

**WATER COMMITTEE**  
**MAY 12, 2010**  
**MINUTES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Pete Frisina, Chairman  
James K “Chip” Conner, Vice Chairman  
Jack Krakeel  
Tony Parrott  
Brian Cardoza  
David Jaeger  
Russell Ray

**ABSENT:**

**NON-VOTING MEMBERS:**

**STAFF PRESENT:**

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

**I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING ON APRIL 28, 2010.**

Vice Chairman Chip Conner made the motion and Jack Krakeel seconded, to approve the minutes from the meeting on April 28, 2010. There was no opposition.

**II. LAKE MCINTOSH UPDATE.**

David Jaeger mentioned that at the last meeting, we had a presentation showing the installation of the Wellpoint Dewatering System which is shown on the diagram in red on the hand out he gave the committee members. The blue line is the diversion channel which they built around that, diverting water away from the original creek channel. Now, they are undercutting in the footprint of the dam. Area A, which is shown on the diagram, is the first of these areas. He explained that essentially what they do is use the vacuum Wellpoint system to draw down the groundwater. Then they go in, in little confined rectangular areas and dig down until the geotechnical engineer is satisfied that they have taken out all of the poor sub-grade materials. Then they come back in and backfill with good clay structural fill. They do that in sections, so that we can account for the volume of undercut; it is paid for as a unit price item. Also, so they can work in a confined area they can control; if they were to have an issue with any of their dewatering or any unexpected materials that they encounter, then they are confined to a small area and nothing is exposed to weather or other sloughing type conditions for the side walls of the excavation. If they expose it down to the point where they get to rock, then they have to prepare the rock as well, by pressure washing it, and/or grouting it, if it is loose enough. This is just now getting under way, since they put in the Wellpoint system, we have had a couple of rain events which brought the surface water flows up substantially and postponed some of this activity for a short period of time.

Mr. Jaeger went on to say they are wrapping up the fencing on the mitigations sites. The last site is the Danielly Wagner site in Spalding County. This will probably be

complete within a week or two. The mitigation restoration work is now at the Mixon site, and it is about 75% complete. They will then move to the Danielly Wagner site.

Mr. Parrott commented that the wetland sites, even with as much rain as we have had are moving along pretty good.

### **III. TOTAL ORGANIC CARBON UPDATE.**

Mr. Parrott stated that at the last meeting he had just received the notice from the State that said we could do our pilot test using the powdered activated carbon. We did some plant modifications for the carbon feed system, and we are feeding the carbon into the two settling basins. He said we are looking at different dosages and that type of thing. He plans to have a report for the committee at the next meeting; they only gave us thirty days to try it. We are two weeks into it.

Mr. Krakeel asked if we are testing now. Mr. Parrott replied yes. Mr. Krakeel asked if he is seeing any improvement. Mr. Parrott said no, not at the dosage we are using, we are working with different dosages.

### **IV. EMERGENCY WATER FOR PRIVATE WATER SYSTEMS.**

Mr. Parrott stated that as the Water System has grown, we have gotten closer to the private systems. Dix Lee On Estates has 186 customers, which is bigger than Brooks. Newton Plantation is bigger than Brooks. Starr's Mill Ridge and Line Creek Estates are two that we get complaints on their operations. One of them had a leak during the drought they did not fix for three months. He went on to say, as we get closer to them with our waterline, if they have a problem and they want water for an emergency, we don't have anything set up to provide them water on an emergency basis. When we were not nearby, and would have to run pipe to get to them, it would take a week or ten days to run the line. The problem would be over by then. Now that we are adjacent to them, it is no longer like that. He went on to say that the County would not want to be in the position of not supplying water to several homes for an extended time period. We also don't want to be their guaranteed backup every time the power goes out, the pump goes out, or they have a main break. Mr. Parrott commented that we need to come up with a policy somewhere in between the citizens being without water for a week to ten days, to the fact that every time the pump goes out we just turn the valve.

