

WATER COMMITTEE
MAY 22, 2013
MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Pete Frisina, Chairman
James K “Chip” Conner, Vice Chairman
Steve Rapson
Tony Parrott
Commissioner Steve Brown

ABSENT: Brian Cardoza

NON-VOTING MEMBERS: David Jaeger
Dennis Davenport

GUEST: Stephen Hogan, WASA
Frank Destadio, CH2MHILL

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 MAY 8, 2013.

Vice Chairman Chip Conner made the motion and Tony Parrott seconded, to approve the minutes from the meeting on May 8, 2013. There was no opposition.

II. LAKE MCINTOSH PARK UPDATE.

Tony Parrott reported that the Road Department is working on the driveway to the park. We have had some good weather and they are moving along. The cross drains are in. They had to make a small adjustment at the fence with the airport. He asked if the entire Board was ok with the June date for the ribbon cutting. Steve Rapson said he would forward the email to them again; just to confirm it is ok. Two of the Commissioners that he talked to said they were ok with it. The date is set for June 28 at 10:00 a.m. Landscaping is nearly complete. Mr. Jaeger said there are just some punch list items to complete on the landscaping.

Mr. Jaeger stated that Georgia Power energized the transformer to the septic lift station about a week and a half ago. The final inspection for the lift station is scheduled for today. Assuming that goes well and we get the punch list work done in a week we ought to be done.

Mr. Parrott said that the picnic tables, trash cans and the park benches have all been delivered. We have not installed them yet. This was a 35 year project that we are finishing up.

Chairman Frisina asked if all the pumps were working, does everything check out at the reservoir. Mr. Parrott responded that the chemical testing with the

equipment that we have to test at three different levels with the reservoir and tie it in with the SCADA system; staff has had training on it twice. There is still some part of it that is not synced, but this is the only thing. If we needed the water we could use the water, but we would have to hand sample. The permit has so many conditions to it; he said that he would just as soon wait until we have all the automation working.

III. MIEX UPDATE.

Mr. Jaeger stated that we have submitted our supplemental design plan for storage of the brine waste at the South Fayette Plant. It is under review now with EPD. Mr. Parrott explained that he sent an email Monday because it is so important to him that we get this thing going because there is such a benefit to using this additional treatment at both plants. The message he got back was it is still under review. Basically this is so that we can have flexibility on hauling the brine waste that is generated from the MIEX from the South Fayette Plant to provide it to WASA. He said that we are going to use the south lagoon at the plant to store and then we could pump. That way we have flexibility on delivery; it is a simple set of plans. Close off two valves and install a two inch line. He said we are waiting on the review. This will make a difference in how the operation works from our side. It does not put us on schedule to have to absolutely haul at 8:00 every morning; the flexibility it gives us is unbelievable.

Steve Rapson commented that Chairman Brown wants to have a meeting to talk specifically about the MIEX project. He said that he thinks he is hearing different views in regards to that project or not. He said that he thinks this is probably an off line meeting that we probably need to have.

IV. WATER QUALITY ISSUES.

Mr. Parrott reported that we have had taste and odor problems for three weeks. It appears to be all but gone. The calls yesterday were less than two dozen. Mr. Rapson said that the Chairman did not get any calls at all yesterday. Mr. Parrott stated that we have a list of suggestions from EPD; and a list of concurrences from EPD that we are going to work through.

Mr. Rapson commented that they walked around with EPD; they had our friends from WASA, as well as we hired Stuart from CH2MHILL. They walked around the entire treatment plant, did several tests and analysis; Russell Ray was also with them. He said that he thinks they finally got everything under control and we are working with Stuart implementing all the recommendations from EPD. Right now everybody seems to be moving in the same direction. He said that he thinks we have overcome that issue. He said that he thinks there are operational procedures we ought to put in place, maybe some protocols we ought to address and put those in place so that we can make sure it does not happen again.

Mr. Parrott stated that one of the other things with this is that the Chairman wanted some kind of protocol for press releases and notifications. Mr. Rapson said that he thinks what he wants is for us to develop, as part of the SOP and the protocols, when we have these types of events what is our communication aspect of it. How do we communicate that to the rate payers as well as the public in general? He said that he thinks that is part of the SOP and the protocols that he thinks we want to put in place. Again, that is us working hand in hand with Tony and Russell in developing those. Pull in all the experts, the folks from your team moving forward. He said that he thought the article today in The Citizen pretty well summed up what the approach has been and the fact that we turned the corner. From a public perspective he thinks we have kind of turned a corner. He went on to say that the odd insight that he had was there were a lot of restaurants that had no clue that there was a problem because of their filtration systems that they have in the stores. Noticeably, ChicFila and Johnny's Pizza, those type of things; when he sees these other things on other doors he does not want to name the restaurants, he thought that was interesting. He said that he thinks the restaurants is what kind of gets people stirred up.

