

WATER COMMITTEE

JULY 24, 2013

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Pete Frisina, Chairman
James K “Chip” Conner, Vice Chairman
Brian Cardoza
Steve Rapson
Tony Parrott
Commissioner Steve Brown

NON-VOTING MEMBERS:

David Jaeger
Dennis Davenport

GUESTS:

Stephen Hogan, WASA
Pam Young, Southern Conservation Trust
Tom Fulton, Lake Peachtree Association
Frank Distadeo, 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 JULY 10, 2013.

Vice Chairman Chip Conner made the motion and Commissioner Steve Brown seconded, to approve the minutes from the meeting on July 10, 2013. There was no opposition.

II. REQUEST FROM LAKE PEACHTREE ASSOCIATION TO LOWER LAKE PEACHTREE.

Mr. Parrott introduced Tom Fulton, President of the Lake Peachtree Association. Mr. Fulton explained that it has been several years since the lake has been lowered and there have been quite a few requests from home owners to do seawall repairs, dock repairs, and dock construction. He said that they wanted to come forward and see if there would be a good time acceptable to lower the lake. They are looking, presumably, the end of this year or January, February and March of 2014. Three months is the request to give them time to get the work done. This is the same as it was done in the past.

Mr. Parrott explained that the agreement with Peachtree City requires the request be to Peachtree City and for the Board of Commissioners to also concur with it. It takes both bodies approval. The part now that is much easier than it was in the past is that in the past the 4 million gallons per day that we got out of Lake Peachtree was important every day. November through March, for a schedule, we can work off of Lake McIntosh, depending on what our pumping looks like at the water plant, it is not near as difficult to work around as it was in the past. To operate the pump station and lower the lake three feet was difficult, because it is not really a “bathtub”. Even if we lower it three feet, if we get a four inch rain, we can’t keep it down. He said that everybody working out there needs to understand they can’t leave their materials lying out there in the lake bed. We had some of that before, no

matter what we do on regulating the flow, there is no way that drain on that lake will handle what is coming in.

Vice Chairman Conner commented that three to five feet is generally needed. It takes about five feet to expose enough of the shoreline to do the work.

Commissioner Brown asked what the depth of the lake is. Mr. Parrott responded that it is about seventeen feet at the pump station. Commissioner Brown asked about the shore, how far away are we receding. Mr. Parrott said that they need the area dry where they are working.

Mr. Rapson asked about lowering the lake as part of the dredging project. Vice Chairman Conner said no, you need full pool for a dredging. Vice Chairman Conner asked Mr. Fulton if he has checked on any events that would be affected. Mr. Fulton said the triathlon and then the dragon boat races are the last ones. The dragon boats races are in September.

Mr. Rapson asked if our dredging project is coming up in that time frame, would this slow up the dredging project if we lower it three months, we would have to wait for it to get back to full pool? Vice Chairman Conner said that we would if the dredging is done by a pump, then you would want full pool. Mr. Rapson said that timing might actually work due to the time required for the bid process.

Mr. Parrott stated that he has Lake Peachtree dredging as the next item to discuss because the plan is to add the dredging project to the RFQ that we have out for consulting engineer for the Water System, just add that project engineering and management to that. In doing that, that is going to be in the future, too. We don't have a real good schedule on the dredging, anyway. He said that we have clearance from the Corp that we don't have to have a permit from them, so we are at the point where we need to have somebody do the quantities, the bid, and get the contractor.

Mr. Parrott stated that if the Water Committee is agreeable for January to March next year for the lowering, then he will send the note to Peachtree City, and let them start. Then they will send the request to the Board and he will get the request on the Board's agenda, and get both of them to approve.

Commissioner Brown asked if January to March is the ideal time. Mr. Parrott said that if we push it to that, then there would be a chance that we could get the dredging project in this year. Then, if not, the dredging would start next March or the first of April. Either way, we can't get both of them at the same time.