The committee discussed how many private systems we are adjacent to. Mr. Parrott stated we are nearly adjacent to all but two of them. Further discussion pertained to how many potential customers there would be, how many problems a well system can have, and how long to allow them county water as emergency backup.

Mr. Krakeel suggested setting up a gradient that if their system is going to be down for more than "X" number of days, then we will provide emergency water.

Anything under that, they have a responsibility to take care of the problem. Then you don't get in a situation where you are constantly turning a valve off and on to provide backup. Minor disruptions are not eligible, but with a major disruption to their water service, they can have emergency water backup from the County. He said that he thinks major is anything that goes beyond seventy two hours.

Chairman Frisina asked about charging a higher rate. Mr. Parrott said the water would be metered going in. Mr. Krakeel commented that we should charge a higher rate than normally charged. We would not sell it to them wholesale; sell it to them at an emergency water rate that makes it prohibitive for them to try to use the water. It is in their best interest to get the water on as quickly as possible. In other words, they would not call every time they have a minor outage because the cost of paying for that water is going to be substantially more than it cost them to produce the water. They are going to have the incentive to get their system back on line as quickly as possible and not call every time they turn around.

Mr. Parrott expressed concern, that since they are a business, they will just raise their rates to the customer. Their customer is then boxed in. He commented they have a permit from the Department of Natural Resources, but to his knowledge they are not under the Public Service Commission.

The committee further discussed the size of pipe in the private systems, and our pressure causing problems in their systems. Mr. Parrott stated the connection could include not only the meter and backflow device, but also a pressure reducing valve; most of them would need a two inch meter. With our wholesale customers, we have an allocated amount of water that we have to maintain. In the middle of July the City of Fayetteville can use a million two a day; in December they use 25,000 gallons a day. But, we have to maintain that amount of water for that customer. If you add up the number of private systems, if they are hooked up, is that a certain amount of water that we have allocated for them for the future. If their well goes out, like Westbridge did, the County just took it over.

Mr. Krakeel commented that we are talking about a total of 1,000 customers between all of the private systems, roughly. That is 1/5 the size of Fayetteville, in terms of the number of customers they have on their system. He said from his perspective, we have a fundamental responsibility to those citizens, if that system were to dry up, or whatever, like the Westbridge system did; we will end up serving it anyway. It may not be a significant amount of water. Using Fayetteville as a baseline, you would be talking about 200,000 gallons a day, max, in the summer.

Chairman Frisina questioned how long it would take to hook them up, if they have a two or three week problem. What is the cost? Mr. Parrott stated that we will require them to be responsible for the expense of the tie in. With the problem at Dix Lee On right now, they were in the DOT right of way and had to work with DOT about digging in the right of way. That was the biggest challenge up there.

Mr. Parrott said, on a case by case basis, the first connection will get everything in place. Mr. Krakeel stated he is not in favor of putting the infrastructure in on the front end, in anticipation of a need for it. We are absorbing the cost initially, and it makes it easier for them to rely on us as a backup to their system. He would wait until the event occurred, and then require them to pay the full cost of making the necessary tie ins.

Mr. Parrott said we would have control of when the service is turned on, at that point, we have it secure. Currently, the code says that we only provide service to people who just get water from us, and does not have a connection to another well or another water source. He said we are having this discussion so he can get the committee's ideas and he can bring back a document to review.

Mr. Krakeel stated we need to expand on that issue; it is one thing to service a private water system that goes out because of the number of customers that we are dealing with, but how is that fundamentally different from a person whose well goes dry.

Mr. Parrott said that usually once they hook up, they are not interested in doing anything else. Mr. Krakeel said if you have someone who lives a quarter of a mile from the waterline and their well goes dry, what happens under our current policy? Mr. Parrott explained that we run a line down to them if it is within the limits of the line extension policy. Mr. Krakeel said the cost per gallon of water for that person sitting on a private well after they get through paying for a thousand feet of line is substantially higher than what we would be charging a private water system when they go out. We need to look at this globally.

