

**WATER COMMITTEE**  
**AUGUST 14, 2002**  
**MINUTES**

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

**NON-VOTING MEMBERS:**       Bill McNally  
  Jim Mallett

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Chuck Watkins at 8:00 A.M.

**I.       APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING ON JULY 10, 2002.**

Dr. George Patton made the motion and Chris Venice seconded, to approve the minutes from the meeting on July 10, 2002. There was no opposition.

**II.     LAKE PEACHTREE DREDGING.**

Mr. Parrott explained that he and Mr. Mallett are still working with Peachtree City on the mobilization site. Peachtree City wants the parking lot for Wednesday for court. It is hard to work a contractor Monday and Tuesday, then shut him down Wednesday, then let him work again Thursday and Friday. They are going to put in future parking. Mr. Parrott presented a drawing where we could put in gravel parking next to an existing road. Mr. Mallett explained we could grade it out and put the base down for parking, then we could use the existing parking for our site and not have to give it back every Wednesday. This is the latest proposal. The cost would be approximately \$3,000 to \$4,000. The committee discussed at length, alternatives to this plan. The DOT permit is now approved. We can pick it up once the contractor name is put on it. The project is ready for bid.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Tony Parrott made a motion and Chris Venice seconded to adjourn to executive session for discussion of two legal items and one real estate.

The County Attorney advised the committee on two legal items and one item of real estate. No action was taken.

**OPEN SESSION:**

**Dr. Patton made a motion and Chris Venice seconded to go back into open session. There was no opposition.**

**LAKE PEACHTREE DREDGING:**

**The committee discussed at length getting a permanent easement to put a road around the edge of the parking lot, how much area would be needed for storage of the dredging material, or just draining the lake.**

**Mr. Parrott explained that the DOT permit is for a proposed future driveway. Vice Chairman Dr. Patton suggested that the committee make a proposal to the Board of Commissioners that would be in the best interest of the Water System. Mr. Parrott suggested bidding the job with the contractor to be responsible for getting in and out. Mr. Mallett stated all this planning had been done to save the Water System money. If money is no object, they can do what they want to. Vice Chairman Dr. Patton mentioned the contractor might need the sheriff to handle traffic.**

**Further discussion pertained to taking the cheapest bid the contractor proposed, dump trucks creating a problem going across Lake Peachtree dam, and finding another way to place the driveway without using the parking lot at Drake Field.**

**Mr. Parrott stated that once we have an agreement between the County and the City for use of the field, the project will be bid. It takes thirty days to get them back in. Sixty days from the date of the bid the project could start.**

**Mr. Parrott reported that the Tinsley Mill Association thinks we should dredge north of Highway 54. Dredging north of Highway 54 is not part of the contract. It is not a Water System responsibility.**

**III. REPORT ON LAKE MCINTOSH.**

**Attorney McNally reported the 404 permit has been filed. Recent contact with the Army Corp of Engineers indicates they are proceeding with their examination of the project. The process continues forward. We should get notice in the near future to have our public**

hearings. The date will be agreed upon by the Army Corp, the other agencies and the County. Further discussion pertained to the process of getting the 404 permit and the format of the public hearing.

#### **IV. WATERLINE EXTENSION POLICY.**

Attorney McNally explained we have an operating snag in the line extension plan. The method we have been using is one in which we allow someone who has extended the line and paid for a minimum size line to his residence to collect from those hooking on later. We have stayed out of the remuneration to that resident who has put in the water line. This has developed into a problem because the County cannot control what the person charges anyone else to hook on. It is difficult, in any case, for us to know if the person has been reimbursed before we permit the meter. We have one situation where the gentleman was not reimbursed and is looking to the Water System now for reimbursement. Mr. McNally went on to say we need to solve this problem and to correct the procedure allowing this situation to come about. He suggested the collection come through the Water System and not have individuals do it. This could open the door for discrimination.

The committee discussed various ways to change the policy. They discussed eliminating the policy, the different ways people have handled the reimbursement, the Water System handling the flow of money, and how to measure and charge each person fairly.

Mr. Parrott and Mr. Mallett will review the policy and bring a recommendation back to the committee.

Chairman Watkins asked them to consider the wording for a tap fee. People get confused when they are paying for availability of water and have to make the tap themselves.

#### **V. RULES & REGULATIONS AT THE LAKES.**

Mr. Parrott commented that since the Water System regulates three lakes, Lake Kedron, Starr's Mill Pond, and Lake Horton, we constantly have problems. One problem is property owners leaving their boats in the water at Lake Horton. He referenced a Marshal report on Mr. Prater leaving his sail boat in the water because it is too much trouble go to the dock. Mr. Prater continues to do this because he lives on the lake, and he does want to go down a mile to put it in and take it out at night. He wants to just moor it on his property.

Attorney McNally pointed out that he is mooring the boat on County property. He should be cited every day. Mr. Parrott went on to say there is a piece of property next door to Mr. Prater for sale. When the gentleman came in asking about the rules he asked why he could not have a sail boat in the water and the property owner next door could. Mr. Parrott said he then notified the Marshal to take care of it. The Marshal's office handles problems on a complaint basis. Committee members discussed the Marshal's patrolling the lake daily. They go by the Water Treatment Plants every day.

Mr. McNally commented that as the lake becomes populated and subdivisions are built this will become more of a problem. Mr. Parrott agreed. He went on to say that DNR will look at problems like this. The rules say you cannot put a boat in the water from your property because of the buffer. You can only use access points on Lake Horton and Lake Kedron. Mr. Parrott went on to say that in Peninsula subdivision, on Lake Kedron, they are putting canoe racks for future canoes. They think they are going to access the lake from the Peninsula, when the only access to Kedron is from the boat ramp. This will be an additional problem. The only way to handle it is to handle it the same all the way across. He commented they should have given Mr. Prater a ticket, rather than a warning.

Mrs. Venice asked if Mr. Parrott gets a report on how many reports the Marshal goes out on. Mr. Parrott said no, but the Marshal's are good about going to the lakes on the weekends. During the week, they have other duties they have been assigned.

There being no further business, Chairman Chuck Watkins adjourned the meeting at 9:30 A.M.

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Chuck Watkins

The foregoing minutes were approved at the regular Water Committee meeting on the 28th day of August, 2002.

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Lisa Gillis