

WATER COMMITTEE
JULY 23, 2008
MINUTES

<u>MEMBERS PRESENT:</u>	Pete Frisina, Chairman Chris Clark, Vice Chairman Tony Parrott Jack Krakeel
<u>ABSENT:</u>	James K “Chip” Conner
<u>NON-VOTING MEMBERS:</u>	David Jaeger
<u>GUEST:</u>	Commissioner Jack Smith
<u>STAFF PRESENT:</u>	Russell Ray

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pete Frisina at 8:00 A.M.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING ON JUNE 25, 2008.

Tony Parrott made the motion and Vice Chairman Chris Clark seconded, to approve the minutes from the meeting on June 25, 2008. Chairman Frisina abstained from the vote and there was no opposition.

II. LAKE MCINTOSH UPDATE.

David Jaeger reported that the timbering operation has been on hold since the last Water Committee meeting. The timbering contractor has pulled his forces off the job for a short period of time to work on some other projects. This is not a surprise, we knew that he would come and go through the course of the contract, based on how much timber he wants to put on the market at any one time. He is still on schedule, and there have been no problems. Mr. Jaeger said that he anticipates the contractor will be back on the site within a week or so.

The archaeological recovery operation is winding up; they are finished with the recovery. Monday of this week they were back filling some of the areas that they had excavated. The field work has been completed.

Mr. Jaeger reported that we now have all three stream monitoring stations in place and active. Two are upstream of the reservoir and one is downstream of the dam site. USGS put them in and they are online; the real time data is available over the internet.

He went on to say that the submittal of the plans and specifications to the Safe Dams Program is ready; he is scheduled to meet with Tom Woosley of Safe Dams this afternoon. He will be submitting our plans for their review and approval. In the past, this process took twelve months, but he anticipates it will be quicker because of the drought. With the scheduling of the release of the mitigation credits from the mitigation bank and so forth, we still have some time.

Mr. Parrott commented that they have readily consulted with Mr. Jaeger during the design process. We have been able to call and ask questions, and get answers about how they are interpreting the data. Mr. Jaeger stated that today's meeting will be the fourth meeting we have had on Lake McIntosh. They are familiar with the job; and have already discussed some of the design strategies.

Mr. Parrott stated that he is still working on the Grant application. Submittal of the dam plans is one of the questions on the application and he will add this afternoons meeting to the application. There were no surprise discoveries during the archaeological recovery field work. There is nothing that should expand the scope of what they were to do recovery on. We are waiting on the answer on the mitigation plan that was submitted by Kent Campbell.

Mr. Krakeel commented that there is a meeting with Peachtree City Thursday morning on lake access, since TDK Boulevard is being shut down. There is a reversion clause on the property from TDK Boulevard to go back to the prior property owner. Mr. Parrott stated that we have a raw waterline and access to the lake from the plant is through this property. It should show as a separate easement.

III. UPDATE ON DROUGHT SITUATION.

Mr. Parrott referenced the production reports from July of this year and July last year. Average day last year was 11.2 MGD, and it is the same this year. We have been providing water for City of Fayetteville; and we also pulled some water from City of Atlanta due to a pump problem one night. We are still meeting the 10% reduction. Our customers have been following the water restrictions.

Vice Chairman Clark mentioned that because of power outages in Atlanta, Cobb County and Dekalb County went off line. Dekalb County has a boil water notice. Cobb still doesn't have water to some residents. He asked if we had a power outage like that, do we have redundancies and backups.

Mr. Parrott replied that because of the size of their system, their water pressure, for a large portion of the system, is pump generated; so if a pump goes off, they lose pressure. If our pumps go off, we are running off the tanks, and we still have water in the tanks until they drain down. We have backup power generation at both plants, and can operate for an extended period of time at a certain level without having to worry. One of our backups is the fact the county has a diesel tank at Public Works. We can also get diesel at other places. However long you can run a generator by putting fuel in it, we can run. South Fayette Water Plant is 100% backed up. Crosstown is not 100%, but we could still operate at 75%; even with the current flows, we would be alright.

Mrs. Quick reported that we have had 129 toilet rebates, which is \$9,750.00 that has been credited to customer accounts. We have a new shipment of 250 water saver kits coming. The water bill insert has generated more interest in customers asking for the water saver kits.