Commissioner Brown asked in March, with spring coming, would we have an increase in demand for water. Just thinking, what if we had something happen and we needed to pull from Lake Peachtree. Mr. Parrott said that Lake McIntosh is 10.4 million gallons a day, which is more than enough to offset. Chairman Frisina mentioned that we also have City of Atlanta as backup.

Steve Rapson made a motion to approve Mr. Parrott contacting City of Peachtree City about lowering Lake Peachtree during January, February and March 2014 for the request from Lake Peachtree Association for seawall repairs, dock repairs and dock construction. Once Peachtree City responds, the request will then go to the Board of Commissioners for approval. Vice Chairman Conner seconded and there was no opposition. The committee concurred on this item.

Chairman Frisina said that if you lower the water from January to March, you are assuming that come spring, spring rains come in and hopefully it fills back up.

III. LAKE PEACHTREE DREDGING.

Mr. Rapson stated that he agrees with Mr. Parrott that this will be added to the PM (project management) services and add it to the RFQ that is currently out on the street. Mr. Parrott commented that part of the dredging also includes Peachtree City wanting to do the tributaries and including the work that they wanted to do. He said he would get them a copy of the notice. Whenever the dredging is done, there will have to be some kind of agreement with Peachtree City and our contractor to handle part of what they want done with the dredging. This will all come up in the future.

Mr. Rapson said that we will have to do an IGA (Intergovernmental Agreement) with Peachtree City for use of the park. Mr. Parrott said this will be easier this time, since the City wants to dredge tributaries. Since the contractor we will be using will need part of their site, if they want the tributaries dredged by our contractor we will have to work together on a site to mobilize.

Mr. Jaeger commented that we had some discussion with Peachtree City when we were going through the initial planning and permitting. He said we gave them some options as far as using the sediment to build islands or shore restoration, they decided they preferred to have it done like we did last time. They are on board with the plan; he said that Dave Borkowski is who he dealt with directly. Mr. Jaeger said that he understood that Mr. Borkowski discussed it with the elected officials.

Mr. Fulton commented that this was discussed at a City Council meeting a few months ago. He said that he thought they had a good consensus at that meeting, and they were ok with Drake Field. He said that it is certainly the Lake Association's preference.

IV. MIEX UPDATE.

Mr. Jaeger reported that Orica is wrapping up their in-house test and sending samples to UL Labs in Indiana for the seven day disinfection byproduct testing. They expect the results back the first week of August.

Frank Distadio commented that they are pretty much done with all the testing as well. They are sending it off to their lab in Utah. He said that he thinks the first

week in August is probably when they will be finished. He said they were getting some good results, and they have been working closely together to make sure they have taken the samples from the same site at the same time.

V. LAKE MCINTOSH PARK RULE UPDATE.

Mr. Parrott explained with the opening of the new park we have some little things that need work. We don't have enough signs; automobiles were on the walking trails. We need more signs about the parking fee. The county has a leash law that says you have to put a rope around the dog's neck to walk him around. People think they can let the dogs run free and he has already had some complaints from a couple of ladies that people don't pick up after their dogs.

Commissioner Brown suggested putting some bag stations along the paths. Mr. Parrott said there are two stations at the beginning of the path as you leave out of the parking lot. He said we probably ought to put two more stations in. Commissioner Brown said that people forget the bag when they start out, then the dog poops and then they never go back. Mr. Rapson commented that people who are going to pick up the poop have bags when they show up.

Mr. Parrott said that another problem is we don't have the maintenance staff to keep this thing pristine like some of them think we ought to. We don't go every day. We try to alternate the days because of the staff we have. There is going to be a certain amount of grumbling because the trash can is half full.

Mr. Rapson commented that this would be a good location to put a big belly trash can. Mr. Parrott said that he is more than willing. Mr. Rapson explained that big belly are trash cans that are like a normal trash can, they have a solar panel on top and they are actually a building compactor so you can get five times the amount of trash in them. When it gets full, it sends you a signal to tell you to empty it. So instead of having people go by every day looking at the trash, you can just pull it out and it will tell you. You see them way out in the middle of nowhere so that people can service them as they need to be serviced. These types of locations are perfect for that.

