

WATER COMMITTEE
AUGUST 27, 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

GUESTS: Mr. & Mrs. Hicks
 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 JULY 9, 2003.

Tony Parrott made the motion and Vice Chairman Dr. George Patton seconded, to approve the minutes from the meeting on July 9, 2003. There was no opposition.

II. MRS. HICKS TO ADDRESS WATER COMMITTEE.

Mrs. Hicks spoke to the Committee about their property at Lake Horton on Antioch Road. She explained that she and her husband came and spoke with Mr. Parrott about two weeks ago about their concern. She distributed pictures of the property. She stated Mr. McNally had been to her house before, and when he left he had mud marred all over his shoes. There were two sets of pictures. This summer their back yard has been this way the majority of the summer. Up until about a week ago, when we had a dry spell and the water in the lake has recessed, they have not had any luck cutting the yard. The lawn mower sinks down into the yard. It doesn't happen all the time. They had a problem in 1998 when the lake was up really high. They never had this problem before the lake was built. The house is very close to the lake. Mrs. Hicks presented winter pictures. She pointed out how close the lake comes up. She went on to say this is a real problem when the lake is up high. When it is down low, they don't have a problem with it. The flood line actually runs through the middle of the pool.

Mrs. Hicks presented a layout of the house and the property. She also presented an elevation certificate. It says the basement is 284.9 feet, the adjacent grade of basement is 284.7, the hundred year flood plain is 284. In 1998 the Water System put monitoring wells on the property. Three in the backyard, and two in the front. They came out and checked them for a while, but the lake went down so they did not pursue it anymore. We have had

such a dry spell for the last three or four years that it has not bothered them. This year it has happened again.

Mrs. Hicks commented that they spoke with someone recently about french drains in the backyard to help alleviate some of the water, and have some dirt brought in. Before they did that, they thought they would approach the Water System first, to see if there was anyway the Water System could fix this for them. They have been in the house fifteen years, and they did not have this type of problem prior to the lake. They are probably the closest house to the lake. If they built the house now, it would not be allowed to be that close. The pool definitely would not be back there.

Mr. Hicks stated that the hundred year flood plain cuts right through the center of their pool. With the water at the level it is now, the ground on both sides of the pool just stays saturated. When he gets out there to cut the grass, the lawn mower actually gets stuck.

Chairman Watkins asked if it has affected their pool? They replied yes, they first noticed it in 1998. There are bubbles in the bottom where the pool curves. The water is pushing on the water in the liner as well. Mrs. Hicks commented she can live with this, but it is the yard that is a problem. She has four grandchildren and another one on the way. They have a dog, and it is not a good situation when the lake comes up. It is not even in the flood plain, it is just up high. It is not even at the full level. It would be scary to think about what it be like if it was at full level.

Mr. Hicks commented that he did not believe the lake had been at full level since 1994, or 1995 when we had the flood. Mr. Parrott replied that the lake is full now. Mr. Hicks stated it is not where the blue markers are.

Mr. Parrott explained that the mean elevation of the lake is where the lake is full where it runs over the intake. It is full and is filled up every year. Mr. Hicks asked what the blue markers were. He was told years ago that the blue survey tape markers were the full level of the lake. The white they put out at that time was the hundred year flood plain.

Mr. Parrott stated the stakes are marked as to what they are, but he does not know how they flagged them. Each year the lake, especially by spring time, has been full. Mr. Hicks stated it has never gotten as high as the blue stakes but one time, back in 1994 or 1995. They were told at that time, that was the full pool level of the lake.

Mr. Parrott commented there is four foot elevation difference between those stakes, between the water level now and what the flood easement is. Mr. Hicks agreed that was about right. Mrs. Hicks stated the saturation of the back yard is mostly what they are concerned about. She had several Japanese Maples around the pool that have died this summer. Lots of shrubs have died from root rot. It is just now starting to dry up and she thinks this is because we have not had a lot of rain and the lake is receding some. She

stated that Mr. Hicks is able to cut part of the grass, but there is still some that he can't cut that is toward the fence.

