

Water Committee
Minutes
June 8, 2022
8:30 A.M.

Committee Members Present: Bryan Keller, Chairman
Vanessa Tigert, Vice-Chair
Steve Rapson, County Administrator
Jeff Hill
Clinton Holland
Bill Holland

Absent: James Poff

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

Staff Present: Russell Ray, James Munster, Emily Larrimore, Carrie Gibby, Casey Williamson, David Schreiber, Susan Lee, John Caldwell, Capri Reeves, Amber Barfield, Lindsey Choynet

Public: Nancy Wilkins

Call To Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bryan Keller at 8:30 a.m.

Acceptance of Agenda

Vanessa Tigert moved to accept the agenda as written. Bill Holland seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

1. Approval of Minutes from the March 16, 2022 meeting
Jeff Hill made the motion and Vanessa Tigert seconded to approve the minutes from the meeting on March 16, 2022. The motion passed unanimously.

2. System Updates
Susan Lee advised that construction has started at the South Fayette plant on the hoseless sludge collector. Once completed, construction will begin on a quarter of the plant at Crosstown, so as not to take the whole plant out of production.

David Schreiber discussed iHydrants, a new component to our system. These hydrants provide real-time data of the pressure and temperature in our system, allowing us to respond more quickly to watermain breaks. Sometime within the next year the iHydrants will also be able to detect leaks. We currently have eight in our system and have budgeted for 10 more in Fiscal Year 2023. The goal is to have one iHydrant per every 50 homes in each new development. The Water System could save money in the long run, as we will know what is happening within our infrastructure and can address leaks before they turn into breaks.

Ms. Tigert provided an update on our AMI project. We were pleasantly surprised to have seven respondents to the Request For Proposal. After an extensive evaluation, it has been narrowed down to two respondents who will be interviewed in person on the 24th of June. The target date of installation is January 2023, but the actual date depends on who is awarded the contract.

Travis Thomas explained our Storage Gap Analysis. Arcadis compared existing water storage volume to the recommended minimum required storage volume, based on typical needs for equalization, fire flow, and emergency volumes. Also compared were current water storage needs with future demand projections. The goal is to use this analysis as a planning reference for near-term storage being considered, such as an elevated tank at the Trilith location. Conclusions determined were that we currently have a storage surplus of 0.8 million gallons (MG) and there is projected to be a 3.3 MG storage deficit by the year 2040. Additional water storage should balance out the long-term needs without creating excess storage in the near-term. A tank of less than 1 MG volume is recommended in the near-term. Steve Rapson added that Trilith is a unique situation, as they want an elevated water tank at their location. Because of that, they are willing to contribute toward the capital of an elevated tank.

3. Water Loss Audit

Casey Williamson presented the Water Loss Audit results, which is now a requirement in our Surface Water Withdrawal Permits. Our 2021 Validity Score was 76, which is in line with the previous year's score of 77. The scoring criteria software changed from Version Five to Version Six, which now provides visual grading scales to better understand the score. Jim Poff provided an external audit and highlighted areas of opportunity so as to improve our score for next year. The implementation of GIS mapping and increased meter readings through Advanced Metering Infrastructure will positively affect future Water Loss Audits.

4. Director's Report

Ms. Tigert shared that the Water Guardians will have a presence in the county again after a COVID-driven hiatus. Water Guardians is a local environmental outreach program that offers citizens an opportunity to assist with keeping our vital drinking water reservoirs clean of trash and debris. Arcadis, the Environmental Management Department, and the Water System will sponsor these events, which are scheduled on June 26 at Lake Horton, July 24 at Lake Peachtree, August 28 at Lake McIntosh, and September 25 at Lake Kedron. Arcadis personnel will attend the July 24 event.

Environmental Management and the Water System have been working together to complete the Metro North Georgia Water Planning District's (MNGWD) 5-year audit, which is due by the 1st of July.

Emily Larrimore put together our annual Consumer Confidence Report, which turned out nicely despite supply chain issues.

