

WATER COMMITTEE
MAY 28, 2008
MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Pete Frisina, Chairman
Chris Clark, Vice Chairman
Tony Parrott
Jack Krakeel
James K “Chip” Conner

NON-VOTING MEMBERS: David Jaeger
GUEST: Commissioner Jack Smith
STAFF PRESENT: 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 APRIL 23, 2008.

Tony Parrott made the motion and Chip Conner seconded, to approve the minutes from the meeting on April 23, 2008. There was no opposition.

II. LAKE MCINTOSH UPDATE.

David Jaeger reported that the timbering operation is going well. They are about 40% of the way through. He reported earlier that he thought they would be pacing themselves so that they don’t put the timber on the market all at one time, but they don’t seem to be holding back. The original schedule was to finish by the end of the year. He is pleased with the progress.

Mr. Jaeger went on to say on the archaeological dig, they are completing the second block; each block is five meters by five meters by as deep as they need to go to fully explore the area. The first block recovered quite a bit of artifacts. It appears that the second block isn’t as productive. They will have one more block to go based on their current plan. He and Mr. Parrott were out there last week to visit, and they felt like they had about six weeks left. They found arrowheads of different quality, some of them rough, some fairly well defined, tools and a grinding stone. Mr. Parrott commented that when he went by there yesterday, they were still saying six weeks.

Mr. Jaeger stated that each five meter block is then divided into one meter by one meter grids, then they excavate each square one at a time. They do it in four to six inch lifts so they can catalogue where exactly within the five meter by five meter block they find it; horizontally and vertically. They are very thorough as far as how they catalogue their finds. Some of their finds could go back as eight thousand years. The artifacts will be curated at the University of Georgia.

Mr. Jaeger reported that two of the stream monitoring stations are in place and operational. They are now accessible by the internet. The station on Shoal Creek at the 54 bridge and the new station that was installed downstream of the dam on Line Creek are both in and operational. The third station will be located on Line Creek upstream of the reservoir and the County is in the process of getting the easements from Peachtree City and from the Candler's for installation of the third station. It is on the Peachtree City Council agenda on June 5. He anticipates getting the third station in as quickly as possible after that approval. Final documents are being completed after some questions from the Candler's.

Mr. Jaeger stated that he attended a meeting with the Magnolia Swamp people to discuss the scheduled release of the credits from the Magnolia Swamp. Discussion at the meeting pertained to how their release schedule dovetails with our construction plans. They are bound by season on when they can do their monitoring of the site and then submit to the Corp for approval. That has to be done in the fall. This last batch of credits was released, they finished their monitoring and had a package submitted to the Corp in November. They really can't start the monitoring until late September or October. As much as we want them to expedite their process; to get something to the Corp that the Corp can approve and then the Corp will allow them to release credits to the County, they have to comply with the seasonal requirements to do that. He does not think that will be a hindrance moving forward, because some of our schedule sort of meets with that game plan. There is an annual planting and monitoring process that they go through. They are also contractually obligated to the Corp under their approval as a mitigation bank on their overall schedule of groupings. He commented that it was a productive meeting and they got to meet all the players. They understand where we are coming from; we provided them with an estimated schedule of the milestones that are required by our 404 permit for release of credits from the bank, when we think we will need those. They offered to make every effort they can to meet that schedule.

Mr. Krakeel stated that he thought it was a productive meeting. Understanding the process they have to go through as a bank was eye opening. He went on to talk about recognizing that the release process only works at the end of a growing season, how that relates to the other mitigation sites we have. Mr. Parrott commented that with ours being five years, those credits are not tied into the construction schedule. The credits tied into the construction schedule are 100% Magnolia Swamp. Our credits require five years of monitoring. The plans on all the sites should be complete next month and he will get back to us. We are buying credits outside the County; we are making wetland sites inside and outside the County and all of it is in the Flint basin.

Mr. Jaeger stated that if we started work next spring/summer, it is possible the construction could be done in eighteen months. Filling of the reservoir ought to be less than a year, based on the weather. It has a very large drainage basin. Eighteen to twenty four months is the construction time to build the dam, and the

infrastructure within the dam. The last project the County did was the Horton Creek reservoir and that took two years for construction. This project has a smaller dam as far as quantity of dirt, so he feels like eighteen months is doable. It has more concrete work; the spillway is substantial on this job. Two and a half years is probably reasonable from when we begin construction and filling. The pump station will be a modification of an existing station. The County has a pump station and withdrawal permit on Line Creek now. It was built knowing that we would have to raise the top later to get above the lake level, and then modify the pumps to be higher capacity. That would take place concurrently with the dam construction. Mr. Parrott stated that the waterline size was the size we need to pump to the lake. We already have that in place.

