

**WATER COMMITTEE**  
**OCTOBER 24, 2012**  
**MINUTES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

James K “Chip” Conner, Vice Chairman  
Brian Cardoza

**ABSENT:**

Tony Parrott  
Pete Frisina, Chairman  
Jack Krakeel

**NON-VOTING MEMBERS:**

David Jaeger

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Russell Ray

**GUEST:**

Stephen Hogan

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Chip Conner at 8:00 A.M.

**I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 26, 2012.**

Tony Parrott made the motion and Brian Cardoza seconded, to approve the minutes from the meeting on September 26, 2012. There was no opposition.

**II. LAKE MCINTOSH UPDATE.**

David Jaeger reported that the Lake McIntosh project is nearing completion. In the last couple of weeks, the contractor has been installing the irrigation system on the dam. He showed a sketch of the dam and spillway, and the pump house; the irrigation pump will be inside the pump house; it will draw from the lake and pump the water through the distribution main (a 2” pipe with branches that go off into different zones of the dam). The areas to be irrigated are where sod is being installed currently. We will then have a way to keep the sod irrigated.

He went on to say the contractor has been working on completing the rip rap wave protection on the face of the dam; this is on the upstream side. Mr. Parrott stated that we learned from Lake Horton that we don’t know how low the lake will go. Mr. Jaeger said the entire front face of the dam is covered on both sides of the spillway, so the reservoir can go up and down pretty much the full level and we will have wave protection on the dam the whole way up and down.

Mr. Jaeger commented that the monitoring wells are being completed this week. These wells allow us to monitor the hydraulic surface of any seepage that is in the dam itself (the ground water in the dam). There are different locations for these wells and Safe Dams requires us to monitor them throughout the first year of filling the reservoir and operation of the reservoir, and beyond that if there are any issues. The wells are all in the front crest (the front edge) of the dam, and then the back edge of the dam and on the toe. You can see as the lake builds up how the water level inside the dam reacts. He pointed out on the photo markers that are part of

the internal drainage system. There are clean outs at the ends of the pipes, so that we can open it up and flush it out if necessary for a maintenance, precautionary type operation.

Mr. Jaeger then showed a photo of the subcontractor laying the sod; they began this yesterday and will be completed by Friday of this week. He said that we learned on the Lake Horton project in 1996 that Safe Dams requires us to compact these so tight that it is really difficult to grow grass on it. The compaction of the earth is so hard that it is a difficult proposition to get grass seed to take hold and be vibrant, especially when there is limited irrigation. He said that he proposed to Mr. Parrott that we go ahead and use sod on this project and have an irrigation system. Safe Dams liked the idea of having sod; it is easier to get going initially and then has a better durability as long as there is irrigation. The only requirement is that the irrigation system not be pressurized constantly. They don't want a pressurized system in the dam that could rupture and create a problem. Just during the operational period when the pump is running, there is no problem. After that it drains out and there is no pressure there. He said that we feel that we are going to have a much better system here and be able to maintain ground cover on the dam. This is something that Safe Dams looks at when they make their every other year inspection.

Mr. Parrott commented that he will now be talking about doing an irrigation system at Lake Horton, since now they will approve it.

Vice Chairman Conner asked if we are able to get any water right now. Mr. Jaeger said that what the contractor is planning to do, until the lake starts to build up is pump from the creek into the wet well of the pump station, close the gates off, fill the wet well full and then be able to pull from there; up until the point they can draw from the lake. Mr. Jaeger then showed a slide with the water level super imposed showing the full pool level, how the wave protection goes down all the way to the base and then the sod installation above the wave protection.

Mr. Jaeger commented that the contractor is in the final clearing operation, now, basically going in and clearing regrowth that has come up since the initial clearing operation. The lake bed is essentially stripped back down to bare earth.

