

Water Committee  
Minutes  
January 11, 2023  
8:30 A.M.

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Committee Members Present: Bryan Keller, Chairman  
Vanessa Tigert, Vice-Chair  
Jeff Hill, Fire Chief  
Bill Holland

Absent: Jim Poff  
Steve Rapson, County Administrator

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

Staff Present: Susan Lee, Capri Reeves, Russell Ray, Josh Rigsby,  
Lindsey Choisnet

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Call To Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bryan Keller at 8:31 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 November 9, 2022 meeting  
Bill Holland made the motion and Vanessa Tigert seconded to approve the minutes from the meeting on November 9, 2022. The motion passed unanimously.
2. Nomination of Chair  
Jeff Hill nominated Bryan Keller as Chair of the Water Committee. Vanessa Tigert seconded the nomination. The motion passed unanimously.
3. Nomination of Vice-Chair  
Bill Holland nominated Vanessa Tigert as Vice-Chair of the Water Committee. Jeff Hill seconded the nomination. The motion passed unanimously.
4. SPLOST Mailers  
Mr. Keller introduced Josh Rigsby, the Environmental Management Department's (EMD) Project Analyst for SPLOST (Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax). Mr. Rigsby has been helping put together all EMD's educational materials for SPLOST.

This six-year SPLOST will be on the ballot for the March 21, 2023 special election. As part of SPLOST education, EMD created a mailer to go in the water utility bills. All jurisdictions in Fayette County have agreed to this through intergovernmental agreements and everything has been sent to the Board of Elections. EMD is requesting Water Committee approve including the educational mailer in the utility bills starting at the end of January.

**Vanessa Tigert made the motion and Bill Holland seconded to allow the inclusion of SPLOST educational mailers in Water System billing envelopes. The motion passed unanimously.**

5. System Updates

Susan Lee presented the SCADA (supervisory control and data acquisition) upgrade project, which is a five-year Capital Improvement Plan. SCADA is a tool that our plant operators use to monitor the water system, equipment, processes, storage tank levels, system pressures, and pump stations. All these functions are key to maintaining proper operation of the water system. The goal is to replace and upgrade obsolete hardware and software to achieve a streamlined and fully integrated SCADA system in both the South Fayette and Crosstown water treatment plants.

Capri Reeves discussed the December 2022 freeze and the impact it took on the water system and county. Between December 23 and 26, we experienced record-low temperatures, which increased water demand, customer leaks, and Fire and EMS support for surrounding counties. Upon review of the 1,200 smart meters currently operating in our system, over 1.1 million gallons of water were used between December 23-26, 2022. During this same period in December 2021, our customers used less than 200,000 gallons of water. To ensure production numbers were not affected solely by the Christmas holiday, we also compared the December 2022 usage with the November 24-27, 2022 Thanksgiving holiday usage. The production and demand numbers in December were considerably higher than in November. We reviewed the leaks reported system-wide for December 23-26 in 2021 and 2022; two leaks were reported in 2021 versus 49 leaks reported in 2022. We were fortunate enough to not experience outages the way our neighboring counties did.

Taking into consideration all the labor, materials, vehicles, equipment, and revenue lost, the damages totaled over \$44,000. GEMA was requesting damage information to determine if we could be considered for mitigation funds. Coming up with numbers like this really helps the county and the state because then it helps qualify us to apply for resiliency grants.

Chief Hill noted the consumption increase is due to individual water leaks and damages, not because of a system failure. Fayette County Water System did not have a failure or a decrease in system abilities. Part of the issue is a lot of property owners do not know how to turn off their water at the street. It is important for consumers to know where their water shut-off is before an incident occurs.

Mr. Holland pointed out that our production and demand tables should include the units measured (gallons per day) for clarity. We will include that information moving

forward.

6. Director's Report

Ms. Tigert advised we are moving forward with our hoseless sludge collector system. Basins five and six will soon be back online. We are about to take offline basins seven and eight at Crosstown and basins three and four at South Fayette. This project should be completed by spring, so we'll be at full capacity this summer when it starts getting warmer.

Arcadis has been working with us to put together data to create a refurbishment and replacement tool for our pipes. They've loaded the age, composition, and location of all our pipes so that we can keep a priority list of replacements. We're also going to try to incorporate where we can put in some loop lines to get rid of the dead-end pipes and improve our water quality.

The deed and easement legal documents for the Trilith water tower are being finalized so we can move forward with development plans.

We have a Task Order on the Board of Commissioner's agenda for the Coweta County connection. Shockley will order the pipes once the Task Order is approved; it's estimated to take at least one year to get those pipes.

Carrie Gibby and James Munster are absent from Water Committee today because they are participating with Public Works in a career curriculum for students who want to pursue opportunities other than college. GWWI has helped develop classes and Jim Poff has been a tremendous help in getting this all put together.

The Metro North Georgia Water Planning District (MNGWPD) is updating its 2022 Water Resources Management Plan. We have been working closely with EMD to pass the audit. One requirement of MNGWPD is to have yearly intergovernmental meetings and they're helping facilitate this year's meeting.

7. Public Comment

No public comment.


8. Adjournment

Bryan Keller made the motion and Vanessa Tigert seconded to adjourn the Water Committee meeting on January 11, 2023. The motion passed unanimously.

The January 11, 2023 Water Committee meeting adjourned at 9:03 a.m.

  
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Bryan D. Keller, Chairman

The foregoing minutes were approved at the regular Water Committee meeting on the  
8<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2023.

  
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Lindsey Choisnet, Water Committee Clerk