COUNTY AGENDA REQUEST

Department:	Water System	Presenter(s):	Tony Parrott
Meeting Date:	Thursday, September 27, 2012	Type of Request:	Consent

Wording for the Agenda:

Approval of the Water Committee's recommendation to allow for the installation of permanent buoys in Lake McIntosh that would mark the Dragon Boat Race course, as requested by the Peachtree City Rotary Club.

Background/History/Details:

Each September, the Peachtree City Rotary Club hosts a Dragon Boat Race on Lake Peachtree. The race, which is part of an international event, draws thousands of people and essentially becomes a day for the whole family with vendors, entertainment, and water slides in addition to the race itself. In recent months, the Rotary Club has approached the Fayette County Water Committee seeking accommodations to use Lake McIntosh for this event as opposed to Lake Peachtree.

In April 2012, the Rotary Club asked the Water Committee for the ability to place floating docks at Lake McIntosh that would facilitate the race. The Water Committee decided that it would be better for Lake McIntosh to fill, and to evaluate the rise and fall of the lake's level before deciding on the addition of floating docks.

On September 12, 2012, the Rotary Club approached the Board again asking permission to install permanent buoys to Lake McIntosh's lake bed before the lake is filled with water. This permanent buoys would mark the course for the Dragon Boat Race. The Rotary Club has agreed to pay for the installation of the permanent buoys in full, with no cost to Fayette County. The Water Committee has unanimously agreed to this request.

What action are you seeking from the Board of Commissioners?

Approval of the Water Committee's recommendation to allow for the installation of permanent buoys in Lake McIntosh that would mark the Dragon Boat Race course, as requested by the Peachtree City Rotary Club.

If this item requires funding, please describe:

Not Applicable. The Peachtree City Rotary Club will pay the full cost to install the permanent buoys at Lake McIntosh. There will be no expense to the County for this request.

Has this request been considered within the past two years?	No	If so, when?	
Is Audio-Visual Equipment Required for this Request?*	No	Backup Provided with Request?	Yes

**** All audio-visual material must be submitted to the County Clerk's Office no later than 48 hours prior to the meeting. It is also your department's responsibility to ensure all third-party audio-visual material is submitted at least 48 hours in advance.***

Approved by Finance	Not Applicable	Reviewed by Legal	
Approved by Purchasing	Not Applicable	County Clerk's Approval	Yes
Administrator's Approval	Yes		

Staff Notes:

Water Committee
ACTION AGENDA
September 12, 2012
8:00 A.M.

Call to Order

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING ON AUGUST 22, 2012.

Vice Chairman Chip Conner made the motion and Brian Cardoza seconded, to approve the minutes from the meeting on August 22, 2012. There was no opposition.

2. LAKE MCINTOSH UPDATE.

No Action Taken.

3. LAKE PEACHTREE DREDGING.

No Action Taken.

4. WATERLINE EXTENSION TO SOUTHMILL SUBDIVSION.

Vice Chairman Conner made a motion to recommend to the Board of Commissioners approval of paying the difference between the cost of an 8" waterline and a 20" waterline in the amount of $21,547.60 for a line extension to Southmill Subdivision. Brian Cardoza seconded and there was no opposition.

5. STATUS OF RESERVOIRS.

No Action Taken.

6. ROTARY CLUB REQUEST.

Vice Chairman Conner made a motion to recommend to the Board of Commissioners to allow the Peachtree City Rotary Club to install permanent buoys in Lake McIntosh for the Dragon Boat Race course before the lake is filled with water. Tony Parrott seconded and there was no opposition.

There being no further business, the Water Committee was adjourned at 8:35 a.m.

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Lisa Speegle
Water Committee Clerk

WATER COMMITTEE
APRIL 25, 2012
MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:	**James K "Chip" Conner, Vice Chairman**
	Brian Cardoza
	Jack Krakeel
	Tony Parrott
ABSENT:	**Pete Frisina, Chairman**
NON-VOTING MEMBERS:	**David Jaeger**
STAFF PRESENT:	**Russell Ray**
GUESTS:	**Kim Leonard, PTC Council**
	Bill McDonald, PTC Rotary Club
	Stephen Hogan, WASA

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Chip Conner at 8:00 A.M.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING ON MARCH 28, 2012.

Brian Cardoza made the motion and Jack Krakeel seconded, to approve the minutes from the meeting on March 28, 2012. There was no opposition.