Mr. Parrott stated that Savannah has some at Ellis Square. Mr. Rapson said that you can do your own logos and put them on the sides.

Mr. Parrott reported that there is a lot of interest in the islands. He introduced Pam Young, from Southern Conservation Trust. They have passed on some information; there was a swing on the island already, with a teepee that was built. The Marshals got the swing down; they not only had a swing, but were swinging out into the water and drop off into the water. He said that the islands are going to be a problem. He referred to an incident report about the island at Lake Kedron. There is also an island in Lake Peachtree and in Lake Horton. At Lake Kedron we had five young people who thought they could camp out. It wound up being difficult to get them back in. They went out in kayaks.

Mr. Parrott went on to say that we are going to have to put up additional signage for the people who are going out in kayaks and canoes. They don't understand that they have to have a life jacket. He said we are going to add some additional signage at the boat ramp about that. He said that we really don't have a weather warning system. He said that he was down there Sunday and a storm was rolling in. You could see the clouds coming in. Two young people were unloading their boat to go out. The storm was all but there and they were ready to go out. One of the Marshals was down there and he explained to them that there was a weather alert out. They said they weren't going far. Mr. Parrott said that he checked back later and the Marshal said they did not go far because the young lady with him turned him around and they came back. They did not go far at all.

Commissioner Brown asked where the nearest tornado siren is; there is one in Peachtree City and you can program them for different things. Mr. Rapson said they have the poor man's version of the tornado warning now. He said he knows it sounds funny, but they pull their fire engines out and they light them off for two or three minutes. They have a different horn call that they use.

Mr. Parrott said that Southern Conservation Trust is north of us. He said that Pam Young has some information. Mrs. Young commented as with anything, and you probably already know this with all the parks and reservoirs you currently have, social trails happen. What they are starting to see; she said they have volunteers who go out to all of their sites and help; this is how they have some information to share. People go where they want to go. When there aren't dedicated trails or for golf carts or whatever, they just make a social trail. She said what they have been observing is that folks are starting to think that the park there needs to be connected to the Line Creek Park. That is not the plan. She said they wanted to come and see how they can help or be of assistance in making sure that we don't have issues that involves these social trails happening. Even though you have easements, there are residents, the golf course is there. All this is taken into account. That is just the nature of what people do; she said that they get it in all their parks.

Mr. Rapson asked if they want a trail. Mrs. Young said they would not mind, if there was the inclination to put one in if we got cooperation and partnership with the golf course and all those land owners through the easements. They have volunteers that could do a dedicated trail, but the question is, do we want to do that and just for awareness, it could be an issue down the road.

Mr. Parrott stated that the county actually owns the property. We have property that is above the water all the way down, but then you have the golf course. He said he does not know if the golf course would have a willingness to have a public trail through the golf course.

Commissioner Brown said their big thing is they had this big thing with the subdivision for a while. They neighbors starting walking on the paths, if somebody shanks one or something and it almost hits somebody in the head, that is their thing, the liability issues, just getting hit by the golf balls. That is their biggest fear. He said that he does not think they would mind otherwise.

Mr. Rapson said that there are regular people that are using the golf course trail system to just get around that are around Planterra. He said that he noticed while they were playing, there were four or five families coming through. He noticed for the first time, the golf course that he is next to, at Flat Creek they have signs saying "No Trespassing". This is the first time he has ever seen those. They just put them up within the last week or two.

Commissioner Brown mentioned that people let their dogs run on the golf course and a request has been made for people not to do this. They don't really have a lot of real estate; the fairways abut right up to some of the yards. He said that it would be really tight and he does not think they would give it to you on the fairway side. There is a possibility you could hook the trail into where the path comes in at Planterra; you go through Planterra to the path and come back out on the other side. You actually get on the multi-use path system there, get off a trail, get on the path system and then pick it back up on the other side.