Mr. Jaeger questioned the installation of the service. Mr. Parrott explained that the customer is required to make the connection to our system using our specifications and we inspect the work. It belongs to the county upon completion.

## **V. WETLAND MITIGATION SITE DISCUSSION.**

Mr. Parrott stated that we are at the point of doing the Danielly-Wagner site in Spalding County. He distributed a copy of the Contractor Agreement between Fayette County and Eco-South, Inc. for the committee to review. He pointed out on page 3, they list work to be performed: 2,560 feet of channel restoration, 60.4 acres of wetland restoration, and they will plant almost 24,000 stems. He said the fencing on this site is almost finished. This is a little bit less than what their guess was to start with when we first started talking about them doing the wetland restoration, because the acreage changed a little bit, because we are getting a little bit less, both channel and wetlands at this site. We picked it up on the Helmer Road site when we purchased the extra property.

Mr. Krakeel mentioned that he thinks we can make an addendum to the current contracts; the same terms and conditions would apply. He said he would speak with

the County attorney about it. Mr. Parrott commented that they are doing a good job. Mr. Kraakeel mentioned that we have received our notification that we have acquired the additional credits from the Magnolia Swamp bank. Mr. Jaeger stated that we have enough credits to complete the construction of the dam, but we need more to impound the water. That will be more than a year away. We have enough in the bank to finish and impound the water.

Mr. Parrott stated that the wetland sites were not tied into the completion of the dam. Only the credits; because they had no doubt we were going to do the wetland sites.

Mr. Parrott made a motion to recommend to the Board of Commissioners to use Eco-South, Inc. for the Danielly Wagner mitigation work, as per the contract provided by them. Mr. Kraakeel seconded and there was no opposition.

### **LOW INCOME ASSISTANCE**

Mr. Parrott explained that we have a customer assistance program. We budgeted \$500.00 to help those who could not pay their water bill; we use DFACS to determine those who need assistance. If they meet their standards, then they will do a voucher. We have used up the entire \$500.00. Now they have to get assistance from other sources.

### **CURRENT LEGISLATION**

Mr. Kraakeel mentioned that he had seen some legislation that has been passed and is awaiting the governor's signature. There are ramifications for local water systems, including additional conservation measures that need to be undertaken. A study is going to be done about inter connectivity between systems in the event of an emergency; we could potentially be supplying water to Coweta, Spalding, Clayton or Fulton Counties.

Mr. Parrott commented that we have an inter connection with Clayton County. We can get water from them and provide water to them. Over the last ten years we have actually provided them more water than they have us. We get water from Atlanta, but our pressure is not sufficient to be able to get water back that way.

### **BROOKS WATER SYSTEM**

Mr. Kraakeel stated that tomorrow night the Board of Commissioners will be given the presentation on the county entering into an operating agreement with the Brooks Water System. It is on the agenda tomorrow night. The Brooks mayor will be there. Brooks will continue to own the system because if they sell it they will lose their LOST funding. It would put them below three directly provided services. By having an operating agreement; we essentially will own the system and make improvements to the system. It is a fifty year agreement. It will be too expensive for

**Brooks to want to own the system, once we make improvements to the system. They have a fundamental responsibility to pay us back for all the capital improvements that are made on the system. There are not enough customers on the system for them to recoup that cost.**

**Mr. Parrott explained that we have been providing 100% of their water for months. They have been working off of our water and our pressure. They have not used the well. They hired one of the Water System employees to read the meters. It should not be much of a transfer over. With 120 customers; we used to do 100 new customers a month. We ought to be able to handle it without too much of a problem.**

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

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**Peter A. Frisina**

**The foregoing minutes were approved at the regular Water Committee meeting on the 26th day of May, 2010.**

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**Lisa Quick**