

WATER COMMITTEE

JUNE 13, 2001

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chuck Watkins, Chairman
Dr. George Patton
Tony Parrott
Chris Venice

ABSENT: Chris Cofty

NON-VOTING MEMBERS: Bill McNally
Jim Mallett

The meeting was called to order by Chuck Watkins at 8:05 a.m.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING ON MAY 23, 2001:

Dr. Patton made the motion and Tony Parrott seconded, to approve the minutes from the meeting on May 23, 2001. There was no opposition.

II. OPEN HOUSE FOR SOUTH FAYETTE WATER PLANT:

Tony Parrott gave the Committee an update on the status. We are in good shape and could make the plant operational in a day or two, if it were needed. We have the permit to operate at six million gallons and the withdrawals are being signed by Harold Reheis. Basically, the contractor is finishing his punch list.

DNR has been down and made some staffing recommendations, but all in all, things checked out. DNR sent us an operating permit which included the operation of the South Fayette Plant but there were three errors in the permit and they are going to adjust those and send back to us. Withdrawal permits are with another division of DNR and Tony has signed off that we have accepted the conditions and they are to get Harold Reheis to sign and send them back to us. With regard to low flow release, they are going to give us 16 out of the Flint when it is available, which only means recovery is quicker - we don't really get any more water.

Chuck Watkins asked about the generator, if it is up and running. Tony stated that is operational. We have asked for the withdrawal permits. After we have run the plant for one year we can upgrade to 9. DNR said we could probably ask for 12, because of the filter design, but this individual wasn't the one who actually signs our permits.

Right now, the contractor is concentrating on getting water through the plant. There will remain a lot of cleanup work after that. He will have a month or so to finish up. Mr. Parrott wants to plan ahead to have everything in order for open house.

III. DISCUSSION OF DNR INTERIM INSTREAM FLOW POLICY:

DNR met and outlined options in this policy. No matter how much we take out, we cannot let the flow get below 7210. Another is a site specific determination of minimum seasonal flow needed for healthy fish population. The last paragraph affects Lake McIntosh. Jim Mallett says it will have significant impact on yield of Lake McIntosh and we do not have the option of increasing the size of the reservoir.

Dr. Patton made the recommendation that we go to Joel Cowan's group to be sure they are not against the Lake McIntosh project. Chuck Watkins felt we should approach the new Water Board. Bill McNally felt we are in good shape but the Water Board is in their initial stages of implementation. He did feel we should talk to them but at a later date, when we are a little farther along with our preparations. We have heard only support previously.

IV. REPORT FROM FAYETTE COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE:

Chris Venice said the Environmental Committee is looking at the unincorporated areas, where the only option for household waste disposal is a septic tank. These were originally considered a temporary measure but, with the growth we have experienced, it has now become permanent and they will fail at some point. The Committee is working to determine how to at least delay this until, maybe, new technology will come along to help with a solution. They are looking at education, regulations and "worse case" scenarios where the home actually becomes uninhabitable because of the health hazard.

Maintenance and usage knowledge are areas on which the Committee is concentrating. They are proposing to educate homeowners on the correct ways to use and maintain, including regular pumping. They do not feel they can mandate that everyone has to do this, maybe every five years, because not everyone uses theirs the same way. This is their first approach and they are looking at a brochure to mail out to all homeowners on septic systems. Tony Parrott pointed out that some lenders are now requiring septic tanks be pumped out on a regular basis.

Secondly, they are looking at current regulations that both State and Local Boards of Health have, to see if changes should be made that would require septic tanks be placed and used to the best advantage.

Ultimately, long term effort addresses those incidences where people actually lose the ability to stay in their homes. There are some septic systems reaching the end of their life. Those homeowners will be coming to the Board of Commissioners for relief and the Committee is exploring avenues that might be available to those people.

The Committee wanted to bring this to Water Committee, then to Board of Health and then to the Board of Commissioners to at least begin consideration of this problem.

IV. STREAM QUALITY AND TMDL'S:

This refers to Total Maximum Daily Load and is a new thing addressing the amount of pollution that can be put in a stream. Fayette County has an unnamed tributary to Nash Creek, Flat Creek below Lake Peachtree Dam, and then an area on Whitewater Creek, that are on their list. They are going to

develop a TMDL every Spring. In 2002, the Flint will be included. This is something else that will affect withdrawal permits. Bill McNally said we needed to look into,

maybe do some testing. There was a discussion as to how much of a detriment the large goose population is to Lake Horton.

INFORMATION:

Tony Parrott discussed a concept plan for Derek McClinton. Oscar Wright has made a request for water service for this tract of land that is 112 or so acres, located on Rivers Road. We do not have water available to serve it. He was proposing a 4,000 foot water line extension across eight lots in order to put fire hydrants and services in. Our flow and pressure at the point of tie-in are not sufficient to make the extension. Mr. Parrott was letting the Committee know that he had informed Mr. Wright it was not workable.

The Board of Education is going to build a South Highway 85 Elementary School. This is across from the Heritage Harvest Church, which recently ran a water line to serve their church. They will be entitled to participation for a 10 year period if anyone connects onto that water line. Mr. Parrott had informed them they needed to talk to the Board of Education about connecting to that water line.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Chris Venice made a motion and Dr. Patton seconded to adjourn to executive session for discussion of three legal items and one real estate item. No action was taken on the legal items; the Committee recommended one real estate item go before the Board of Commissioners.

There being no further business, Chairman Chuck Watkins adjourned the meeting at 9:08 a.m.

Chuck Watkins

The foregoing minutes were approved at the regular Water Committee meeting on the 11th ____ day of ____ July ____, 2001.

Linda White