Mr. Rapson said at Sandy Springs they had the same problem with the river. They ultimately decided to put in a trail because at least they could control it somewhat. It is going to be a trail, whether you want it or not. You end up having homeowners put up illegal fences on your right of way, and then all of a sudden we are the bad guys taking fences down. That is eventually where it will head. He said nothing has to be decided today.

Mrs. Young commented that they wanted to come and say, ok, we are already observing this, how can we be pro-active. At least start a discussion with any of the parties that we need to, so that everybody is covered from a liability, do the best that we can for the whole community.

Commissioner Brown said that he already has an intern who is looking at golf cart access to the lake park; what the best way to bring it in from Peachtree City would be. He is working on some different things like that; maybe we can just broaden that and see if he can find a way further back.

Mr. Parrott added that a vendor contacted one of the Marshal's, he rents boats. He doesn't rent boats at the site, but he rents boats in Peachtree City, delivers them to the site and then loads for whoever rents the boat. It is a paddle boat type of thing, water cycle. He said it might be something we could consider looking at; having a vendor on site and have that vendor handle part of the maintenance and part of the rule enforcement, provided we wanted to provide him a site to be there. We could bid it out, see who is interested in what we would allow them to do. It would be

fairly economical, since we already have the restrooms there. Whoever it would be, we would just need to have some kind of space to store what he is renting. We would not let him keep them in the water anyway. He would have to take them in and out.

Mr. Rapson said in Sandy Springs they did the kayak rental and it seemed to work well. All they had to do was put in a phone line down there for them. They had a small building they kept all the kayaks in. They would open and they would close, and they were there Monday through Saturday and gave them a presence that they did not have before. It was not a huge revenue producer, but we were more concerned with having a presence on location. If you go to one of the parks at Sandy Springs, you go by the golf course and then you go way down a hill and you are in the middle of nowhere on the other side of the dam. People kayak up and there is an easement to the dam where they can pick their kayak up and come around. This guy started renting kayaks, and he was still there when he left.

Commissioner Brown said that it is not a bad thing to have. Mr. Rapson commented that if we do it there, then you have other places those types of folks want to go. The question is where you put them. Mr. Parrott said that we don't have much property; the park is less than ten acres. He said that we discussed this at Lake Horton, but since Lake Horton can drop sixteen feet, the interest in winding up with a summer season where you could not even get to the water was not appealing. We had over two years that Lake Horton was not full. Lake McIntosh may not be as bad. It will still drop, but we will not know until we have a dry period.

Mr. Rapson said that he would talk to Recreation because this is really in their area of expertise and have them reach out to folks that have these types of things and find out the pros and cons. Mr. Parrott commented the Water System always handles all the parks with the Water System, we didn't involve Recreation. Mr. Rapson said that he is more inclusive. Chairman Frisina commented that Mr. Rapson has experience with this already and they worked with a vendor. He asked if they put it out to bid. Mr. Rapson said they put it out for an RFP turn around; there are just three or four folks that do this kind of thing. Chairman Frisina said that if this is something we are in favor of, he thinks that is something we need to look at.

Mr. Rapson said we could look at it, evaluate it, maybe bring it back for a recommendation if it is something we are interested in doing. Chairman Frisina said that it looks like we have more interest in Lake McIntosh right now than we do at Lake Horton; for people just wanting to get in with kayaks and canoes.

Mr. Parrott commented that the fishing at Lake Horton has been outstanding. They have actually had some fishing tournaments. The other week, he saw a picture of a young fellow that had three bass that averaged out to six pounds apiece. The fishing is pretty good, now that the water is back up.

Chairman Frisina commented that Peachtree City is sitting right next to Lake McIntosh, so we have 45,000 people sitting right there. Commissioner Brown said they have a great population; they all want to go. He said that he has had more complaints about the road to the park being closed. People want to get in there. Mr. Parrott said we only closed it the two days with the four inches of rain.