Mr. Jaeger reported that the pump station project is essentially done. The only thing we have left to do is final startup of the equipment. We have to wait for the reservoir to fill high enough that we can test the pumps and make sure they meet the design criteria. He said this has also been a very successful project; both the dam project and the pump station project are under budget. They will be completed below the awarded contract amount.

Mr. Jaeger reported that the park project is still under construction. He pointed out on a photo the area outlined in blue is the main parking lot. All of the graded aggregate base and asphalt binder has been placed. The topping still has not been

placed. The red lines indicate the walking trail where the paths have already been paved; the green area remains ready for asphalt, but has not been done yet. The access road (he pointed out the area on the photo) will also be paved. The contractor is working on sub-grade preparation, and getting it ready for asphalt. He pointed out the rest room, the pavilion, the playground area, and the gazebo; all of these are also under construction. He pointed out the green line that indicates the force main from the septic system coming out of the rest room, a lift station and then pumped to an area where there are suitable soils for septic. The septic drain field will be installed in that area.

Mr. Jaeger showed the boat ramp and docks; that work is under way now. He pointed out the reinforcement that has been installed and the form work for the ramp. The pilot hole has been initially augured, the piles are set in there and then they will drive them in to meet the load requirements, and then cut off the tops at the final elevation. At this point, these are staged. He pointed out the drill rig in the photo. He showed the slab for the picnic pavilion, the asphalt parking area with sidewalks being constructed, and the foundation for the gazebo. More photos showed the rough in for the plumbing at the rest room, paving operation, curb and gutter and sidewalk forming. He pointed out an area that is a stormwater requirement by Peachtree City, when we went through their review; it is called a pre-treatment, an area where runoff flows in, and filters before it enters the lake. This is a way to help limit the amount of pollutants in the initial runoff and not running directly into the lake.

Mr. Jaeger commented that one thing Mr. Parrott wanted to talk about is the access road. He pointed out the red line that indicates the route of the access road in an aerial photograph; he also pointed out the runway for Falcon Field that was extended and the old access road prior to the project starting. He said that we have a portion of this that is planned to be paved along the frontage of the park down to a cul-de-sac. The remainder of it, currently is a gravel access road that was built with the intent of combining access for construction of the dam and the pump station and the park. There is now, more discussion between Public Works and the Water System about paving it. One of the things we need to have a conversation about is what exactly are we going to try to build here. He said that the design intent until now was an access road for construction. It is a twenty foot wide, compacted GAB road, but it was not designed for any county or city standard as far as shoulders, overall width of the paved surface, that type of thing. He said that he thinks the options are to recognize that it is, even though there is a park down here, it is not much more than an access road even if we pave it; just smooth it out and pave it at approximately twenty feet wide, which would be two ten foot lanes. This is narrower than a typical county standard road that would have twelve foot lanes, plus shoulders, or drop back and do some design work and try to bring it into compliance with standards as far as design grade, curve information, shoulders, pavement width, etc. Probably, that work would not take place until this spring, maybe even later, depending on scheduling.

**Mr. Parrott stated that we need to pave it, but to him, it is a driveway to the park. At one time it was going to be TDK Boulevard, Crosstown Road going to Coweta County. That is not what it is and that is not what it will ever be. Why would we spend money to make it a county road just down to the park when all we need is a driveway?**

**Vice Chairman Conner stated that he agrees. He asked if we are bound by any of Peachtree City's requirements. Mr. Parrott said that he does not think so, it is just access for the park, and it is not going to be a public road. We will gate it, we could gate it off at the entrance to the water plant if we wanted to. Vice Chairman Conner said we have a good base. Mr. Jaeger said this would be a cost to the Water System even though Public Works would be providing the labor and equipment to do the paving work; the Water System would be funding it.**

**Mr. Jaeger commented, to his knowledge, what is there now, the right-of-way is owned by the county. He said that he does not know of any need to comply with any requirement by the City.**