Chairman Frisina said that some of the restaurants must have a filter system that would alleviate this problem. Mr. Rapson said apparently so, he did not realize this at the time, but the water comes in and they have filtration systems before it goes to their Coca-Cola and even the carbonated drinks have some water associated with them. ChicFila and Johnny's Pizza are two that he is aware of had no idea what all the fuss was about. They did not have any of those issues; where the restaurant across the street did. Their filtration system was enough to eliminate the musty taste and smell. Mr. Parrott said that he had guys ask him at church on Sunday; they said they did not know he was having problems. They live in downtown Peachtree City, off Kelly Drive, McIntosh Trail, that area right through there.

Stephen Hogan stated that down south, down toward their office they did not have an issue. Mr. Parrott said that it was spotty.

Mr. Destadio asked if he could make a comment and he was told yes. He said that he thinks a lot of it is they are trying to sell water. He said that he lives in Peachtree City and he went into restaurants and they tried to tell them the water tastes bad and you can buy water. They said they preferred to have the tap water and it was fine. He said the he lives up in Interlochen and he does not have any problem with the water. Some of that may be them just trying to sell a bottle of water.

Chairman Frisina asked if this did not happen about ten years ago. Mr. Parrott said that it has been at least that long. Mr. Rapson commented that ten years ago we had half the population. Chairman Frisina asked how long it lasted then years ago; and Mr. Parrott said that it lasted a week to ten days. Mr. Hogan mentioned that this time last year Lake Peachtree had a fish kill. Mr. Rapson said that one comment that was asked in the paper was how it impacts economics. Mr. Rapson said that he thinks that the answer we got that we helped draft with CH2MHILL

was that it was an isolated incident. In regards to the severity of the taste and odor, and quite frankly all systems combat that type of issue seasonally to begin with. He said that he certainly understands more of the operations at the Crosstown plant that he ever cared to learn. He said that his hat is off to everybody that made it happen. It was refreshing for him to see EPD, CH2MHILL, WASA, our plant operators, the senior leadership, the Chairman, himself all basically there to address the issue. Everybody was coming together working as a team. That was good.

Mr. Rapson said that all the EPD recommendations are systematically being implemented and working in conjunction with our consultant that we hired specifically to resolve this issue, CH2MHILL, and then after all that is said and done, we will decide whether step 2 is an assessment, or further assessment of the 2 facilities and then we will work with staff to develop protocols and standard operating procedures and press notifications and communications and all that. He said that he thinks all that is just internal to the operations of the plant itself. He said they will be working directly with Tony now that he is back.

Mr. Destadio mentioned that when these things happen the Chamber of Commerce can get involved and help on the economic picture.

Mr. Jaeger mentioned that he was at a conference over the weekend in Jekyll Island with Georgia Rural Water Association. He said that he had some conversations with folks in that conference; there are multiple entities, water treatment systems, municipalities, etc. that have experienced similar situations in the past month. It is obviously seasonal, some of it may be weather related with the amount of moisture we have had in the last three to four months. It is not unique to Fayette County, it seems to be something that multiple plants and operators have been dealing with.

Mr. Rapson said just like anything when you have this type of thing and you start having the scrutiny, he said that it highlights issues that we currently have with ongoing maintenance, those types of issues. Maybe they ratchet it up a notch, in his mind it is all in the cycle. If nothing else, we will get some stuff done quicker than we would have done on a normal cycle.

MARSHALS

Mr. Rapson commented that most people understand that we have taken the Marshals from eleven folks down to three. Tony has always had the Marshals patrolling the water facilities, as well as the parks and all that kind of stuff. Nothing is going to change in that regard, in regards to their level of service other than now Tony is probably going to have a little bit more direct control in regards to the activities than maybe he had in the past. He said that he thinks if anything it is going to improve those patrols and security measures as well. He said they are in the process of working through integrating them July 1.

Mr. Parrott commented that the Marshals office will become a section of the Water System. To start with we will have three of them that are patrolling the reservoirs, handling the fish and wildlife citations, and security at the plants, insurance investigations on occasion that we have. He told the story of one of the best things that Marshals do for us is this guy drives over a meter lid with a \$3,000.00 lawn mower and calls and says that it was our fault. We send a guy out there, dressed nice, with a black truck and he pulls out a pad and asks “What did you do”. Then he says “I drove over the meter lid”. Then he is asked “don’t you understand that when you read the instructions with the lawn mower it says don’t drive over rocks and metal”. At that point we don’t have these claims for the lawn mower. The value there is just unbelievable. Mr. Rapson agreed. Mr. Parrott said that you have a better qualified individual handling the situation.

Mr. Rapson stated that they still retain their post designation so they will still carry badges and guns, and have the same responsibilities and the same authority that a police department would have.

