

WATER COMMITTEE
AUGUST 13, 2008
MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Pete Frisina, Chairman
Chris Clark, Vice Chairman
Tony Parrott
James K “Chip” Conner

ABSENT:

Jack Krakeel

NON-VOTING MEMBERS:

David Jaeger

STAFF PRESENT:

Russell Ray

GUESTS:

Larry Turner, PTCWASA
Steven Culp, Obrien & Gere

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

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING ON JULY 23, 2008.

Tony Parrott made the motion and Vice Chairman Chris Clark seconded, to approve the minutes from the meeting on July 23, 2008. There was no opposition.

II. LAKE MCINTOSH UPDATE.

David Jaeger reported that the timbering operation is back in operation and they are about 70% complete. The second of the two payments has been made to the county and forwarded to Finance. The contractor has now provided 100% of the contract money to the county for the rights to do the timbering. There are no issues or problems, and they are ahead of schedule.

He went on to say the archeology work is now complete. They are offsite and we do not anticipate any more on site activity. The timbering operation will now proceed into that area. Two weeks ago, on July 23, he and Mr. Parrott met with Tom Woosley at Safe Dams Program for our plan submittal meeting. We submitted plans and specifications for the dam design. There were no issues; it was about an hour long meeting with Tom and Karl Myers with Piedmont Geotechnical. It was a brief overview of the submittal; it was not a detail review, but more a follow up to the previous pre-design meetings with Tom confirming final design. They briefly went through the plans. We have received a letter of acknowledgement that they have been received. Mr. Jaeger commented that they are currently working on the pump station modification design, which will be hand in hand with the dam project. The current pump station is designed to pull out of Line Creek at 2 MGD; the modified pump station will be designed to meet the withdrawal permit at 10.4 MGD out of the reservoir. It will be a complete modification, the slab elevation will be raised, with new pumps and new piping, but the foundation and the wet well will remain in place with the existing station.

Mr. Parrott stated that the wetland credits from the mitigation bank set the time period, so that the time period that we can start construction has more to do with the wetland release than the plan approval from DNR Safe Dams. They should easily be able to review the plans by the time we get the release from the wetland mitigation bank. Mr. Parrott added that we will be submitting the grant application to GEFA for the project before the deadline on August 29.

III. UPDATE ON DROUGHT SITUATION.

Mr. Parrott referred to the current water use report. We have been averaging 11, 200,000 gallons a day. After taking into account what we have been selling to the City of Fayetteville, we are very close to the 10% reduction, even though it is not mandatory. We met the 10% reduction in July, and he expects to meet it in August also. This also means that we are 10% down in revenues. He commented that he was at a meeting last month with some utilities that are in excess of 20% down in revenues. Because of the conditions last year, many of our customers did not do their spring planting and it does not appear that they are going to do a fall planting either. Mr. Turner commented that Peachtree City Water and Sewerage Authority revenues are down, also. In June, compared to last year, there is a major difference.

Mr. Parrott reported that both lakes are in good shape; we have been able to pump out of the Flint River occasionally, which is unusual to be able to do in July and August. Last night's rain has not reached the intake yet, so they are not running the pump yet, but we will as soon as it reaches that flow. The USGS monitor on the stream is very handy. It enables us to react quicker.

Mr. Ray stated the lakes are in very good shape. Lake Kedron is 2 ½ feet down and Lake Horton is 4 ½ feet down. This is 67% on Lake Horton. The lakes are way up from last year.

Mrs. Quick reported that we have had 168 toilet rebates in the amount of \$12,400.00 credits to customers. Since we received the new shipment of water saver kits, we have given out 145. We had some increased interest with the water bill inserts.

Chip Conner asked about the Flint River pump station. Mr. Jaeger replied that the notice to proceed has been issued. Mr. Parrott said they are working on the pump design and they should be complete in 12 or 14 weeks. No one keeps pumps this large in stock.

IV. DISCUSSION ABOUT TRACE RADIO READ METER READING SYSTEM.

Mr. Parrott showed an example of an Orion unit. Orion has a higher output than Trace. Mr. Ray explained that he met with Scott Jones, the Badger Meter representative yesterday. They talked about how the technology in the Trace

system uses a 1 milliwatt signal output, and the Orion uses a 10 milliwatt signal. Therefore, you should have better pickup with the drive by unit. They can be put through the lids, since we already have the holes in our lids, we could go ahead and mount it that way, instead of inside the box itself. We should have very good reception. Mr. Ray discussed the question that Mr. Krakeel asked about using the fixed based technology where you either use wyfi or broadband or a two way radio system the county owns; the technology works at the 900 megahertz range. And we are in the 800 mega hertz range on our two ways. If it did work, there are other costs; you have to have what they call a gateway device; a router and a receiver that mounts up on a pole. This is a device that picks up the signals from the units, and they have to be mounted around the community, and then from there it is sent to the other systems, whether it is power based, wyfi or broadband. We have two issues that will direct us to the drive by. One issue is having the right kind of radio system in place for the gateways to communicate with; and then the placement of all the gateway units. You need enough density of houses to make the gateway cost effective.

Vice Chairman Clark asked about installing the units with the flexibility in the system to later install these after the fact, or do you have to make that decision up front. Mr. Ray said he thinks you could add them later if it became available. Mr. Parrott mentioned that the gateways might need to be installed every 2,000 to 2,500 feet. It works great in town with high density. We started with the radio read system almost ten years ago, and the output on the new unit is ten times what the original was. The original has given us excellent service, except for the fact that we can no longer get the replacement transponders for it.

Mr. Parrot stated that he needs to get an opinion from legal about the bid and he needs to get a response from the County Purchasing Agent on the technology because we have \$6,000,000 invested in Trace. He does not want to wind up changing out meters in the system and have a dual system. Some of the other places, such as Clayton County, have had some problems with the system they have tested. They have more than one different radio read system that has not performed to their expectations. Mr. Parrott said that our re-reads are next to nothing on the current system. We have been extremely pleased with it. Seldom do you find something that works this well all the time. The customers question the accuracy of the meters on a fairly regular basis. We send the meters in and have them factory tested on a regular basis, just to check the accuracy. We have never found one that over registered. When you have a twenty five plus year track record, it benefits us so much in the customer service area. It is magnetic drive, with the old gear driven ones, one of the cogs could break off, and it could increase the flow reading. Mr. Parrott commented that we have enough stock in the warehouse to get us through the end of the year. This item was tabled until the next meeting.

Mr. Parrott mentioned that the Rotary Club has asked about painting Starr's Mill. This request will come up at a future meeting.

Mr. Jaeger said the Lake Horton parking project near the tot lot is complete.

There being no further business, Chairman Pete Frisina adjourned the meeting at 8:30 A.M.

Peter A. Frisina

The foregoing minutes were approved at the regular Water Committee meeting on the 27th day of August, 2008.

Lisa Quick