Based on the Safe Yield Analysis and the Water Demand study, Fayette County can safely wholesale at least 3.0 MGD of water to Coweta County over the next 10 years or longer. The Board of Commissioners approved the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Coweta County Water and Sewerage Authority. The revenue stream established through this IGA will be allocated for Water System Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) and help mitigate future rate increases. The IGA will commence upon completion of the water line extension from Wynnmeade Parkway down to Line Creek. We are looking at a year to obtain the pipe needed for this extension due to supply chain issues. Other Interconnectivity steps being taken include our Hydraulic Model, which is 80 percent complete. We have notified City of Fayetteville of the amended wholesale rate. The data from our Safe Yield Analysis, Water Demand study, and Pressure Model will be used to develop our 10-year Water System Master Plan, which is also a requirement of the MNGWPD. Once we have our Master Plan, a retail rate will be evaluated based on expectations from wholesale.

The Board of Commissioners were presented with the Water System budget on May 26 and have meetings on June 9 and June 23 to discuss the budget before it is adopted. Sewer Billing fees are being increased by 10 percent after reviewing the System's cost and considering fees have not been updated since 2014. After comprehensive review of what utilities our size and what surrounding utilities were charging for Meter, Tap, and Accessibility fees, it was decided to raise our Meter, Tap, and Accessibility fees, which have not been updated since 1986. Mr. Rapson noted that we understand most of these fees are part of the development community and there is a sensitivity to which of these fees we are tweaking so as not to cripple the development community. We have added a meter tampering fee to deter water being stolen, which we will be alerted to with our new AMI technology. Domestic meter rates have not changed since 2010 and they are not changing now. Irrigation rates, however, need to change in order to comply with the MNGWPD's Water Resource Management Plan requirements. We adopted the minimum rate increase allowed per this Plan, which is doubling our irrigation rates, and will go into effect July 1, 2022. We sent a brochure to all our customers who have irrigation meters that advises of this rate increase and also provides conversation education.

5. Public Comment

Fayette County resident Nancy Wilkins routinely walks Lake McIntosh Park and shared concerns for the cleanliness and safety of the park. The trash cans fill quickly to the point of overflow and the bathrooms are a constant battle to keep clean. Dumpsters were installed at the park earlier this year in an attempt to combat the overabundance of trash, but unfortunately those dumpsters are also overflowing due to household garbage and even furniture being illicitly dumped there. Mr. Rapson acknowledged that, regardless of what actions we've put in place, it is clear that they're not working. These concerns regarding Lake McIntosh Park are on our radar and we are working to find a solution.

Mr. Clinton Holland has received inquiries from concerned citizens regarding the water level at Lake Kedron. Mr. Holland visited the lake and noticed mud flats extending far into the lake. A few weeks ago, the levels at Lake Kedron were low due to the spillway being repaired, but the concern is that the levels do not appear to have gone back up despite the rain we have had. Russell Ray shared that he checked this information yesterday and all three major lakes are within one foot of full pool. Lake Kedron is the lowest at about six to seven tenths, but we have been actively managing the levels since the completion of the spillway repairs. Mr. Rapson noted that some of those issues are natural sedimentations. The Environmental Protection Division will not allow us to dredge those areas because of the natural filtering that those sedimentations provide. Mr. Holland appreciated the explanation so that now he can provide answers when residents come to him with these questions.

Mr. Holland also wanted to bring up the topic of "toilet to tap." The idea is - anything that goes out of a wastewater treatment plant is put back into a drinking water plant, so as to save water from coming out of lakes and reservoirs. Mr. Holland was curious if this idea had ever come up at Water Committee. Mr. Rapson advised he has never heard of this; Bryan Keller has heard of talks regarding "toilet to tap" through MNGWPD but does not know of it ever being implemented.

6. Adjournment

Bryan Keller made the motion and Clinton Holland seconded to adjourn the Water Committee meeting on June 8, 2022. The motion passed unanimously.

The June 8, 2022 Water Committee meeting adjourned at 9:39 a.m.



~~Bryan D. Keller, Chairman~~

Vanessa Tigert, Vice-Chairman

The foregoing minutes were approved at the regular Water Committee meeting on the 13th day of July, 2022.



Lindsey Cholsnet, Water Committee Clerk