Chairman Watkins clarified that this also happened in 1998. Mrs. Hicks replied yes, this is when she called Mr. Parrott. He, Mr. McNally and Mr. Bill Beckett came out to the house. Mr. Beckett did say they definitely had a problem. Nothing was addressed and they did not pursue it because the lake went down. She means that it went back far enough that it didn't affect them for a couple of years. We have had four years of drought in the summer, so it hasn't affected them. But, this year it really affected them. That is why they have come to the Committee again.

Mr. Hicks stated they never found out the findings on the monitoring wells. David Jaegar addressed this subject. He stated Mr. Parrott asked him to go back in the file and see what they had resolved at that point. When this issue first came up, Piedmont Geotechnical was hired to install monitoring wells and to evaluate the data from these over a period of time. Apparently, according to the chart in the correspondence, they were monitored from May 1998 through February 2000. During that time the lake level fluctuated and rain levels fluctuated. Karl Meyers, the engineer in charge of the project for Piedmont, wrote a report in February of 2000, which was then transmitted to the Water Committee in March of 2000. Without going into all the details of the report, Mr. Meyers concluded that the fluctuation within the monitoring seemed to be more tied to the rainfall events, than the lake level events. There were periods during this monitoring where the lake was constant, and the levels in the wells fluctuated. There were times when the lake was down, and you had the same fluctuations. They were tied more to rainfall events. According to Mr. Meyers, he felt that the saturation they were seeing in the ground was more related to heavy rainfall periods than it was to the presence of the lake or the level of the lake. That was based on the monitoring that was done over that period.

Chairman Watkins asked why this water was not leaving their property, going into our easement or going into the lake. He asked what the committee thinks. Why is the water just standing in their yard? Mr. Parrott replied that he does not know.

Mr. Jaegar stated that from his recollection of the period when this monitoring was done, the ground around the lake that is on their property is relatively flat. There is not a lot of slope that would allow for surface run off to leave the site toward the lake. As Mr. Parrott said, the flood easement is a four foot vertical difference between the lake; what we call full elevation, potential for the lake to rise during a huge storm. The elevation, according to the survey certificate, close to their house, is just slightly above that flood elevation. As you get closer to the lake it levels out. There is not an easy way for that run off to get off their property into the lake. Building that up some, increasing that slope between somewhere close to their pool or house toward the lake, may improve it. He commented on his feeling on having a french drain installed, you have to have somewhere for the water to go. A french drain is going to be underground to start with. It is typically a pipe with

perforations in it surrounded by some gravel that allows drainage into the pipe. Then the pipe carries the water. If it is underground and the ground elevation is similar to your lake elevation then you don't have anywhere for the water to go while it is in the pipe. It will be encountering the lake under the lake level.

Mr. Jaegar went on to say that his first thought would be to improve the slope of the land as much as possible. So that run off that falls on the land or comes to that has a greater slope, to run off toward the lake instead of ending up in the low areas and standing.

Mrs. Hicks commented on their interpretation of what was going on. They have the same situation in the front yard, but it seeps into the ground. In the backyard it does not seep into the ground because there is already water there in the ground. Their next door neighbor has goats, and he dug a twenty foot hole in his back yard. He has a constant lake back there. Never has to fill it. It is because of what is in the ground coming up from the lake.

Mrs. Hicks explained presenting this to the committee was their option, to get suggestions as to how they can deal with this. Chairman Watkins clarified that the pictures were current. Mrs. Hicks said the dark green pictures were of this summer. It has been like that May, June and July. At least three months. Although it is better since we have not had any rain in the last three weeks. The lawn mower still spins in some places because it is wet.

Mr. Hicks commented that in the last few years when the lake has been down a considerable amount and out away from their property, they have had no problem. When the water is up to the level it is now, whenever it rains it just holds the water.

Chairman Watkins asked if after a six inch rain the water stays there for several days. Mr. Hicks replied it won't go anywhere. In fact, a certain area (he pointed it out in the photograph) sat there for about a month. Mrs. Hicks pointed out it could not be cut the other day. The grass is still high in one area, because it is too wet.

