

WATER COMMITTEE
JANUARY 8, 2014
MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Pete Frisina, Chairman
James K “Chip” Conner, Vice Chairman
Steve Rapson
Lee Pope
Commissioner Steve Brown

NON-VOTING MEMBERS:

Dennis Davenport
Frank Destadio

GUEST:

David Linville

STAFF PRESENT:

Russell Ray
Lem Miller

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

I. ELECTION OF CHAIR.

Chip Conner nominated Pete Frisina as Chair of the Water Committee.
Steve Rapson seconded and there was no opposition.

II. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR.

Pete Frisina nominated Chip Conner as Vice Chair of the Water Committee.
Steve Rapson seconded and there was no opposition.

III. APPROVAL OF 2014 MEETING SCHEDULE.

Vice Chairman Chip Conner made the motion to recommend to the Board of Commissioners to accept the 2014 meeting schedule as presented. Steve Rapson seconded and there was no opposition.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING ON DECEMBER 11, 2013.

Vice Chairman Chip Conner made the motion and Lee Pope seconded, to approve the minutes from the meeting on December 11, 2013. There was no opposition.

V. PARKING FEES AT LAKE HORTON AND LAKE MCINTOSH.

Mr. David Linville spoke to the committee on this subject. He said that he is trying to host a sailboat regatta at Lake McIntosh. He presented a photo of one of the boats to the group. He said they could bring in twenty to thirty guys from out of state. He said that he is asking for the fee of \$10.00 a day to be waived for the weekend. It will be all day Saturday and half a day Sunday on August 2 and 3, 2014.

Commissioner Brown asked if he is asking to waive the fee for the competitors. He questioned if we could give them some kind of waiver they can put on their dash board. Mr. Rapson said that if we are in essence going to sponsor the event we can just waive the parking fees for those two days. Commissioner Brown suggested waiving the fee for the competitors, if somebody else wants to come and watch they can pay the fee if they are coming from Coweta County.

Mr. Linville explained that this is a national class; they sail all over the southeast and the country. This will be part of what they call the Dixie Cup. They have six different regattas – Atlanta, the northside is at Lake Allatoona each year. They are trying to start hosting one down here, and are trying to find a suitable spot to sail. He said they sailed the number 2 pond in the Braelinn Golf Course, but there are no facilities and no parking. He said that it is called the Peachtree City Regatta.

Vice Chairman Conner asked how many people we are talking about. Mr. Linville said that typically at regional events, they might get 30 give or take a couple. Anybody is welcome to come out and watch. He said they are trying to find a good place that this can be an annual event for them.

Mr. Rapson asked how soon he would know who the participants are. If we were to issue a special use permit for that day, how many would we have to issue? Then we would make it their responsibility to get it to the right people. Mr. Linville said that he could put out the registrations and then a month ahead of time he could know, possibly the first of July. Mr. Rapson said we could instruct the Marshals that there is a one day pass; it will be on the dash board.

Mr. Linville went on to say that their other pond options are the pond in Senoia by the library or the park in Griffin.

Commissioner Brown suggested putting this on the Board of Commissioners agenda, maybe the month prior. Boost it up a little bit, talk it up a little bit. Mr. Linville could come to the meeting and tell them about it. Mr. Linville commented they only have twelve or thirteen guys that actually participate and they are always open to more guys coming out.

Mr. Rapson mentioned that parking fees will be discussed over the next couple of months. At the appropriate time the Water Committee should make its recommendation to the Board for a special use permit for this purpose.

Sergeant Lem Miller explained that there are a lot of fishing tournaments at Lake Horton. He said that he is assuming it will spread to Lake McIntosh. They pay the parking fee just like everybody else. Mr. Rapson said to do a waiver; we would have to do something special. Chairman Frisina stated that we do not charge anyone for having a tournament in our lakes. Sergeant Miller said no, as of right now there is no tournament fee, no charge to the club or anything like that. Mr.

Rapson stated that those are things we are going to be discussing as we move through the budget process. One thing they are talking about doing is right now the parking fees are isolated to the water parks that we have. He said they are talking about expanding that county wide. If we do that, we probably would pull that parking fee down. It would generate extra revenue, that extra revenue would be designated to go to perhaps hiring other Marshals or whatever the Board decides to do with it. Ultimately, it is not a whole lot of money, but it is enough money maybe to hire another person.

Chairman Frisina commented that for some of the events we might want to consider having something there too, because that puts a lot of people in that park at one time. If we are going to have special events, this puts a strain on county facilities. We may want to think about doing something. Mr. Rapson said there have been some discussions about taking the water parks and moving them up under the oversight authority of the Recreation Director, then do the same thing we do everywhere else. Right now, if you want to have a gazebo at McCurry Park or Kenwood Park you have to reserve it. Right now that does not exist for the water parks, so there are some inconsistencies in regards to how we do gazebos, pavilions and those types of things. He said that he thinks that all that is going to be comprehensively looked at and then a decision is going to be made on how we are going to treat them.