Mr. Jaeger explained that in addition to the mitigation bank, there are six separate mitigation sites that the County purchased; some in the county, some out of the county. One in Meriwether County, owned by Mr. Johnson has been one of the first ones that Kent Campbell and his folks went down to assess and delineate wetlands. In doing so, we had our surveyor stake an area so he could better see the area of the Johnson tract that was purchased by the County. In doing so, it showed Mr. Johnson also what was bought by the County. It prevented Mr. Johnson from accessing a portion of his land opposite what the County bought. The County bought an interior piece of this property, and he owns land on both sides of it. There is an existing lake with a dam and downstream of that is where the wetlands area begins. The County property encroached into the area of the dam, cutting off Mr. Johnson's access across the dam area. There was some discussions between Kent Campbell with Eco South and Mr. Johnson, our surveyors, Mr. Jaeger and Mr. Parrott about trading a small portion of land along this dam back to Mr. Johnson for an additional area adjacent to the area where the County purchased wetlands. There would be no net change in the wetlands. There is benefit to Mr. Johnson and there is no cost to the County.

Mr. Jaeger went on to say that he asked Tommy Craig's folks to run this by the Corp of Engineers to make sure there is not a problem with them. The Corp said there was no problem. Surveyors are re-platting the property so that there will be a swap that will allow Mr. Johnson to continue to access both sides of the property. It does not impact the County. The deed and plat will be re-recorded. He will bring documents to the next Water Committee meeting on this item.

Mr. Krakeel stated that the Board of Commissioners approved this transaction last Thursday night. The County attorney brought them up to speed and the only thing left is for the Chairman to sign the documents.

Mr. Jaeger reported that he met with Tom Woosley at Safe Dams and their geotechnical consultant. This was a design phase status meeting with him to update him on where we are and where we are headed. Discussion pertained to what we will be submitting to him; so that we don't submit something that he would then red flag immediately. There were no major issues. He was in agreement with our basic

strategy in the design. He indicated that the actual plan submittal will require a formal meeting where they go over the drawings so that he is briefed on them prior to beginning the review. He is not able to schedule that meeting until July. He is booked up through June.

III. UPDATE ON DROUGHT SITUATION.

Mr. Parrott explained that he placed on the Board of Commissioners agenda the opportunity to go from Level IV that we are at now to the Level II, with the assumption at the time that would be the option. The State was not going to have the rules posted until the 16th of May at 5:00; so he had to make a guess for something on the agenda. The rules were not available until Monday on the 18th, then that afternoon they changed, then again on the afternoon of the 27th. He referenced the worksheets, three reservoir worksheets and three stream flows, for the Drought Response Modification Petition process. Lake Peachtree stays full and we do not have flow monitors at reservoir inflows. We know what we release from Lake Kedron into Lake Peachtree, and then we can make an assumption about the additional water. When looking at page 2 of the worksheet it shows that it stays full. It shows we stay above 50%, which is one of the criteria they have to request going back to what they call Level IVc. Level IVc is supposed to be similar to what Level II was. Because of Lake Peachtree we pass the criteria.

Mr. Parrott went on to discuss the second worksheet for Lake Horton. Lake Horton storage is because we pump to it, we do not have reservoir monitors on Woolsey and Antioch Creek. If we make an assumption of a month average of 6 ½ cubic feet per second (cfs) going in we have storage above 50%. He stated that he is going to have to justify this information. The committee discussed whether we need monitors on the creeks. Mr. Jaeger stated this has not been a requirement until Lake McIntosh, which was part of our Corp permit. The majority of the flow into Lake Horton is pumped storage from the Flint River. Further discussion pertained to the cost of having USGS monitoring stations on all the stream flows, and the information that needs to be provided with the petition.

Mr. Parrott expressed concern with the use of percentage used for the petition request. Percentage wise, 40% of Lake Horton is more storage than some water systems have in the entire water system, but they will be able to take their reservoir and go to 50%, pass and be alright. It has nothing to do with how much you have, but with mathematical percentages. With the stream flows, it is different. He figured Lake Kedron with no inflow, taking out 4MGD, it hits 50%. Last year, using the same formula, we hit 54%. That means there is a little inflow and it passes their criteria. We have a withdrawal permit on Line Creek where we have to release 3 MGD and we can take out up to 2. We have never taken more than 1 million. We did not violate our permit, we released the water that we were supposed to release downstream, but we can't make the percentage criteria. We can show that we met our permit that was issued by DNR, we did not violate the permit and we released the water that we are supposed to downstream.

Mr. Parrott stated that Level IVc, which is what we would like to have is odd/even watering, three days per week between midnight and 10:00 a.m. odd/and even. They use the wording odd/even watering; when you go back to the State Outdoor Water Use Rules, they use outdoor water use, but in the IVc allowance they say it is odd/even watering. You could make the assumption that you could only get permission to go to odd/even watering, but it would not be outdoor water use which means you could not wash your truck, your boat or dog out in the yard. Mr. Parrott stated that he has called DNR to ask that question and he does not have an answer yet. The committee further discussed the terminology in the rules; does it apply only to irrigation? What about pressure washing your house?

