

WATER COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 26, 2003
MINUTES

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

NON-VOTING MEMBERS: Jim Mallett

ABSENT: Bill McNally
 Chris Cofty

GUESTS: Troy Besseche, City of Peachtree City
 Larry Turner, PTC WASA
 John Munford, Fayette Citizen

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

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING ON FEBRUARY 12, 2003.

Vice Chairman Dr. Patton made the motion and Tony Parrott seconded, to approve the minutes from the meeting on February 12, 2003. There was no opposition.

II. LAKE MCINTOSH.

Mr. Mallett reported they met with Tommy Craig yesterday. They have prepared a response to the Corp of Engineers comments they received from Fish & Wildlife, EPA and the general public. They will get it back to the Corp this week. Mr. Parrott remarked that the response is being made within the 30 day time requirement.

Mr. Mallett explained that there are various issues that were raised by different entities that we have to respond to. It will take a couple of months to get the answers back to them and do the extra work they are asking us to do. Mr. Parrott stated the Board of Commissioners already approved to do some of the stream studies. We are already proceeding with this.

III. LAKE PEACHTREE DREDGING.

Mr. Mallett reported that he contacted the low bidder, Tri State, who would lower the lake level. They will extend their bid price to September. He asked the second low bidder the

same question, but it is not pertinent to him since he is going to leave the lake full. All the bidders, Tri State and the second low bidder, Massana, references checked out. He went on to say the low bidder on the sludge lagoon references also checked out, which was Mobile Dredging and Plumbing.

Chairman Watkins asked if we do drain the lake to the five areas that need to be cleaned out, how much water will be left on the lower end of the lake? Mr. Mallett responded that Tri State estimated lowering the level at least five feet. Mr. Parrott stated it is about fifteen feet deep at the pump station. Chairman Watkins commented that if we don't drain the lake completely and we watch the oxygen content of the lake and monitor it, we should be able to leave the fish and not worry about a fish kill. Catfish farmers monitor on hot days of the summer all the time. If we do drain the lake, we won't do it during heavy water usage time.

Chairman Watkins went on to say that the Water Committee were not the first ones to suggest draining the lake. Someone stated they had a better and cheaper way to do it, than draining the lake. This person with a barge type operation put in a bid that was not proper. That choice is not available to us. Mr. Parrott commented we did have one that followed proper procedure.

Mr. Mallett commented that we did open the bid, even though it was not in the proper format with bid bonds and so forth. His bid was not as low as Massana. We would not have considered dredging, except this came up with them saying it is a better way to do it.

Chairman Watkins suggested to go with Tri State if we can do it after September, which we can, and monitor the water that is left in the lake. If we have a little bit of a fish kill or have to take some fish out, he does not have a problem with that. The biggest problem is government is always talking about the lowest bid. It also has to be the best bid that can perform. We always talk about low price, and we have a bid that is \$180,000.00 less than the next bid. He went on to say that he does not want to change to the next bid because some people are criticizing us for the lake being drained. If we do it at the right time of year, so be it. If somebody wants to complain about it, or criticize us, let them. If we don't do it in a high usage time of the year and we can save \$180,000.00 he thinks we should do it. We need to recommend what we think is the best way to do it.

Mrs. Venice asked if there were any other activity on approaching Peachtree City to see if they prefer to have the lake filled, to make up the difference? Vice Chairman Dr. Patton commented that he does not think they have any money for this.

Mrs. Venice asked if the lake would have to be lowered to do the dredging without draining

the lake? Could they do it at any level? Mr. Mallett responded yes.

Vice Chairman Dr. Patton asked how long the contract with Peachtree City lasts? Mr. Parrott responded it has 33 years left.

The committee further discussed the building that has affected the lake and that it has slowed down some. The last time we dredged we moved 100,000 cubic yards. This time it will be around 20,000. It was last done in 1986. The lake was drained at that time. Immediately the drought started.

Mrs. Venice clarified that there are five areas of the lake being dredged. Mr. Mallett commented they are basically at the mouth of some drainage ditches that come into the lake. That is where the silt is carried into the lake, from the drainage ditches. When it hits the water in the lake, the velocity slows down and all the silt falls out. Mr. Parrott commented there is one at the bridge, and one at the old police station.

Chairman Watkins commented that he has been told by a good source that dredging versus draining the lake, digging it out, you get a lot better job done. You get the area cleaned out, versus dredging it, you won't get it all out. Mr. Mallett agreed it is a cleaner operation.

Mr. Parrott stated this is a performance contract. Mr. Mallett said they will survey cross sections. They will remove 20,000 yards and we will count the trucks. Mr. Mallett recalled in 1986 the job cost about \$1,000,000. One difference was we used the silt to build the island in the lake. There was no haul off involved. Mr. Parrott added they were able to use off road equipment and big trucks.

Tony Parrott made a motion to recommend to the Board of Commissioners to accept the lowest bid for dredging the lake with a barge, which is Massana Construction at \$632,236.00. Vice Chairman Dr. Patton seconded. The motion passed with a vote of 3 to 1 with Chairman Watkins opposing.

There being no further business, Chairman Chuck Watkins adjourned the meeting at 8:20 A.M.

Chuck Watkins

The foregoing minutes were approved at the regular Water Committee meeting on the 9th day

wc2-26-03

of April, 2003.

Lisa Gillis