



Water Committee Minutes
January 8, 2025
8:30 A.M.

Committee Members Present: Bryan Keller, Chair; Environmental Management Director
Jeff Hill, Vice-Chair; Chief of Fire & EMS
Jim Poff, Citizen Representative
William Yarde, Citizen Representative

Absent: Steve Rapson, County Administrator
Vanessa Tigert, Water System Director
Bill Holland, Citizen Representative

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

Staff Present: James Munster, Field Operations Director
Susan Lee, Water Production & Operations Manager
Carrie Gibby, Business Operations Manager
Russell Ray, Facilities & Projects Specialist
Lindsey Choisnet, Engineering Technician

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Bryan Keller at 8:31 A.M.

Acceptance of Agenda

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

1. Election of Water Committee Chair for the 2025 calendar year
Jeff Hill nominated Bryan Keller to remain as Chair of the Water Committee for the 2025 calendar year. Jim Poff seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
2. Election of Water Committee Vice Chair for the 2025 calendar year
Bryan Keller nominated Jeff Hill as Vice-Chair of the Water Committee for the 2025 calendar year. William Yarde seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
3. Approval of Minutes from the October 16, 2024 meeting
Jeff Hill made the motion to approve the minutes from the October 16, 2024 meeting. Jim Poff seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

4. System Updates

Field Operations

James Munster discussed the numerous leaks and main breaks that continue to keep our Field Operations crews busy; we've had 30 main breaks since the Committee last met in October.

The Highway 54/74 project is progressing. The 24-in. and 20-in. pipes have been installed, but have not yet been pressure tested or tied in. The 16-in. pipe that crosses under Hwy 74 will be installed in the next few weeks.

Jim Poff asked if the interconnection with Coweta County was ever finished. The infrastructure on our side has been installed and Coweta County has just recently started on their side.

Business Operations

Carrie Gibby shared that we've onboarded seven new employees in the last 30 days, mostly in our Field Operations and Customer Support divisions.

The Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) project is 70% complete. Mr. Poff asked about customer reception of AMI communication. Thus far, only about 10-12% of customers are using the EyeOnWater application, which allows customers to connect to their water utility accounts and monitor usage in real time. We hope to increase the percentage by educating customers on the application's benefits.

Plant Operations

Susan Lee advised that we're in the process of interviewing candidates for the open Plant Manager position.

We were awarded the Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) Hazard Mitigation Grant to replace the emergency generator for the Crosstown plant, with a total project cost of \$4.2 million. Staff will request the Board of Commissioners (BOC) to accept the \$3.7 million grant at the January 23, 2025 meeting.

Mr. Poff inquired about the County's backup Emergency Operations Center (EOC). When the May 2023 Water Committee meeting was held at the South Fayette plant, there was talk about making South Fayette the backup EOC. That plan is still moving forward and we're in the process of running fiber to that location.

Russell Ray provided updates on several maintenance projects. As part of the backwash air blowing system, we have soft starters being installed at South Fayette. The soft starters will even out the power draw on that building, as identified in our electrical study. We're in the process of getting quotes for the soft starters at the Crabapple booster pump.

Arcadis is working on chemical improvement projects.

5. Director's Report
No Director's Report.
6. Public Comment
No public comment.
7. Committee's Comments
Dr. Yarde reminded the Committee that his reappointment to the Water Committee will be on the agenda at the January 9, 2025 BOC meeting. We're glad to have Dr. Yarde on board for another term.

Adjournment


Bryan Keller made the motion and Jeff Hill seconded to adjourn the Water Committee meeting on January 8, 2025. The motion passed unanimously.

The January 8, 2025 Water Committee meeting adjourned at 8:45 A.M.



Bryan D. Keller, Chair

The foregoing minutes were approved at the regular Water Committee meeting on the 12 day of February, 2025.



Lindsey Choynet, Water Committee Clerk