. In 2070, we're projected to have a reserve of 6 MGD but a reserve of 1 MGD during times of drought.

Frank Destadio stated there's been a growing concern of the need for water in Fayette County, even before the county expanded. Mr. Destadio has been on the Livable Cities Initiative for Peachtree City, which is also growing, so his concern as a citizen is what are we really projecting that Fayette County can sell.

This projection model is a living, breathing document that needs to be reevaluated every three to five years. We need to remember that, in this model, we're hydroplaning over a lot of assumptions. This model is basically saying that everything will remain exactly the same in 50 years; developers won't do anything differently than what they're doing now, the seasons will remain consistent, the modeling is perfect, etc.

The plan is not to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) to sell water for the next 50 years. The IGA would be more along the lines of: sell "X" capacity at "Y"

rate for a year or so at a time, renew the IGA based on whatever the wholesale rate was, and if we're in a drought we can stop selling to other counties. We can include caveats in our IGA. When you start dealing with other governments, a 50-year IGA is the maximum you can do. This Safe Yield 2070 Projection model tells us not to do a 50-year IGA. We'd need to calm it down to no more than a 15-20 year IGA, which would give Fayette County enough breathing room to ensure we won't be in a drought situation and not have water. There's no guarantee of renewal after 20 years.

It's important to understand that this projection model takes into account the county population and demand we'll have for build-out. When building this model, they looked at the growth rate for City of Fayetteville and what the Water System already wholesales to them. This takes into account the people in the county who are wanting to purchase water who are currently on wells. This water demand model takes growth into account. Mr. Destadio stated, from a citizen's point of view, he's not against selling water. He just knows there are citizens who would like to make sure there was obvious logic and mathematics that say selling water is not going to hurt us down the road.

It's important to think about what happens past the year 2070, especially if all these projections are right. We need to establish relationships and have interconnectivity so that, in case we need water in a bad month or a bad year, we also have the opportunity to buy water from other counties.

The next deliverable from the Interconnectivity Initiative is the Hydraulic Model, which is a key tool for every water system. We really utilize this model in determining what our long- and short-term needs are. The backbone of this model is our GIS data, which we had none of when we started this project.

Our next steps are looking at our wholesale rate, developing a 10-year Master Plan, and evaluating a retail rate based on the wholesale rate and the Master Plan.

6. Public Comment

There will be a meeting on May 6, 2021 to discuss the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. Per this Act, Fayette County is slated to receive \$22 million. AMI is in our 10-year plan and that is a major \$11 million project that we have to fund. The Water Committee wants to make a statement that we'd be very much in favor to have AMI as a Capitol Project because AMI improves the entire System.

Mr. Destadio made the motion and Mr. Poff seconded that the Water Committee make a statement at the Board meeting on May 6 that AMI be considered as a Capitol Project when allocating funds for the Water System. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Adjournment


Mr. Rapson made the motion and Ms. Tigert seconded to adjourn the Water

Committee meeting on April 14, 2021. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the Water Committee was adjourned at 10:40a.m.


Peter A. Frisina

The foregoing minutes were approved at the regular Water Committee meeting on the
9th day of June, 2021.


Lindsey Choisnet
Water Committee Clerk