

**WATER COMMITTEE**  
**FEBRUARY 27, 2008**  
**MINUTES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Pete Frisina, Chairman

Tony Parrott

Jack Krakeel

James K “Chip” Conner

**NON-VOTING MEMBERS:**

David Jaeger

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Russell Ray

**GUESTS:**

Jack Smith, FC Board of Commissioners

John Munford, The Citizen

**ABSENT:**

Chris Clark, Vice Chairman

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

**I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING ON FEBRUARY 13, 2008.**

Tony Parrott made the motion and Chip Conner seconded, to approve the minutes from the meeting on February 13, 2008. There was no opposition.

**II. LAKE MCINTOSH UPDATE.**

David Jaeger reported that we are still in the same position in the release of the mitigation credits as we were at the last Water Committee meeting. He received an email earlier this week from Tommy Craig’s office and basically the news is that the Corp of Engineers is working on the documents to release the credits. We are anticipating that will occur quickly. He does not have an exact date at this point. We don’t know of any obstacles, the inspection at the site has taken place and we are not getting any negative news, we are just in a waiting mode for the release of the mitigation credits and the completion of the documents that are required by the Corp to do that. He is still in contact with our timbering contractor, and he is anxious to get working. As soon as the credits are released, we will execute the contract and get him working as quickly as possible.

The archeological recovery phase on one site has been given final approval from the State Historic Preservation Office and the Corp has signed off on it. He and Mr. Parrott are meeting tomorrow morning with the consultant who will be handling the recovery phase. The surveyors have already staked the area, so we have it located in

the field and we are meeting tomorrow to discuss access to the site. That work will be initiated shortly, and will proceed.

Mr. Jaeger went on to report on the stream monitoring that is required by the permit, they have met with the USGS and currently the surveyors are setting up plats for the easements required for that station on Line Creek upstream of the reservoir. The station that is on Shoal Creek is already in place and functional. They are also staking the lower units of county property below the dam site, so that they can meet and set up a location for the last of the three monitoring stations, which is going downstream of the dam. That also will be something that we will work with USGS on.

Mr. Jaeger stated that he had a call earlier this week from Kent Campbell with Eco South. They are beginning work on the Johnson tract, which is one of the mitigation sites owned by the County. He has requested some survey work to identify some of the boundary lines within that site. He commented that Mr. Parrott has talked to them also. Mr. Parrott said that they are getting their work plan together for each one of the different sites. Part of the property has a mitigation site within it. There are all kinds of little nuances with these plans they have to work on, but they are running ahead of schedule. He stated this excites him because they have to be finished by June 28. This work plan has to be approved by the Corp.

Mr. Jaeger stated that the geotechnical crews are on site and are continuing to identify sources of borrow material for the construction of the dam. That is still under way.

He went on to say that he still anticipates the approval of the stream buffer variance by the State. She told him during their last conversation, that the document is intended to be dated this week. He is hopeful, that by the next Water Committee meeting, we will have that in hand. This will be approval by the State for us to work within the stream buffers in the reservoir site.

### **III. UPDATE ON DROUGHT SITUATION.**

#### **A. RESTRICTIONS.**

Mr. Parrott distributed an update of the questions that are on line for the new restrictions. He said he did some figuring on our water use April to September. We are looking at 10,390,000 gallons a day. That is an additional 4,000,000 gallons a day. Water restrictions are still set up for what they are recommending. It is still odd/even, which is still half the customers a day. The 25 minute hand watering, he believes we can easily handle with our customer base. It is still odd/even, and midnight to 10:00 a.m. With the swimming pool filling, we have been continuing to fill swimming pools that have been permitted within the county. New construction,

we have been selling water for those and have still been able to meet our water restrictions. Some of the figures that EPD used are one percent less water use on the pools anyway. The biggest change is how they do the outside watering for new landscape; instead of being able to water every day for thirty days, it is set up for the odd/even for ten weeks. It is still thirty days, but it is over a longer period of time and is between midnight and 10:00 a.m. That is for new landscape, not existing landscape.

Mr. Krakeel questioned whether this would create pressure to start turning back on irrigation meters. Mr. Parrott said that there will be some that will be doing enough planting to want to run their irrigation. In the questions and answers they acknowledge that there will be some new landscaping that will be large enough to use irrigation systems, but if you don't need that much water you should just hand water whatever you have.

Russell Ray reported on the reservoir levels. He distributed graphs for the committee to review. During the summer we primarily use the reservoirs. Lake Kedron at full pool is 835 feet and the lake was full April 1 last year. We reached our lowest level at elevation 824, which was 54% full. Now, on February 25, we have come up to elevation 832.5 which is 85% full. Using 4 MGD, that is 300 days of water. Lake Horton is a bigger reservoir, 3.3 billion gallons. It was also at full pool last April. The drought reached a low level in December which was 38% full. We have been gradually going back up and now we are 56% full, which is approximately 300 days of water from this lake at 6.5 MGD.

