



Water Committee Minutes
May 10, 2023
8:30 A.M.

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

Absent: Steve Rapson, County Administrator
Jim Poff

Committee Non-Voting Members: Dennis Davenport, County Attorney
Aaron Capelouto, Arcadis

Staff Present: Capri Reeves, Michelle Chavez, James Munster, James Rosser, Emily Larrimore, Susan Lee, Russell Ray, Lindsey Choisnet

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. Committee Member Introductions

Bryan Keller is the Director of the Environmental Management Department (EMD). Mr. Keller has held the Water Committee Chair position for two years and he just celebrated 15 years with the County. EMD and the Water System share a number of permits and are audited together by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD).

Vanessa Tigert has also been with Fayette County for 15 years. Ms. Tigert was the Director of EMD prior to coming to the Water System in August 2019 as Director.

Jeff Hill is Chief of Fire and Emergency Services. The Fire Department and the Water System work together because, of course, the Fire Department uses our water.

Bill Holland is a retired architect and was the City Architect for the City of Los Angeles. Mr. Holland subsequently worked in the URS Corporation, has done work on Indian reservations, and likes to serve wherever he can.

William Yarde is a retired neurosurgeon and retired Navy Commander. He is very much in the mode of public service and is happy to be granted the opportunity to serve on this Committee.

Aaron Capelouto is the Arcadis Deputy Account Lead for the Water System.

Dennis Davenport is the County Attorney and has been connected to the Water System from 1993-2007 and 2013-present.

Lindsey Choisnet is the Water Committee Clerk and has been an Engineering Technician with the Water System since October 2020.

2. **Approval of Minutes from the April 12, 2023 meeting**

Jeff Hill made the motion and Vanessa Tigert seconded to approve the minutes from the meeting on April 12, 2023. The motion passed unanimously.

3. **System Updates**

Aaron Capelouto shared that Arcadis has a series of ongoing projects with the Water System. The Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) project has its formal kick-off on June 1st. We also have various projects at both water treatment plants and are looking forward to hitting the ground running in FY2024.

Capri Reeves advised that May 7-13, 2023 is Drinking Water Week. We held an event with the Fayette County Library where we educated children on the importance of water conservation using various activities.

Ms. Reeves then introduced Michelle Chavez, our new Customer Support Specialist who supervises the day-to-day activities in Customer Support.

James Munster updated the Committee on damages and repairs in our distribution system. The water mains that needed repair averaged an age of 35 years.

Mr. Munster introduced James Rosser, a Marine Corps veteran who has been working in the Field Operations division of the Water System for about eight months. He is currently training to take on the role of Field Operations Inspector. Ben Martin, our Field Operations Specialist, will be training Mr. Rosser through

early June. Mr. Martin recently accepted the position of Plant Maintenance Manager and will officially transition roles once training with Mr. Rosser is complete.

Susan Lee reminded the Committee that the Crosstown lab has been recertified for three years for Bacillus thuringiensis analysis; we thank our Lab and Compliance Specialist, Emily Larrimore, for the efforts that got us that recertification.

Russell Ray explained that we are in the first phase of our Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system upgrade, so we are ordering computers that can handle the new SCADA software. We'll move into additional SCADA projects involving the controls that run the equipment over the next several years.

4. **Director's Report**

Ms. Tigert presented the Fee Reduction Proposal. Since 2014, the Water System has had a Leak Protection program that provides financial assistance to single-family, residential customers for large water leaks. Unless a water utility uses AMI, this type of program is required by the Metro North Georgia Water Planning District. In Fiscal Year 2025, we are proposing an Enhanced Monitoring service along with the AMI implementation. Customers will have access to a self-service portal that promotes active engagement in water conservation and leak detection, such as setting up alerts and access to consumption information. From a Water System perspective, we'll be able to read meters on demand, receive notifications of abnormal usage, and have access to flow-measurement dashboards and analytics, which provide identification and alerts of main breaks and outages. Our current Leak Protection program is \$3/month. As AMI meters become operational, we are proposing three changes: to reduce the Leak Protection fee to \$1/month per residential connection, to implement a new Enhanced Monitoring fee of \$1/month for all AMI water meter connections, and to eliminate the remaining \$1/month fee based on enhanced monitoring impact. This approach converts the existing \$3/month Leak Protection fee to offset the new Enhanced Monitoring Fee and provides existing residential Leak Protection customers with a 33% fee reduction overall.

5. **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

Jeff Hill shared that Fire & Emergency Services received their five-year Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating and have gained nearly nine points, which is the largest overall gain in an ISO rating in probably Fayette County's existence. The ISO rating is on a scale of one to ten; for the past five years, we've been running with a 3/3y rating. We remained a 3/3y but missed going to a 2/2y by only 0.9 points. Chief Hill is following through with the appeals process and will hopefully move us to a 2/2y in the near future. The ISO ratings affect flood and homeowners' insurance

premiums throughout the county. The Water System's water model played a part in the nine-point gain.

6. Adjournment

Bryan Keller made the motion and Jeff Hill seconded to adjourn the Water Committee meeting on May 10, 2023. The motion passed unanimously.

The May 10, 2023 Water Committee meeting adjourned at 9:06 a.m.



Bryan D. Keller, Chairman

The foregoing minutes were approved at the regular Water Committee meeting on the 14th day of June, 2023.



Lindsey Choisnet, Water Committee Clerk