II. LAKE MCINTOSH FLOATING DOCKS.

Jack Krakeel introduced Kim Leonard, Council Person from Peachtree City, and Bill McDonald with the Peachtree City Rotary Club and a resident of Peachtree City. He said they have had a dialogue over the course of the last 30 – 45 days regarding an event that takes place annually in Peachtree City which is the Dragon Boat Race. The idea surfaced about potentially using Lake McIntosh for that event, then also to facilitate that program, the idea of maybe having one or more floating docks that would assist with getting in and out of the craft. He said that he thought, probably the best way to proceed, was to have them come down and talk directly with the Water Committee, more from a handicap perspective than the Dragon Boat Race; provide the Water Committee with their thoughts and ideas on the matter.

Mrs. Leonard stated that the Rotary Club invited her to come and speak Just What's What in Peachtree City not too long ago. As part of everything that fell out afterwards and all the subsequent conversations, Bill came to her and said "how far along is that dock contract, and what is going on with the county?" All she could say was "Gee, I don't know, but let's find out." She said she feels like she has facilitated, she has Bill here today.

Mr. McDonald commented that he knows Chip is familiar with the Dragon Boats; he used his computer to show a video of the Dragon Boat race last year in Peachtree City on Lake Peachtree. He said this is an International Festival and the City has

expanded on that. They have added vendors, more entertainment, water slides for the kids, a whole family activity once a year. They hope to expand it and do it a couple of times a year.

Mr. McDonald explained that they started this as a way to get more community involvement and to give Rotary a project to get involved in and help out. They initially rented the boats from Lanier who were actually the first ones to start this in Georgia. They got their boats donated by the Hong Kong tourist association for the Olympics. Those were twenty paddler boats, larger boats. They found it was harder to get twenty to a team, so they also are looking at getting newer boats. This year, their club committed a lot of money and bought six brand new boats from China. They are in this for the long term. These boats are ten paddler, which is easier to fill. Instead of being forty one feet long, they are thirty one feet long. They still have the dragon head and the dragon tail. They add a lot of excitement and a lot of fun. He said they already have the boats out on the lake (Lake Peachtree) so people can try them out. He said the thing they have seen with Lake Peachtree is the area is Drake Field that they use; the viewing is not as good as they would like it to be. The people they have talked to with other Dragon Boat communities, this is done all over the country, it is one of the fastest growing team sports in the world, Florida and Canada do a lot of them, California, Vancouver. There are races going on year round. They have grown into huge events; and they expect theirs to grow, too. This is a very environmental friendly event; it does not have any motors, or anything. It is all self-powered. It is great exercise, anybody can do it; there are people on the lake that are 93 years old, men and women paddling canoes and kayaks out on the lake. They have actually gotten in the dragon boats and do it, they have had young children, and they are looking at Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Interact Club.

Mr. McDonald said that the problem they have run into is the site line (actual viewing) of the race is a little bit difficult, and the shallowness of the water. The boats need to have a little more water so they can actually go a little faster than, they get a lot of drag when the water is real shallow. A couple of years ago, it was hard to paddle in the growth. He said that his hope, as he watches Lake McIntosh grow up and as their event grew up, it would be something they could possibly get involved in. They look at this event to draw as many as 10,000 folks to the event. It might wind up being a two day event. These people would be staying in our hotels and eating food, not only from our vendors locally but all around. He said he thinks it is a good thing for our community as well as for people visiting our community. His idea was, as he found out there was going to be a park, was there a possibility of them getting involved in it. They had talked to Randy Gaddo who is with the City, about the possibility; as you load the boats it is nice to have a dock system. They have been borrowing docks from everybody on the lake, so they could make up a temporary loading area. A lot of facilities around the country have actually put in docks as they need it, or put it in as a permanent thing. Their idea, when they talked to the City and Randy was that initially it would be a great opportunity to put in a handicap dock and their club help get sponsorship for that and put it in

where it could be used for handicap during the year and anybody else because they would set low to the water. It would be easy for them to load the boats, but it would also be great for the handicaps because they could roll onto the dock and roll off and that kind of thing.

Mr. McDonald went on to say that you can have these handicap docks with rails that are removable so that it makes it easy to use it for the event. It is a win/win for both situations. That was sort of the idea behind it, to get involved with Lake McIntosh and be able to do something in conjunction with it.

