

WATER COMMITTEE
JANUARY 8, 2003
MINUTES

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

NON-VOTING MEMBERS: Bill McNally
Jim Mallett

STAFF PRESENT: Russell Ray
David Scarborough

GUESTS: John Munford, Fayette Citizen

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

I. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR.

Dr. George Patton made a motion to re-elect Chuck Watkins as Chairman. Tony Parrott seconded and there was no opposition. Tony Parrott made a motion to re-elect Dr. George Patton as Vice Chair. Chris Venice seconded and there was no opposition.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING ON DECEMBER 11, 2002.

Tony Parrott made the motion and Chris Venice seconded to approve the minutes from the meeting on December 11, 2002. There was no opposition.

III. 2003 MEETING SCHEDULE.

Mr. Parrott explained that cancellation of the July 23, 2003 meeting is because the AWWA annual conference is this week. It will be in Anaheim California this year. He mentioned some committee members might be interested in attending. Chris Venice made a motion to recommend to the Board of Commissioners approval of the Water Committee meeting schedule as presented. Tony Parrott seconded and there was no opposition.

IV. REPORT ON LAKE MCINTOSH.

Attorney McNally remarked the comment period is closed. There is concern about the many requests for new reservoirs due to the drought. The State is looking at these requests. Mr. Mallett reported that they met with Safe Dams about the extension of TDK Boulevard through our emergency spillway at the dam site. They expressed concerns about allowing a roadway through an emergency spillway. Even though the emergency spillway would not ever function, except above the hundred year storm. There has also been a rule change at Safe Dams Program. In the past, design of a grassed emergency spillway for all storms higher than the hundred, passing the hundred year storm through the dam and through a series of pipes or culverts was accepted. During a site analysis of the emergency spillway they found that sometimes the dam actually fails by eroding the emergency spillway all the way down to creek level. This is because of the poor soils in that spillway. Now they want an analysis before they will approve a grass emergency spillway.

He went on to say that he has asked Piedmont Geotechnical to give us a proposal to do the analysis. They require some borings in the spillway and computer modeling of the PMP storm through the spillway. His first reaction to that was that in Georgia the soils are such that he doesn't feel a computer model will allow a grass spillway. He does not know that for sure until he does the computer analysis. If that is the case, and the grass spillway will not be allowed, and Safe Dams wants us to do a paved spillway, cost of the dam construction will significantly increase. Probably, the best approach would be to go back and do the same as Lake Kedron. Put all the storms over the dam with one spillway. We would have the spillway across the dam and control all the storms, including the ½ PMP. It will be much more expensive than what we proposed before. It would alleviate any problems with Peachtree City running the TDK extension down below our dam site. There would be no emergency spillway for them to cross. They could put the road anywhere they wanted to.

V. WATERLINE EXTENSION POLICY.

Attorney McNally stated that we would probably be better off to leave the Waterline Extension Policy as it is now with one change. That one change being that the Water System collect and disburse funds. He went on to say that the subsequent connections after the initial line is paid for be charged by the foot similar to what the original requesting property owner is charged. This would continue until he has been paid back.

David Scarborough asked if this is opposed to a tap fee. Mr. McNally clarified that we would do exactly what we are doing today except when a subsequent user wants to hook on, he has to pay the Water System and the Water System will reimburse the person who paid originally. We establish our charge on a per foot basis. Mr. Parrott mentioned the footage is based on lot frontage.

Vice Chairman Patton made a motion to recommend to the Board of Commissioners to leave the policy as it is, with the one change of the Water System collecting and disbursing the funds. Mr. Parrott seconded for discussion.

Mr. Scarborough commented that he would like to go back to the Waterline Extension schedule that was developed a few years ago and reevaluate the streets and the project areas that were identified. Try to put together another proposal for the Board to consider. See if any interest can be generated in establishing a north end, looking at cost factors and ways to fund it.

