

Water Committee  
Minutes  
November 17, 2021  
8:30 A.M.

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Committee Members Present: Pete Frisina, Chairman  
Steve Rapson, County Administrator  
Vanessa Tigert  
Lee Hearn, Commissioner  
Jimmy Preau  
Clinton Holland

Absent: James Poff

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

Staff Present: Jeff Hill, James Munster, Capri Reeves, Susan Lee, Emily Larrimore, Bryan Keller, Natasha Duggan, Lindsey Choisnet

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The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pete Frisina at 8:30 a.m.

1. Approval of Minutes from the October 13, 2021 meeting  
Vanessa Tigert made the motion and Jimmy Preau seconded to approve the minutes from the meeting on October 13, 2021. The motion passed unanimously.
2. Approval of the 2022 Water Committee Meeting Schedule  
Pete Frisina noted to correct the Wednesday, April 13 meeting time as 8:30am, not 9:30am. Steve Rapson made the motion and Vanessa Tigert seconded to approve the 2022 Water Committee Meeting Schedule with the correction noted by Pete Frisina. The motion passed unanimously.
3. Reeves Creek  
Ms. Tigert advised that Fayette County Water System has been approached by Henry County concerning a mitigation area that we maintain in conjunction with the construction of the Lake Horton Reservoir. Henry County Water Authority has always had a sewer easement running through this mitigation area. They are experiencing a need to enlarge this easement and have asked us to work with them in that regard. They will need access to the property to determine what exactly the impact would be on constructing a new line within their current easement and potentially outside their easement. They will have to go through the Army Corp of Engineers for a variance on the restricted covenant associated with this piece of property.

Mr. Rapson explained that when Henry County steps into the wetlands area, we're responsible for that area. What we're trying to do is put an Intergovernmental Agreement in place that pushes that responsibility to Henry County. The first step is granting a Right of Entry Agreement so they can go into that area to determine exactly what is needed for their proposed sewer lines.

Dennis Davenport noted the start date for the Right of Entry Agreement with Henry

County needs to be changed to December 10, 2021, due to the earliest Fayette County Board of Commissioners can approve the Agreement will be on December 9, 2021.

**Steve Rapson made the motion and Lee Hearn seconded to approve the Right of Entry Agreement for BOC action contingent upon their approval, with the date changed from December 1 to December 10. The motion passed unanimously.**

4. Environmental Compliance

Emily Larrimore explained revisions to EPA's upcoming Lead and Copper rule. The tentative start date will be in December and we will have to meet compliance potentially in 2024. At the August Water Committee meeting, we discussed the reason for these changes is to protect the public health of children, so there will be a lot of widespread sampling in schools. This will require water systems to inventory all their lead service lines and puts a focus on service lines of unknown material and public education. One of the biggest undertakings is that we will be required to sample a minimum of 20% of all schools, public and private, and all childcare facilities that are certified by the state, including home daycares. These rules are not finalized or published yet, but this is the information we have that is currently available. It's looking like we will have to pull a minimum of five samples per school: one from the kitchen, the Nurse's office, the bathroom, a water fountain, and a fifth. These samples have to be first draws, so the water has to be sitting in the pipes for nine hours with no movement.

5. System Updates

James Munster advised everything is going well with infrastructure; we're not seeing a large number of breaks, nothing out of the ordinary. The most recent breaks that we have had are on some older infrastructure, such as Dividend Drive and Everhill in Peachtree City. We're seeing more failures with the 40-60 year old piping, so replacing our infrastructure is something that's going to have to happen in the near term.

Capri Reeves shared our latest software updates with Customer Service phone calls. In the past month, Customer Service took over 2500 calls and over 700 emails. Now that the software is in place, we're working to get some indicators and workflow that we can streamline.

Susan Lee explained that the staff has been getting trained on cyber security. The four million gallon tank restoration is almost finished. It looks fantastic but makes everything else at Crosstown look a little sad, so we'll probably be looking at some painting money for Crosstown next year and maybe the year after. The painting project at South Fayette is nearing completion and is looking really good. Ms. Lee has been spending a lot of time putting together in-depth cross training initiatives for the Operators. It's an eight week assignment to work with the lab and their field sampling and will take two years to rotate everybody through. This is in response to the labor shortage so having staff cross trained in every department is essential.

We've been working with Arcadis on preparations for the upcoming construction project for the hoseless sludge collector at both plants. A few of the many things Arcadis is working on are technical memorandums related to high-rating hydraulics

and flow at Crosstown, task orders for SCADA upgrades, and other task orders driven towards us obtaining some of the grant dollars from the new infrastructure bill.

6. Director's Report

Ms. Tigert advised that over the last few months we have lost six staff out of 14 positions in Customer Service and Billing. We were fortunate to hire a new Field Operations Warehouse Manager. We have one person starting next week and another the following week in Field Operations, but that still leaves us with seven vacant positions. This shortage of labor is something we're very aware of and it's why we need to do as much cross training as possible.

We worked with Arcadis to submit grants on October 31 for supplementing the AMI grant and for our generator grant.

In anticipation of the infrastructure money or the second round of ARP money that will come next October 31, we're looking at SCADA upgrades for South Fayette in addition to total upgrades on our SCADA for cyber security.

We're also working with Arcadis on Private Water Systems.

Mr. Rapson shared that the County recently approved a 10.45% pay scale increase for County staff, so that will effect everybody in the Water System. In addition to that, we're doing another 8.55% to get to 19% increase for Public Safety to take their starting pay from \$43,000 to \$50,000. The reason the County approved to shift everyone is because it's not just a Public Safety problem in regards to hiring. That increase for everybody makes us much more competitive in the market.

7. Public Comment

No public comment.

8. Adjournment

Steve Rapson made the motion and Vanessa Tigert seconded to adjourn the Water Committee meeting on November 17, 2021. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the Water Committee was adjourned at 9:10 a.m.



Chairman

The foregoing minutes were approved at the regular Water Committee meeting on the 26 day of January, 2022.



Lindsey Choisset  
Water Committee Clerk