He went on to say that comparing the last three years, in 2005 we were only ½ foot down on February 15, in 2006 we were 3 feet down, and in 2007 we were 3¼ feet down. Right now, we are still 6½ feet down. The recent rain has helped raise the level of the lakes. It appears that Lake Kedron will be full by April 1, but Lake Horton may not. The Flint River has one pump running and the other is being repaired.

Mr. Parrott commented that figuring 300 days for both lakes is 10.5 MGD which is how much water the State will let us have. Ten months from now, we will be back into the winter usage. We have the water available to meet what the permit will be if the water restrictions and the customers work together so that we can meet the guidelines.

Mr. Krakeel commented that the Water Committee needs to make a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners on this matter. They are getting a lot of calls and there is a lot of confusion as to whether or not people can begin to water or not. He asked Mr. Parrott if it is his recommendation to comply with the EPD order to allow watering consistent with the stipulations that they have

identified. Mr. Parrott replied, yes. Mr. Conner clarified that this goes into effect April 1, and Mr. Parrott said yes. He went on to say that he thinks that we can comply with the modified permit that the State has issued for the Water System. He recommended that we go to the water restrictions that they recommend under the permit.

Mr. Conner made a motion to recommend this to the Board of Commissioners. Mr. Krakeel seconded for discussion.

Rick Eastin clarified the motion to be able to keep the City and the County consistent. All the exemptions the governor has allowed will be adopted. They will make the same recommendation to the City Council in order to provide consistency county wide. He went on to say that we heard from the green industry at the Drought Advisory Committee meeting. They have taken the brunt of this. He thinks this is a way that we can give them a chance. This is the way he feels for the City, that we at least give them a chance and then if something goes haywire, we can always back off of it.

Mr. Krakeel commented that one of the unknowns that we have had since we went under the Level 4 Drought is the whole issue of the 10% reduction in production capability for the average of the four months during the winter time. Now we are going to go to the average of the months during the summer time and the 10% reduction. We were in full compliance with that requirement. He questioned what if you are not in compliance? What happens? He does not think anybody has answered that question at this juncture.

Mr. Parrott said that they gave consent orders to three systems for January, but he does not know what the consent orders were comprised of. Carroll County was one of them. Mr. Krakeel mentioned that the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners had seen an email some time ago at an ARC meeting that somebody remarked that our lake levels were fairly low. He thinks this was when we were at the 38% level. The issue was just perceptually, that we were in really bad shape at the 38% level, but the 38% of a reservoir that contains 3.3 billion gallons of water versus a reservoir that contains .5 billion gallons of water that is at 80%, that is a substantial difference. There wasn't anything that delineated that information; we had 250 days of water supply where another community had a two week water supply. If we are looking at a 300 day supply of production capability, he concurs with Mr. Parrott and he thinks we are in pretty good shape to be able to ease the restrictions.

Mr. Conner commented that he thinks the people of the County responded well. Mr. Krakeel agreed that overall, he thinks we have had very good response from the community in terms of water conservation efforts. Just because we relax these restrictions doesn't mean that we don't need to continue to conserve water. In fact, we've asked the Drought Advisory Committee to start doing some more formalized

work in terms of research and how we go into the future with this issue. We will certainly face it again at some point.

Mr. Parrott stated that he is correct about what the numbers mean on the reservoirs. The numbers match the permit. With the permit we are recommending, the reservoir withdrawals match up. Mr. Krakeel commented that maybe between now and April 1, we will get some more rain and get these numbers up even higher.

After discussion Chairman Frisina called the question and there was no opposition.

#### **IV. SOUTHERN CONSERVATION TRUST TRAIL.**

Mr. Parrott explained that Southern Conservation Trust has the Line Creek Nature Area that is north of where Lake McIntosh is. He discussed a letter and drawing about this subject. When Mr. Jaeger got the 780 contour staked for the water level, Jerry Peterson's group noticed that their trail was on the water side of the 780 and is going to get flooded with the future lake. They are asking if we will help relocate a portion of the trail, about 1500 feet of it. We are two years away, and he asked if the Water Committee is interested. A soft trail is basically just clearing. When you talk about clearing 15,000 square feet, when we are going to do 600 plus acres, additional clearing to relocate the trail is not that much; at the same time, we are also asking Southern Conservation Trust for an easement for our USGS permitting station. Actually it is the old road, they just used the old road that was down there, and it just happened to be below the 780 and needs to be moved up above it. They want us to do the clearing.

Mr. Jaeger commented that we would include it in the construction contract for the dam and reservoir. The actual cost is going to be pretty minimal. If it is lumped in with 600 acres, the clearing would be nominal.

Chip Conner made a motion to recommend to the Board of Commissioners to approve the request from Southern Conservation Trust to relocate the portion of the trail that will be covered due to the construction of Lake McIntosh. Tony Parrott seconded and there was no opposition.