Mr. McDonald shared some photos of different docks that he has researched. The first picture is of a handicap dock that you can roll on and has the rails on the side. The next picture is a dock that you can install and take down in a day. It is a dock that has the legs that goes in in a unit of six by eight and one person can drop it in the water. The legs are adjustable, and then they lay the walkway on top of that. One person can do this in a day, and take it up in a day. It can be configured in a lot of different ways and you can adjust it to different terrain that you have. He said that he did not know about this dock, he was thinking floating ones initially. Each one of the six by eight units can hold 7,000 pounds. It will more than hold anybody that gets on it. Mr. McDonald said the next picture is another example of that with the railings. The next one is where you can see that this lake goes up and down. The legs are adjustable so they can adjust to the area. He said the next picture is from Sarasota, Florida. The dragon boat team is on a floating dock that can be taken up or put out in a day. It can stay out permanently or be in the water for a short period of time. He then showed a picture of a third type of dock that sits lower in the water and is being used for rowing events.

Mr. McDonald went on to say that they got involved with Lanier; they have a huge rowing program, youth and adult program; they are known internationally and worldwide as being one of the best facilities around. They have world championship races, they have rowing teams, kayak teams, and they get out and use the lake and are very environmentally friendly. It is great exercise for everybody.

Mr. McDonald asked if anyone had any questions. Vice Chairman Conner asked about the project we have going now, the present dock design, are we locked in on that. Mr. Jaeger explained that has already been bid, and the contracts are being signed now by the Chairman. We are ready to start work.

Mrs. Leonard asked what we have. Mr. Jaeger stated the docks are fixed, non-floating timber docks. She asked Mr. McDonald if that is usable. Mr. McDonald said yes, that is usable, it depends on how high they are, as far as for loading. If they are like the one at Kedron, it sits up pretty high above the water. It would be hard to load anything from it. He said what he likes on these docks is that they sit lower and they are made out of materials that will weather and you won't get a lot of the wearing that you get on wood.

Vice Chairman Conner asked if he is proposing that they would furnish the docks and they just need a place to put it. Mr. McDonald said yes, that is correct.

Mr. Krakeel commented that from a long term perspective, he thinks you have to have a floating dock system to make this work. The water levels are going to go up and down depending on how much rain, how much water is withdrawn and all those things. Unlike Lake Peachtree which maintains a constant level, Lake McIntosh will not. As you have witnessed with Lake Kedron and with Lake Horton, there can be huge swings in the elevations which could impede the utilization of the facility; especially if it drops five, six or seven feet; the water is not even going to be close to those docks.

Mr. McDonald said that is one of the things that he thought the floating dock they use in Sarasoto Florida was excellent for adjusting to the water level getting too low. If the water level gets too low, it can actually be taken out of the water and disassembled. It comes in sections that are about four by four.

Mr. Parrott commented that the Water System is into recreation, but it is more passive. What Mr. McDonald is talking about is a crowd that the ten acres will not handle. This is only a ten acre park and part of those ten acres is for the dam. There is one way one in, there are 80 parking spaces. Mr. McDonald explained that what they do on their event in Peachtree City is they shuttle them in from the McIntosh High School. They would do something similar to that if they had an event at Lake McIntosh. They use the golf carts and the buses. They don't know if they would get to ten thousand, but other events do draw that after they have been there for some time. It would be a much bigger venue than what they have now and looking at the design it would have a much better visibility. The races themselves are only 200 meters, so that is not a long race. It is a quick race; it takes about a minute for a team to run a race.

Mr. McDonald said the dock in Sarasota is a portable thing, it can stay out there on a permanent basis, and it is made to stay in the water, but also made so it can be taken up if the facility doesn't have the room for it or needs to have it out. What they are thinking is an eight by forty dock. That way you could load from both sides. The boats are 31 feet long.

Mr. Krakeel said that if we are going to move forward with something like this and they could provide a boat dock that is a floatation dock while we are currently in the process, it might make sense to have it where you could attach it somehow to the end of one of the docks. Further discussion pertained to doing one dock on each end, loading two boats at the same time, and handicap access year round.

Mr. McDonald said, in looking at what we have when they did the event, probably that parking lot would be the place where they would actually have the festival and not have any parking at all. They would shuttle everybody in, sort of like they do for the air show.

Mrs. Leonard asked if there were any storage buildings planned. Mr. Jaeger said there is no storage, just a rest room, and a picnic pavilion. Mr. McDonald commented that one of their members had built a building for them to store the boats in; Lanier never puts their boats inside and they have lasted since 1996. They are getting weathered and old now, but he said they plan to keep theirs stored. They have a trailer that will hold two or six at a time stacked on top of each other. Normally they put two in at a time, use them for training and then take them out. If they did this, they would have to figure out a place where they could put two in the lake and maybe lock them up, so they could not be used except when they are out there training.

