

WATER COMMITTEE
MAY 26, 2010
MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

NON-VOTING MEMBERS:

David Jaeger

STAFF PRESENT:

Russell Ray

GUESTS:

Stephen Hogan, PTC WASA

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

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING ON MAY 12, 2010.

Vice Chairman Chip Conner made the motion and Tony Parrott seconded, to approve the minutes from the meeting on May 12, 2010. There was no opposition.

II. LAKE MCINTOSH UPDATE.

David Jaeger reported that they are dewatering the sub-grade with the wellpoint system, excavating the poor materials and back filling with good materials. The contractor encountered some rock along the old creek channel. They have been working along the pipe profile from the front of the dam towards the back of the dam removing boulders and replacing that with good material. They have encountered a few areas where their dewatering system wasn’t effective, so they have had to supplement what they have in the ground for dewatering. This process will probably take three months or more to complete.

Mr. Jaeger went on to say that the fencing of the mitigation sites is finished. He is working with the contractor to verify pay quantities and create any final punch list that needs to be done.

Mr. Jaeger stated the site work at the mitigation sites for Mixon and Johnson is substantially complete. He is beginning final review and creating punch lists on these sites. Once the Board approves the next contract, the contractor will move over to the Spalding County site.

Mr. Parrott mentioned a letter he received from a gentleman asking that the boat ramps being installed in a way to make it easier to get his boat into the lake. No matter how you build the ramps, when the lake goes down to a certain level, the ramps will not be in the water.

III. TOTAL ORGANIC CARBON UPDATE.

Mr. Parrot explained that we have been working with the powdered activated carbon for a month; we got approval from DNR to do this pilot test. It did not do much. The South Fayette Water Plant was not passing up until the 15th of this month. After the 15th, because the total organic carbons in the water increased, we started passing again. Passing is removing 35%, it is the only treatment technique that EPA has ever established. Taking 35% of what you have for reduction means that you have the same result at both plants, one will pass and the other one doesn't. It makes no sense. He went on to say once we got past 4 parts TOC, then we are passing; under, we are not. If you are 2.0 and less, you pass no matter what your reduction is. We run at 2.1 when we are in the 3's with the TOC's. This does not look like the solution.

Mr. Jaeger reported that he has quotes from two companies to perform pilots. One is Kruger, they have ACTIFLOW CARB, which is an enhance coagulation and settlement carbon feed system; they provide a ballast to the floc particles so they settle quicker. Their quote for the pilot is \$8,250.00 per week, plus transportation. They are estimating transportation at \$2,150.00. They are proposing a four week pilot study, which would be a total of \$35,150.00. He commented that early in the discussion, we had some belief that we could do a two week pilot. Their engineers have come back and said that two weeks is too short for their system to optimize, so they can give us good quality data.

Mr. Jaeger stated that the other manufacturer and technology is MIEX, which is the magnetic resin ion exchange system. He said they did a field trip to Alabama to view one of their installations. They are proposing a two week pilot at a cost of \$14,800.00; that includes an estimated transportation cost of \$1,800.00. There is a little bit of flexibility in that price.

He stated that he had discussions early on, if the County were to proceed with purchase of one of these systems, the pilot cost would be credited into the purchase price. They both agreed.

Mr. Parrott explained that the water quality is so different in dealing with TOC's and what kind of TOC's. We run tests at the plant, the State runs the test and we have a private lab run the test. Seldom are the numbers the same, when they grab the same sample at the same time. Right now we are passing, but if we don't do something we are not going to pass when the new regulations come in. He said that we want to run both pilot studies at the same time, so they have the same water; so that the comparison matches up.

Mr. Jaeger stated that the third technology we looked at was Granular Activated Carbon in the filter. Powder Activated Carbon that Mr. Parrott has been testing

has been dosed ahead of the sed basin, not the filter. The Granular Activated Carbon will be a replacement of the current filter media with GAC. We did a pilot on this already at the Crosstown Water Plant. We put GAC in filter #7, ran it, and had good results. We have some data and history, the only issue is cost, long term cost of having to replenish the GAC in the filters year after year. You have to take all of it out and replace it. It gets exhausted and loses its ability to take the TOC's out. You are then in a position where you have to remove the GAC which is exhausted, send it back to the manufacturer, have them reactivate it and then replace it. He said that it is an expensive process, it works, and we have history of it working. We don't need to run a pilot on it because we already have data.

Chairman Frisina asked if one is favored over the other. Mr. Jaeger stated that at this point he does not have a clear preference. He thinks, from what we've seen and what we believe, they will all work. The pilot will tell us with our water, on a routine ongoing basis, what kind of performance we might get. His feeling is that they will all be satisfactory as far as performance. It is going to be more about operational issues and cost, long term cost.

Mr. Parrott stated that he wants to see how these work on a day to day basis. We can test TOC on an hour basis. We have done 48 hours around the clock at the plant. We can pass 40 out of 48 hours, but we will have an hour in there where it does not pass. That is liable to be the one month sample that goes to the State. We need something that not only gives us the removal, which these will and GAC will, but we need assurance that we will stay in compliance. That is why we need to see how it runs with the water.

Vice Chairman Chip Conner made the motion to recommend to the Board of Commissioners to move forward with the two pilot tests in the amount of \$35,150.00 for ACTIFLO CARB and \$14,800.00 for MIEX. Brian Cardoza seconded and there was no opposition.

IV. EMERGENCY WATER FOR PRIVATE WATER SYSTEMS.

Mr. Parrott stated that if we connect to a well system, they need to be in compliance with the State. He does not want to be considered a consecutive system since we provide them water; then we would have to put a notice in our Consumer Confidence Report. The committee discussed the draft document prepared by Mr. Parrott. Do we provide them water until the aquifer recharges? Once we hook them up, some of these systems have 150 houses; so you have 450 people without water. Do you turn them off after 30 days? What problem can't be fixed in 30 days?

Mr. Krakeel asked how the rate compares. Mr. Parrott replied the rate is our conservation rate, the highest we currently charge for use over 20,000 gallons. The \$200.00 monthly minimum is almost four times the minimum we have for any meter size. If they want to turn it on for one day, it will cost them \$200.00 plus the water.

Once they have the infrastructure in, he thinks we will have a problem making them wait three days. If they want to pay the \$200.00 while they fix a main break or pump, we will give them service for that time. The service will remain locked off until they request it be turned on.

Vice Chairman Conner asked if we should have something in there in case something happens to their system while they are hooked to us and they try to blame damage or line break, a hold harmless. Mr. Parrott stated the document says meter, backflow and pressure reducer valve so they can set it with the same pressure that they have. This is one reason the Brooks acceptance is no problem. They have been running off of our pressure for almost two years. It has already been tested.

Mr. Krakeel stated we could have the county attorney add some language to the document. Mr. Parrot stated we could have a service agreement that would cover this situation. It is up to them to run the line to hook it up to our system. They will have to turn in plans to us and then we would approve them.

Vice Chairman Chip Conner made the motion to recommend to the Board of Commissioners adopting an Emergency Water Ordinance for Private Water Systems as presented by Mr. Parrott, with the county attorney reviewing and adding the language to cover liability for the County. Jack Krakeel seconded and there was no opposition.

There being no further business, Chairman Pete Frisina adjourned the meeting at 8:35 A.M.

Peter A. Frisina

The foregoing minutes were approved at the regular Water Committee meeting on the 9th day of June, 2010.

Lisa Quick