#### **V. PEACHTREE CITY MULTI USE PATH ON WATERLINE EASEMENT.**

Mr. Parrott explained that the relocation of the waterline on Highway 74 South Phase II, starts at Cooper Lighting, the DOT is going to have to relocate the existing waterline which is in an easement into another easement. Peachtree City wants to tie their multi use path in down to what is going to be the soccer and future baseball complex. They want to know if they can put this multi use path on top of

the waterline easement. The waterline is the Loop waterline and the raw waterline for the Crosstown Water Plant. There is not a problem putting in a multi use path, it is not a vehicle lane, just golf cart and bike path. We benefit by no longer having to spend money to maintain this easement that is outside of the right of way. It keeps the easement maintained, because they will cut the grass next to the multi use path, so we benefit. It is a paved ten foot path just like the one that went down Redwine Road.

Commissioner Chairman Smith asked how often we have to repair waterlines. Mr. Parrott replied that this waterline has been in since 1993 and we have never had a break on it. Commissioner Smith asked if that means it is nearing the point at which it will begin to have breaks. Mr. Parrott responded, no, it is ductile iron and ductile iron last 50 to 75 years. Commissioner Smith asked should we have a break, what is the additional cost for restoring the paved path that we will have to bear.

Mr. Jaeger stated that repair cost could be \$30.00 a square yard, approximately \$500.00. Mr. Conner suggested making this a stipulation that the City will make the repairs. Mr. Parrott stated that in the past the City has helped us out by doing some road patching in Peachtree City. They have been willing, while they were doing patching to patch some of our waterline breaks anyway. If we want to make it a stipulation, that is no problem. They have worked well with us. Mr. Parrott went on to say that our benefit of not having to keep it clear offsets the price of the asphalt anyway.

Jack Krakeel made a motion to recommend to the Board of Commissioners approval of the request from Peachtree City for an easement to construct the multi use path on top of the 20" raw waterline located at Cooper Lighting, with the stipulation that in the event of the waterline break, Peachtree City will make the necessary repairs to the path. Chip Conner seconded and there was no opposition.

## **VI. BID OPENING – ADDITIONAL PARKING AT LAKE HORTON.**

Mr. Jaeger stated that the bid was on February 21, 2008 for additional parking at the park at the end of Antioch Road which is adjacent to Horton Creek Reservoir. There is existing park facilities and parking there. This issue was brought to the Water Committee by Mr. Frisina originally, for discussion. At that time the committee decided that additional parking would be a benefit to the park. There were six bidders. The low bidder was Jimco Construction at \$31,047.50. He stated that he felt that it was a competitive bid. It fell at the low end of the range that was originally estimated for the work. Jimco provided the services to the County on the Redwine Road multi use path and that was a successful project. They did a good job on that. He has no trouble with the low bidder and he feels that it is within what we talked about budget wise, we have a good contractor to do the

work. He recommended to the Water Committee that a recommendation be made to the Board to award the bid to Jimco. This parking will mirror the existing parking on the other side. Mr. Jaeger stated this will be filling the ditch line, and there will be a minimal amount of grading.

Mr. Parrott commented that with the use of the pavilion, the tot lot, and the short walking trail, we don't have enough parking. Mr. Krakeel asked if we should consider bush hogging certain areas of the lake before it fills up. Mr. Parrott stated that it works out both ways. If you cut it, you still have the organics out there, which is what your problem is. In leaving it, because of the water level coming up and down, it protects from having as much washing coming back in on the shore. One way it helps with the erosion, the other way you are cutting out stuff that is going to pick up in the water along the shore line. It is one of those things that you could argue doing it either way.

Chip Conner made a motion to recommend to the Board of Commissioners awarding the bid for Additional Parking at Lake Horton to the low bidder Jimco Construction at \$31,047.50. Jack Krakeel seconded and there was no opposition.

Commission Chairman Smith thanked the committee for their diligence in pursuing the drought issue. He has gotten a tremendous number of emails and phone calls on this subject. He commented the information that was dispensed tended to be a little different than what was actually here. He had explained to each of those groups that the only decision that had been made thus far was to gather more information so we could make an intelligent decision. He thanked the group for being diligent in doing that and being sure that we have our "I's" dotted and "T's" crossed before a recommendation was made. The worst thing in his opinion would have been to jump on the boat, make a recommendation and have to retract it. He thanked the committee again for their diligence and watching over all the water supply that we have. He expressed this thanks to Mr. Eastin, also.

Mr. Krakeel stated that he appreciates the City's efforts over the course of the last three or four months that we have been dealing with this issue, with the Drought Advisory Committee and trying to be consistent in sending the same message to our citizens since we have overlapping service areas that cross jurisdictional boundaries. Being consistent in the message that we are sending to everybody, he thinks is beneficial to all parties, both the City and the County, in terms of our water conservation efforts. He stated that he appreciates the City being on board.

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

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**Peter A. Frisina**

**The foregoing minutes were approved at the regular Water Committee meeting on the 12th day of March, 2008.**

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**Lisa Quick**