Mr. Parrott stated that Fayette County's average use is around 10 MGD. We have over 400 days worth of water. If it does not rain any in the next 400 days, we still won't run out of water.

Mrs. Quick reported there have been 84 toilet rebates at \$6,550.00. There have been 337 water saver kits given out, 218 from the McDonough Road office and 119 in Peachtree City. We started out with 500. A water bill insert will go out in June advertising the availability of water saver kits and the toilet rebates.

Mr. Clark mentioned that we should remind customers about the sales tax holiday. The bill was signed to include WaterSense appliances along with Energy Star appliances.

IV. FLINT RIVER PUMP STATION.

Mr. Parrott explained that we had a bid to put in a 10 million gallon pump and motor. We found that the 10 million gallon pumps that we have will not pump the efficiency that we thought they would. In a review of the waterline, valves and the system they have determined that the pump, because of the age and the fact that they have been rebuilt more than once, their efficiency is down below 75%. He recommended that we go ahead and get the 10 million gallon pump that we bid, if the contractor will hold his price. Then have Mr. Jaeger do the design to put in a larger pump so that we will have new 10MGD, an old 10MGD, and the new size that Mr. Jaeger recommends. The permit started out at 10 MGD, and now is 16 MGD. The window is smaller, we have to release 30 cubic feet per second downstream now, and it used to be 24 cfs. We have to let more go downstream, but they let us have a higher amount of water when the flow is available. We recently rebuilt the pump, but the efficiency is not there. The committee discussed at length the goal of getting the maximum amount of water allowed by the permit from the Flint River by having pumps that are variable speed and can be set according the flow available in the river. They also discussed electrical needs, higher cost than what was estimated and how soon the project can be completed. The final result would be a pump station designed to have three pumps, two would be variable speed and one constant speed. Currently there are two 10 MGD constant speed pumps.

Mr. Parrott explained that the bid came in higher than anticipated, so he will need to do a budget transfer.

Chip Conner made the motion to recommend to the Board of Commissioners to award the bid for the Flint River Pump Station Additional Pumping Capacity to the low bidder, All South Constructors, Inc. at a cost of \$372,203.00. Tony Parrott seconded and there was no opposition.

The committee discussed further the size pump that is needed to get 16 MGD from the river. This bid is to replace one inefficient pump, and then in the future place another pump to have a total of three pumps after sending out another bid. We need to be able to maximize what we get out of the river at low flow. All we can get right now is 13 MGD because of the inefficiency of the two pumps on this raw water. The pumps are about twelve years old and have been rebuilt.

V. LAKE HORTON PARK.

Mr. Parrott reported that the additional parking is being done. The job has already started. We have had complaints about rats down at the park. We will get someone down there to trap the rats. There have also been problems in McCurry Park with rats. People throw food out into the woods. The trash is picked up regularly.

Mr. Krakeel asked about the underbrush contributing to the problem. Mr. Parrott responded that there are deer and squirrels down there. We cut along the trails; we keep the grass cut around the tot lot. Mr. Krakeel mentioned that the particular area they are talking about is at the end of Antioch Road and he witnessed the problem himself when we first had the problem four years ago. That area was cleared and bush hogged down. Now it has grown back up, and we have the rat problem again. He wondered if we don't need to be more aggressive with our bush hogging in keeping that area leveled down, that is probably a philosophical discussion that the Water Committee needs to have at some point; what is the fundamental purpose of Lake Horton Park as opposed to the fundamental purpose of the reservoir. He thinks there are two competing interests there, that is do you maintain the aesthetics to reflect that this is a passive recreation area associated with the primary function of the reservoir, or do we make this truly a recreation area as an adjacent element of the reservoir. That creates a difference in the maintenance around the lake in the park area. He thinks, historically, the philosophy has been that you allow everything to remain as natural as possible, which means everything is going to grow up, except for certain areas that we keep the grass cut, but essentially you will be walking through wooded or grown up areas, versus having clear open space and places people can through a blanket down.

Mr. Krakeel went to say that the rat infestation problem appears to be at one end of the park. Mr. Parrott stated that the bid included treatment of any burrows found, to make sure this does not come back up.

Mr. Krakeel asked if we should consider clearing this area, grass it and maintain or allow it to remain wild. Mr. Parrott commented that we have planted some pines and he would check into the situation and report back to the committee.

There being no further business, Chairman Pete Frisina adjourned the meeting at 9:30 A.M.

Peter A. Frisina

The foregoing minutes were approved at the regular Water Committee meeting on the 11th day of June, 2008.

Lisa Quick