**Mr. Parrott stated that he will follow up on this item and then a decision can be made. He said that he does not want to spend Water System revenue on a county road that just goes to a park where all he needs is a driveway. He said the difference between paving a twenty foot driveway to a park and building a county road to the park is significant.**

**Mr. Jaeger mentioned that we are scheduled Friday morning to have final inspection by the Safe Dams Program at 10:00 a.m. He said that we don't anticipate any issues or problems. Once they sign off on it, we are free to close the gate any time we want. Even when we close the gate, we need to maintain the minimum release downstream.**

**Mr. Parrott stated that we have all the wetland stream credits and wetland credits necessary for the completion of the project.**

### **III. RESERVOIR UPDATE.**

**Mr. Parrott commented that we have a drought. He said that he requested from the Board at their meeting last Thursday permission to write the Director of the Environmental Protection Division; he sent a letter to Mr. Turner asking that we go to odd/even water restrictions. He said that he got an email response on Monday, then yesterday morning, they called to ask some additional questions. He said they have a checklist that they went over and we don't quite meet their checklist. One of the items is reservoir levels less than 30 days; we have more than 30 days, but we need to slow them up and we need to have water restrictions in place by springtime so that they stay slowed up. We started off the year with Lake Horton being about six feet low and this morning it was over fourteen feet low according to the SCADA system. He said that he does not believe that we are going**

to fill it up this winter. It does not appear that we are going to get that kind of rain and that kind of opportunity to pump out of the Flint River. The flow in the river is 16 cubic feet per second (cfs) this morning. We have to let 35 cfs go downstream so it has to be closer to 50 cfs for us to pump. That does not bode well for the future. He said that he is in hopes, after talking with the gentleman at EPD yesterday that we will have an answer tomorrow or Friday. They were quick to tell him that they have only issued six variances to the Georgia Water Stewardship Act.

#### **IV. LAKE PEACHTREE DREDGING.**

Mr. Jaeger explained that he has authorized the Environmental Consultant to proceed with the environmental study on the dredging project. One of the first things that was necessary was for him to get some back ground information to them; which he has done. Basically, topographic information of the lake and shoreline as well as some aerial photography with Stormwater Department helping with that through the County GIS system. He stated that moving forward he will report the status.

Mr. Parrott reported that there is interest from the property owners at Lake Peachtree to have it lowered so they can work on seawalls and docks. Tom Fulton is the head of the Lake Peachtree Association and he has done a poll. He found that 14 are interested in doing seawall work, 14 want to do dock repairs. We can pump Lake Peachtree down and have it two feet low, and maintain it that way without losing any water that amounts to anything. The only water that we would lose is if we had a two or three inch rain below Lake Kedron in the basin and we would have to let that amount of water off to maintain the two feet. Once we pump it down, we have used that two feet of water. We are not really losing anything other than run off below Lake Kedron. We can cut Lake Kedron back to maintain the flow in Lake Peachtree with us pumping out. If everything works just right, we can treat Lake Peachtree more or less like a “bathtub” unless we have a two or three inch rain.

Mr. Parrott explained that the agreement with Peachtree City requires both the Board of Commissioners and the City of Peachtree City to agree in lowering the lake. He said that it has been several years since we lowered the lake. He said that he is not opposed to doing it, even under the current water restrictions simply because we can do it without the loss of much water. The dredging project will not start up this winter, anyway.

Vice Chairman Conner stated that most of the property owners feel there is no urgency to it, according to the email Mr. Parrott received. He suggested waiting, let it ride and see what happens with the dredging; and do it after the lake is down for the dredging.

**COMMITTEE INFORMATION:**

**Mr. Parrott mentioned that the Army Corp is doing an update to their ACF River Basin; this notice is included in the information package for the Water Committee members to review.**

**There being no further business, Vice Chairman Chip Conner adjourned the meeting at 8:25 A.M.**

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**James K. Conner**

**The foregoing minutes were approved at the regular Water Committee meeting on the 15th day of November, 2012.**

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**Lisa Speegle**