Mr. Parrott commented that the newspaper free speech had a comment that Lake Kedron was dropping like a rock. Mr. Ray reported on the lake levels. Based on Monday's data, Lake Kedron is down two feet. This time last year it was down six feet. Lake Horton is down three and a half feet; and this time last year it was down five feet. That is still 91% full at Lake Kedron and 72% at Lake Horton. Mr. Parrott stated that we pump out of the Flint River whenever it is available.

IV. DISCUSSION ABOUT TRACE RADIO READ METER READING SYSTEM.

Mr. Parrott explained that the Water System converted to Trace Badger radio read about ten years ago. We did this so that we could radio read the meters, the meters readers would not have to get out, lift the lid, read the meter, and write the numbers down. This system has worked out extremely well. It has cut our re-reads caused by meters readers down to zero. It either reads or doesn't read. If it doesn't read, you do something to find out why. We have been pleased with the system.

Mr. Parrott went on to say as technology changes, so has what Badger supplies. Badger is going to what they call an Orion system, which is the same radio read type of system. The register fits on the existing meter, the transponder gives a signal back to a device and then you download it and process the bill. The only difference is that we are set up with our bid, and low bid was for the Trace system. Now, Trace is no longer going to be available. We are going to have to change. He stated that he would like to make that change to Orion since it is compatible with what we already have. Badger will give us a certain rebate for turning in the old transponders from the Trace system. The original system took five years and cost a little over six million dollars. He does not want to bid out and change the whole system. He is proposing that we change out part of the Trace system as the batteries deplete over time and just continue on like we are. Currently, as a transponder goes dead, a meter reader goes out, changes out the register, puts a new unit on, screws it to the lid and goes on. It takes about fifteen minutes, according to what has to be done.

He explained that he is bringing it to the Water Committee because the radio read project started with the Water Committee ten years ago. He wants to keep everything going the same way.

Vice Chairman Clark asked about the price difference from a new Trace unit to a new Orion unit. Mr. Parrott responded that a new Orion unit is actually cheaper.

Mr. Krakeel asked if we have looked at our 800 mega hertz system in relation to this. It might be worthwhile to take a look at it to see if there is compatibility that could save us some money. They make products that work with our 821 mega hertz radio system. Given the coverage we have countywide, it might be worth exploring.

Mr. Ray stated that the Orion system does have flexibility. They do have fixed base mobile in their whole umbrella. He said he would pursue it. Mr. Parrott commented that the Trace unit is no longer going to be available. We are going to have to put something on the meter to read it as we drive by. He does not want to go through a bid process and have to change out meters and put in somebody else's product and wind up with two different systems that we have to work with; and two different meters. We have 27,000 of them out there. Over the next seven or eight years, he would like to go on over to the newer technology that the same low bid is providing. They were low bid when we bid it out to start with. The Orion system is still a Badger product. The Water System does all the change outs, sends them back to Badger and they send us a replacement that is still under warranty. Vice Chairman Clark suggested that we request direction from the county attorney as to how we should proceed on this item.

WATER ADJUSTMENT FUND.

Vice Chairman Clark asked about the list of customers on the Water Adjustment Fund. Mr. Parrott explained that we have a Water Adjustment Fund that the Board approved years ago for people who have a large water bill due to a busted pipe. It is set up so that they can get up to \$500.00 credit on that leak. In the past, if you had a busted pipe, you paid 100% of the water. At one time, the Board decided that they would split the difference. Mrs. Quick explained that if somebody has a break, we give a plumbers leak credit based on the prior three months average usage. They pay the difference in the cost. We discount it 70 cents per thousand. They pay their average bill, and whatever water they lost above that, they pay our wholesale rate, which is the cost of the water. With a major break, we do the plumbers leak adjustment and then they pay \$100.00 of the break, their average bill and then they can get up to \$500.00 credit depending on how much the bill is. It might only be \$200.00. We will discount it more, if they qualify. It is a one time only credit for that location.

Mr. Parrott went on to say that this started when so many people had the polybutelane pipe. We had people that had \$800.00 to \$1,000.00 water bills from going off for the weekend, and the pipe busted while they were gone. The fund is \$1.00 per customer in our yearly budget. We have 27,000 customers. This is for all customers, residential or business and is based on their average.

There being no further business, Chairman Pete Frisina adjourned the meeting at 8:40 A.M.

Peter A. Frisina

The foregoing minutes were approved at the regular Water Committee meeting on the 13th day of August, 2008.

Lisa Quick