Mr. Parrott asked when they have the races. Mr. McDonald replied that they have them in September, this year will be September 22; once a year. Mr. Jaeger said this is toward the end of the high demand period and the water would probably be close to its lowest. Mr. McDonald said they are doing it in less than four foot of water right now.

Mrs. Leonard asked how deep the water will be here, at its lowest. Mr. Jaeger said when the water is all the way down the docks that are parallel to the shoreline area will be dry. The ends of the ramp will still be accessible, they are channelizing some of the lake bed to assure there is depth to get boats in and out of the when the lake is low. The lake could drop; Lake Horton was down 11 feet this year. The shoreline does not drop off steeply, it is gradual.

Mr. McDonald asked how far out would the water be. Mr. Jaeger explained the direction the existing channel goes (to the main lake body). He said they are excavating a narrow channel so that anybody that launches a boat when the lake is down can get to the lake body. He pointed out on a map where it is likely to be. Mr. McDonald asked if that body would be visible from the park area. Mr. Jaeger said yes; but this is a finger off the main lake body.

Vice Chairman Conner recommended that we get the lake up, get everything finished and observe (watch) for a year or so. He said that he thinks this is a good idea, it will be a gorgeous venue for something like that, but the fluctuation of the water is different on Lake Peachtree. Mr. McDonald said the good thing about the docks is they are floatable and easy to disassemble them and move. He said he likes the fact they can put them in there and leave them. It is ideal for people doing kayaking and stuff like that. It is very easy to get in and out of in the kayaking, much more than a high dock.

Mr. Parrott commented that he is assuming, because of the water usage, because we try to balance the lakes and we will try to balance this one and the others too. Wherever four or five feet low is is where the lake level will be in September, when we balance it out with the other two lakes. In order to make the adjoining property owners fairly equal, we try to do that. He said he is not real sure where four or five feet low will be.

Mr. McDonald said they are not stuck with that date; they did the September 22 date this year because they have been doing it in September at Lake Peachtree. They have had people talk about doing it in the early part of the spring; they have talked about doing it more toward the summer. They only did that because that was the date they had at the time.

Mrs. Leonard asked when the water is the highest. Mr. Ray responded right now. Mr. McDonald mentioned changing to May. Mr. Parrott said that our goal is to have the lakes full by the first day of spring, which did not happen this year.

Vice Chairman Conner said that he thinks it would be a great thing, but he thinks we ought to get the lake up. Mr. McDonald said that would also give them time to build up the event. They are not in a big rush, but he was hoping to eventually, if this grew, to join in. Mr. Krakeel commented that he thought it would be a good idea to give it one year to get some perspective on what the highs and lows look like. Once we get the lake impounded, that will take another eighteen months, when all the construction is finished. That will give plenty of time to further explore and develop ideas. Mr. Krakeel said that he is personally not opposed to having stuff like this on Lake McIntosh, he thinks it is a great park and it will be a great amenities area to do something like that in.

Mr. McDonald thanked the committee for listening and said that he hopes they can work together on this.

III. LAKE MCINTOSH UPDATE.

Mr. Jaeger showed an aerial photo of the lake. He showed (from the Coweta County side) Line Creek has been realigned to flow into a pipe that comes through the dam site and then discharges back into Line Creek and goes downstream. He said there is a gate on that pipe that will be closed when the construction is finished and then the impoundment of the reservoir will start. He pointed out the existing pump that pumped raw water from Line Creek to the water plant; that is currently being modified. He pointed out the center line of the dam, the concrete spillway, it will control the normal lake level, and any stormwater that flows into the lake will go through that spillway. It will be a concrete 200 foot wide spillway with a labyrinth wall in it, which allows a higher capacity through the spillway than just having a standard open channel. The downstream part of the spillway is what is called the stilling basin; this is where the energy is dissipated as water flows through. There are blocks that help break up the turbulence before the water enters the rip rap outlet channel and then back into Line Creek.

Mr. Jaeger explained that the contractor is currently working on one of the sections of the slab of the spillway, which is being poured as we speak. They started work last night about midnight. They are pouring about 1300 cubic yards of concrete in a single pour. That is about twelve hours' worth of work; they anticipate being