Chairman Watkins suggested revisiting the site and discuss easements and what property was purchased by the Water System. Mrs. Hicks stated the property is in the flood plain. Years ago, when this was brought up, they were told flood plain is when the lake is flooding. It is going over the dam, and you are going to have water up in the yard. They did not realize that was what this is. Basically, the back yard is a wetland. They did not realize that. They did pay them, but they were unaware of exactly what that was. They explained to her, in fact, she will never forget worrying about the pool. She told them the pool was in the flood plain, and they said the water would never come in the pool. The water would have to be going over the dam for it to come up that high. Not realizing the lake has not come up that high, but the water in the ground is.

Mr. Parrott stated it still appears to be rain events. We could check the monitoring wells, and see what the difference is now and where they were when we did this study. If it is related to the rain, he does not know what we can do. Filling in the flood plain to try to solve the problem creates another problem.

Chairman Watkins asked if this is the only situation like this we have. Mr. Parrott replied, to his knowledge it is. Mr. McNally commented the yard is extremely wet. He went on to say that Mr. Jaegar did assess the situation properly. He does not feel french drains will improve the situation. Using dirt to improve the slope might help.

The committee further discussed the property and options available. The question came up about the basement. Mr. Hicks stated periodically, back in 1998 and early in the summer this year when the water was up so high, it has a tendency for moisture to seep up through cracks in the slab. It leaves a white residue on the concrete.

Chairman Watkins stated this is something he would like to help them with, but he does not know what the County can do except revisit it. Make sure that what we are doing with the lake is not affecting them. The committee agreed to look at this and discuss it at the next meeting.

II. LAKE MCINTOSH UPDATE.

No report at this time.

III. DISTRIBUTION SHOP UPDATE.

Mr. Parrott reported that we are almost ready to break ground. The building will be similar to other buildings in the industrial park. The colors will also be similar to the other buildings in the industrial park. The setbacks have been checked to be sure we are adhering to those required. The contractor, Headley Construction, will be available to start in just a few weeks.

IV. WATERING RESTRICTIONS.

Mr. Parrott explained the State Department of Natural Resources adopted voluntary restrictions right now. The restrictions are watering 3 days a week for every one with no watering on Friday. These restrictions will limit Saturday on one address and Sunday on the other. What we have now means every other week you get a Saturday or a Sunday. With these you will have Saturday or Sunday all the time. The only other choice is adopting something that is just as stringent that we could keep our odd/even. The possibility is something that needs to be discussed with Mr. McNally. If we limit people to watering every other day, eighteen or nineteen hours, so that total time watering is still three days. This matches what the State has adopted. This way, we may be able to keep

the odd/even that we have.

Mr. Parrott went on to say the odd/even that we have has worked so good, that we have used it since 1986. We have enforced it since 1986. People have, for years, put in sprinkler systems that are set to handle what we are doing. Most of the older systems, the timer does not appear to allow them to set it up so they can do no watering on Friday. Because we do enforce the water restrictions, we will have problems every other week in some places. He commented that he wanted to see if we could work out an option so we don't wind up with a problem.

Mr. McNally asked if Mr. Parrott had talked with anyone at the State to determine whether or not they will give us that latitude? Mr. Parrott replied that his understanding is this is the rules the Board adopted. The only thing a County or Water System can do is to have something that is stricter. Stricter means less hours. We could work out something that is less hours so that they could water and still be odd/even. Mr. Parrott agreed to contact DNR to see if there were any options and discuss this at a future meeting.

DISTRIBUTION SHOP

Chris Cofty asked if the contractor is responsible for taking down the old building. Mr. Jaegar replied that the contractor has nothing to do with the Kelly Drive site, only the Dividend site.

There being no further business, Chairman Chuck Watkins adjourned the meeting at 8:50 A.M.

Chuck Watkins

The foregoing minutes were approved at the regular Water Committee meeting on the 10th day of September, 2003.

Lisa Gillis