Mr. Cofty stated that he would like to be sure that the Water System will handle the financial aspects of any waterline extension and not allow any consumers to be involved in the future. Chairman Watkins remarked that is the key to this working properly. Something will have to be done to the construction and permitting process, and the meters being sold. He went on to say he is confident we can do that.

Chairman Watkins called for the vote. All were in favor with no opposition.

Chairman Watkins commented that the policy has worked well, except on one or two occasions. As long as he has been here, if we have something working this well, as many times as it has occurred, he feels we should stick with it.

Mr. Scarborough stated there is a working list, and it needs to be revised because there have been some waterlines run. The funding mechanism is a sticking point. Mr. Cofty suggested that this be discussed as part of the CIP.

General discussion followed pertaining to the interest of running the waterlines, these lines being part of the CIP program, the funding mechanism, how many water customers would be generated, finding the true cost benefits to the County as a whole.

Mr. Parrott, Mr. Scarborough, and Mrs. Venice agreed to bring a proposal back to the committee for review. They would consider the number of customers that could be picked up, improving fire department response time, and possible insurance savings to the customers.

V. LAKE PEACHTREE DREDGING.

Mr. McNally reported that we have reached an agreement with the City of Peachtree City on the staging area. We will be permitted to use Drake Field. The agreement has been signed by both parties. Mr. Mallett added the project will be bid in mid February.

VI. DISCUSSION OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FOR THE WATER SYSTEM.

Mr. Parrott commented that the tank at Hwy 85 and Ellis Road will be completed this year. We will continue to spend money on Lake McIntosh permits. The New Hope Waterline was recently approved by the Board. The Distribution Shop is part of the Bond that the Board approved.

Chairman Watkins asked that once Lake McIntosh was completed, would we need to expand the Crosstown Water Plant. Mr. Parrott explained that we might not have to. The South Fayette Plant will do 9 MGD if we high rate the filters. Increasing production at Crosstown requires a third expansion, which is a \$4,000,000 project. Mr. Mallett commented it may never be necessary to expand Crosstown again. One more expansion at the South Fayette Plant would be the capacity of it at 18 MGD. Crosstown is doing 13 MGD. We are looking at 32 MGD before maxing out. Lake McIntosh water would go to Crosstown and Whitewater would go to South Fayette, along with all the water from Lake Horton. Lake Kedron, Lake Peachtree and Lake McIntosh would all be treated at the Crosstown Plant. This total's to 12 ½ MGD. The rest of the water - Horton, Whitewater Creek and the Flint River would be treated at South Fayette, which is 18 MGD. We would not pump water from Lake Horton to Crosstown once Lake McIntosh is built. The cost for treating water would decrease at that time, due to the change in pumping raw water to the plants.

Mr. Cofty mentioned that getting the information together for the Board is important so they can be prioritized. The projects will be done in whatever sequence is set by the Board.

Mr. Parrott asked if these would be part of the others since the funding is different. Mr. Cofty replied they are all lumped together. Chairman Watkins commented that with the Water System being an enterprise fund, they should look at our projects as what we can do on our own as a water system, within reason. Mr. Cofty commented they are taking into consideration the water bills, and what citizens get charged. They are looking at the whole funding mechanism. That is not to say that the Water System might not have a project that qualifies for number 1. Chairman Watkins stated these projects are paid for from Water System revenue, not tax dollars. Mr. McNally commented that we definitely need to forecast these projects.

David Scarborough asked if anyone had gotten any feedback on the change that was made to

the subdivision regulations a couple of years ago. The committee discussed the differences in running water lines to property being subdivided that did not have water available.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Tony Parrott made a motion and Vice Chairman Dr. Patton seconded to adjourn to executive session for discussion of one legal item.

Attorney McNally discussed one legal matter with the committee. No action was taken.

There being no further business, Chairman Chuck Watkins adjourned the meeting at 8:45 A.M.

Chuck Watkins

The foregoing minutes were approved at the regular Water Committee meeting on the 12th day of February, 2003.

Lisa Gillis