Mr. Parrott commented that we have wetland sites in several adjoining counties and they go down there for different things, hunting, vandalism, whatever; it works out so much better that way. We were already paying for a portion of the department. Budget wise is not that big of an increase.

Commissioner Steve Brown entered the meeting. Mr. Rapson explained that the grand opening at Lake McIntosh Park is June 28. Mr. Rapson said he will send that to the “guys” to make sure that date is still good since he did not hear anything back. He went on to say that we are going to have a meeting off site to talk about the MIEX project with him.

Commissioner Brown asked where we are with the MIEX project. Mr. Parrott stated that we are waiting on the State to approve one additional change we had to the plans. He said that he emailed them Monday and got a response back that they are reviewing that change where we are wanting to use the south lagoon for the storage so that we can truck it from the south lagoon to the WASA plant.

Commissioner Brown commented that he has gotten some feedback from some people who are water experts. When he said that we are going into this system, they shake their head. He said that he found this out from talking to all these folks through the water problems we have been having, but they are like, why are you doing that? There is a lot cheaper way to accomplish this and apparently the MIEX system requires some technical level of expertise to run the thing and keep it up and going and it ends up being a little more difficult of a process that some other ways you can do it; and a lot cheaper. Commissioner Brown went on to say that he does not know if we are so far into this that we can’t get out of it, at what point we are at in the process. Based on the comments that he has heard, apparently Gadsden Alabama just put theirs in and they are about to pull their hair out trying to use the thing. So, he thinks we need to take a serious look at this. He said that he thinks it

is imperative that we do it. He asked “are we so far in the process that we couldn’t get out of it if we needed to?”

Mr. Parrott told him that he can change direction on anything. Mr. Rapson stated that we have not written the eight million dollar check, if that is the question. Commissioner Brown said yes, that is what he is asking. Mr. Parrott stated that we have spent three years in the review of what would be the best to use for the treatment of the water at both plants to the point where we did pilot tests using it against different other options. We tried different other options at the plant, it is not like we did not do due diligence to get to the point.

Mr. Rapson said that what he is saying is he thinks we need to pull all that information together, sit down and talk. Be prepared to sit and down and talk from start to finish, where we are, what we have spent, how far we have progressed, where we are in the expenditure in that particular project. Sit down and have a conversation about it.

Commissioner Brown said that we also need to explore what the alternatives are, there are definitely some alternatives out there, he has been told by people in the business there are alternatives and if there are lesser expensive alternatives that get you the same level of treatment or better he thinks we need to look at that.

Vice Chairman Conner made the comment that we have already done this once. Commissioner Brown said that he has not been through it, though. He said that he would like to go through it. The only thing that has come to him was, this is the system you need to use and he has been talking to people who are in this business now and they have got real problems with this system, real problems with this system.

Mr. Rapson said that we need to sit down and have a conversation and educate us from start to finish, where we are. He said that this is not the place to do it. Let’s set that up and we will have a conversation about it. As far as water quality, he said that he talked about we are all going to get together internally and start coming up with SOP’s all the stuff me and you and Tony discussed the other day. Start to solidify that and putting that down on paper, SOP’s, protocols.

Commissioner Brown said that communication has got to improve two hundred and fifty percent. He said that he is serious, it has got to improve. One big gap we had in there was Tony was obviously not here, he ended up having to talk to the press about things and he is literally trying to extract information out of the system to try to figure out what it is we are supposed to say and how we are supposed to say it. We have got to come up with a system where we can better communicate and its possible, he said this thing could be a great awakening for us, but look at cross training some of these folks that are working in these plants, and making sure we’ve got a higher level of proficiency in some of these areas. Because if you had something like a pandemic or some sort of emergency and five people can’t show up

at the plant one day for whatever reason, we've got to keep the water running and he said that he thinks this has been a case where maybe it was good that it was this type of situation that makes us look at some of these things. It wasn't something that was really bad, it was just something that is causing us to wake up and look at what all of our alternatives are.

Mr. Rapson said that is what staff is going to do. They are going to start developing those protocols and as we get them developed we will run them by. Mr. Parrott stated that he would have them on the agenda.

Commissioner Brown asked where we are in working with Mr. Jeffcoat. What is the process for working with the consultant; how are we handling that in our system. Mr. Parrott stated that they are down today doing samples, we have somebody taking him around to the different raw water intakes, catch the samples. He needed additional information about the sludge and additional information about our disposals which we have taken care of. As he asks for information, we have provided it. We are moving with the schedule that he has.

Commissioner Brown asked if the disposal of the sludge is on track. Mr. Rapson said yes.

Commissioner Brown commented that we would be remiss if we did not say this; he thanked Stephen Hogan for all his help, we really appreciate him stepping in and providing us some assistance. Mr. Hogan commented that we are all in this together.

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 26th day of June, 2013.

Lisa Speegle