



Water Committee Minutes
April 17, 2024
8:30 A.M.

Committee Members Present: Vanessa Tigert, Vice-Chair; Water System Director
Steve Rapson, County Administrator
Jeff Hill, Fire Chief
Bill Holland, Citizen Representative
Jim Poff, Citizen Representative
William Yarde, Citizen Representative

Absent: Bryan Keller, Chair; Environmental Management Director

Committee Non-Voting Members: Ali Cox, County Attorney
Aaron Capelouto, Arcadis

Staff Present: Capri Reeves, Customer Support Manager
James Munster, Field Operations Director
Russell Ray, Facilities & Projects Specialist
Susan Lee, Water Production & Operations Manager
Emily Larrimore, Laboratory and Compliance Specialist
Carrie Gibby, Business Operations Manager
Lindsey Choisnet, Engineering Technician

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Vanessa Tigert at 8:33 a.m.

Acceptance of Agenda

Jeff Hill moved to accept the agenda as written. Jim Poff seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

1. Approval of Minutes from the March 13, 2024 meeting
Jim Poff made the motion to approve the minutes from the March 13, 2024 meeting. Jeff Hill seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
2. Drought Ordinance
Vanessa Tigert advised that the Local Drought Management and Response Ordinance was adopted by the Board of Commissioners on April 11, 2024. This ordinance replaces the Fayette County Code of Ordinances Article III of Chapter 28,

Water Restrictions and establishes provisions pertaining to water restriction requirements.

This ordinance contains similar drought response levels as previously enforced. Year-round, water-wasting activity restrictions have been added as well as the ability to submit an emergency variance request to the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD). Steve Rapson added that this ordinance also imposes fines for compliance for those who are wasting water.

Jim Poff asked how we define a leak. Capri Reeves replied that, through the new Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) project, we are utilizing the Beacon software to monitor and determine a leak as constant usage over a 24-hour period.

3. System Updates

Laboratory

Emily Larrimore explained how the fifth Unregulated Contaminants Monitoring Rule (UCMR 5) requires sample collection for 30 chemical contaminants by using analytical methods developed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The contaminants, called per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), are a group of manufactured chemicals that have been used in industry and consumer products since the 1940s because of their useful properties. There are thousands of different PFAS, some of which have been more widely used and studied than others. PFAS are called “forever chemicals” because they break down very slowly and can build up in people, animals, and the environment over time.

Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) and Perfluorooctanoic Sulfate (PFOS) are two of the most widely used and studied chemicals in the PFAS group. The EPA has finalized drinking water standards for PFAS, which include four parts per trillion for PFOA and PFOS each. To put into perspective, one part per trillion is equivalent to one second out of 32,000 years.

PFAS are found in many consumer products such as cookware, food packaging, stain-resistant carpets and clothing, some cosmetics, outdoor gear, and even dental floss. Because these products are so common, the sampling process has been difficult at times. There are strict quality control measures to ensure cross-contamination does not occur. For example, on the days the lab staff samples, they cannot use any personal care products, including sunscreen, wear clothes laundered with fabric softener or anything waterproof, even though waterproof safety boots are part of the county-issued uniform.

Ms. Larrimore stated that we’re in the midst of conducting sampling and are adding information to our reports as it becomes available.

Field Operations

The Trilith water tower is making good progress. The legs and middle riser will be installed by the end of April and painting will start after the steel work has completed in early June.

Business Operations

As of April 15, 2024, we have over 7,000 cellular endpoints in the ground as part of our AMI project. Roughly 700 customers have already signed up for EyeOnWater, the platform that allows customers to connect to their water utility accounts and monitor usage in real time. We'll campaign for customers to utilize the software after a full billing cycle has been completed.

Our AMI team has put together an organizational preparedness plan. A few existing positions are being repurposed to focus on the AMI enhanced monitoring portion of the project into the future.

Water Plant Operations

Tenorazel Williams has accepted the position of Safety and Training Coordinator, so now we have a Water Operator position available.

Susan Lee shared the results from the American Water Works Association Top Operators competition. The Splash Masters team included three employees to give a well-rounded perspective on water and they took second place in the state.

4. Director's Report
No report.

5. Public Comment
No public comment.

6. Committee's Comments
Mr. Rapson shared that we're busy working on the Fiscal Year 2025 budget. A draft of the Water System's 5-year Capital Plan and Maintenance & Operating budget will be shared with the Committee to look at soon.

Adjournment

Jeff Hill made the motion and Steve Rapson seconded to adjourn the Water Committee meeting on April 17, 2024. The motion passed unanimously.

The April 17, 2024 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 12 day of June, 2024.



Lindsey Choynet, Water Committee Clerk