Mr. Rapson said that he would look into this. Mr. Jaeger asked Mr. Parrott if we had someone that came to Water Committee that wanted to open a bait shop at Lake Horton. He said for discussion, we might want to consider what limits there might be on that kind of operation, if it is more than just boat rental.

Commissioner Brown said with bait shops, you generally have to have electricity and all that kind of stuff to run your aeration. Vice Chairman Conner said you would not even have to have a phone line nowadays. Commissioner Brown said with boat rental, you bring them, drop them, pull them, get out of there and you don't even know they have been there.

Mr. Rapson said we are either going to manage a kiosk type, something like that; or we are going to be dealing with a vendor dropping boats off. Chairman Frisina commented that depending on how they operate, they may just pull a trailer down there.

Mr. Rapson commented that if you get the right vendor there, it becomes an asset because you have some eyes on the park right there. You don't have to worry about did the park get trashed this Saturday or not, because you have somebody there. They can pick the phone up and call the Marshal, almost like an additional staff person that you are not paying.

Mr. Parrott said that if we do this, we ought to see if we can get some kind of maintenance out of them. Mr. Rapson agreed. Mr. Parrott said that money we might get out of it would not offset the fact that we only have so much staff in order to do what all we are doing.

NOTICE OF VIOLATION AND GEORGIA OPERATOR ARTICLE.

Mr. Parrott stated that he has talked to several people about our Notice of Violation on the total trihalomethanes. None of them wrote, but they chatted on the phone a long time. As part of the notice in the package he said he talked about previously, the Lead and Copper for Brooks for back when we took Brooks on, the next month, DNR, in their wisdom sent the sample bottles to the Town of Brooks and did not bother to give them to us. Now, three years later we find out that we did not do samples and we got a Notice of Violation. We are collecting samples next month that will put us back on the three year cycle for Lead and Copper in Brooks. Even DNR did not notice for three years.

Mr. Parrott explained that the committee was given a copy of the Georgia Operator that is put out by the Georgia Association of Water Professionals with an article in it about Lake McIntosh.

Commissioner Brown commented that Paul Lentz who writes in the paper quite frequently wrote a letter related to the notices that came out in the mail. He said that he had submitted it and it was pretty bad. He had looked up all this stuff in Wikipedia or something and said they were using industrial solvents and all these things show up. Of course, he is talking about industrial spills that may have occurred that we are not talking about and all kinds of things like this. He said that he wrote back and copied the newspapers on it, he said, look, the thing said, if you had any questions, to call Tony Parrott. Commissioner Brown said that he gave Mr. Parrott's email and phone number again. Then he also suggested that they could probably call EPD, the Water Quality Division, call them to see what the real health risks are. He said that he has not seen it in the newspaper, but that doesn't mean it may not come out in the newspaper. He was really on the far end of his fact finding tour. He was talking about real nasty, nasty stuff in the water and all kinds of things. Commissioner Brown went on to say that we will have to see how that plays out.

Mr. Rapson commented that The Citizen had an article about the NOV in it. It was fairly accurate. They basically quoted our letter that we sent out, so it was fine.

Mr. Parrott stated that we are going to do that same notice next quarter and the quarter after that. Commissioner Brown said that he thinks it is good that we got that out there and we did get that in the newspapers. The newspapers know they are going to see it the next time. At least we are ahead of it, instead of reacting to it.

Mr. Parrott said that he is trying to schedule with EPD, so that the next notice will give us more than a thirty day window. Inserting the notice in the water bills instead of mailing them separately saves additional postage and on top of that it is additional work on the staff. Since we do inserts for different people, WASA and others; we may have to adjust that schedule.

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

Peter A. Frisina

The foregoing minutes were approved at the regular Water Committee meeting on the 28th day of August, 2013.

Lisa Speegle