Mr. Rapson went on to say for something like this that is being proposed, at best there should be some nominal tournament fee. We are a little different because most of the tournaments that are conducted today at the county are done through the associations and our relationships with the associations. The associations get the tournament fees, but in that regard those associations do things on the fields to maintain the fields. He said that he is not sure this association would be big enough to warrant that kind of relationship, so it may just be a one-time fee.

Chairman Frisina commented that bass tournaments are sponsored by some organization, they just say go to Lake Horton, or go to Lake McIntosh. We don't really have a relationship with them.

Mr. Rapson said if they are going to use those particular reservoirs, regardless of what their function is, there should be some type of relationship between the county and that organization. The last thing we want is to basically know they are having a fishing tournament, us not do anything and then someone falls over the side of a boat and drowns.

Mr. Davenport stated that if you have a for profit event, you may want to classify that differently. Mr. Destadio mentioned that there have been some events in Peachtree City that have started to ask for zoning changes to allow the food trucks to come in. They have brought it to the Planning Commission several times, like over at Drake Field for the Dragon Boat Races. He said they had to change the zoning initially to allow them to have that one day. There is a fee for it. If you have

something that is going to draw people, the pavilions and all that are not big enough. He said some of those food trucks do pretty good, and wind up paying a nice fee back to the City.

Mr. Rapson said when you are looking at Drake Field comparing it to one of our small parks; the problem obviously is going to become one of parking, immediately. You can get successful, and you can be successful enough that you have a problem. He said that he thinks all of those things will have to be addressed. He said that he envisions the Water Committee and the Recreation Committee will talk about this. They will be talking about the concept of putting parking at McCurry Park and Kenwood at the Recreation Committee meeting on the 14th. Obviously, they have the same type of concerns. They will be talking about these things over the next couple of months. Another thing that is being considered for the parks is security systems and some cameras at the parks as well. This in turn would help the Marshals Department because then it would make it a little easier to manage some of those because you can manage them through cameras. Those feeds could be fed to 911, to the Sheriff's Department, and to Recreation, so that in essence we have more of a 24/7 kind of oversight as opposed to what we have now. It is another tool in regards to how we manage those facilities. If we are going to do that, we will probably put cameras at each of the water towers and areas that may be a concern in regards to water concerns and homeland security. All of that is kind of in the mix, now. You will see all those funnel through the budget process. He said that we are trying to look at all that comprehensively so that we have a plan in place.

Mr. Rapson stated that he would be in favor of providing a waiver to the participants in this organization, but not the people that want to come and observe. If they want to bring six cars with them, the guy with the boat gets something in his window and the other five would have to pay. But, that fee is probably going to be different, come August. Right now it is \$10.00.

Mr. Rapson explained that ultimately what will happen is the Water Committee will make a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners and the Board of Commissioners will ratify or not ratify that decision. We would probably do that sometime in the June or July time frame, when it gets closer to August.

Mr. Pope stated that Mr. Linville is trying to get confirmation today because he needs to send out registration and find out how many are coming. Mr. Linville said that he does not need it exactly today, but he needs it before June. Mr. Rapson said that our budget process starts...we will probably have a retreat sometime in March. By April we should have a pretty clear direction. He said that he would put it on his tickler list for April.

Commissioner Brown suggested putting that event on one of the Board meetings a month prior to the event. They can talk about it. Mr. Linville agreed to come and bring a boat to show.

VI. SANITARY SURVEY UPDATE.

Mr. Pope reported that we are around 60% complete. CH2M Hill is finalizing our CIP; they have been out and looked at some things. Their Operations Manager came out and looked at them and a meeting is being set to meet with him to get updates that he has, or recommendations for operations, to optimize the way we are operating right now.

Mr. Rapson stated that it is safe to say that we have repaired and fixed everything that we are capable of fixing without having to have an engineer design it and actually design-build whatever the fix is.

Mr. Pope went on to say that there are going to be some process changes that have to be implemented, but that is going to have to have state approval. Therefore it is going to take an engineer to recommend it. He said that we are kind of at a stalemate, but we are still making improvements at the plants, it is everyday things as far as repairs and maintenance.

Mr. Rapson said that we have updated the deficiency report and sent that to Stuart. If we have items that say it is going to take 300 days to complete, for example: the filter. What we don't know is whether we have to rebuild that filter; if we have to rebuild the filter, probably we will then have 5 steps to that, the 5 different steps will be done in 60 days, 90 days, 120 days and the last one may be 300 days. They may be stair stacked or they may be critical paths where you have 200 days at the end of 100 days. We don't know; that is what we need the engineer to be able to tell us. So that we can go back and revise that report and take some of those in orange, which are the ones that are the Engineer of Record. We will probably break those out in two sub-components. Once we do that, then we will be able to finalize that deficiency report that we provide to EPD; we will have a meeting with EPD; they will basically sanction this as part of the consent order and then we will start getting to work, fixing all of those Engineer of Record issues.

Mr. Pope explained that it is safe to say that we don't know what we are going to uncover with some of the capital projects, like the filter. It may be media, it may be under drains, we really don't know. That one project is one that he likes to pick on, because that is one that he can see...Mr. Rapson said that is the primary one that EPD is concerned with, too.

Mr. Destadio said that Mr. Pope has done a great job finding additional things that he has picked up that need to be worked in and figure out if they have impact on other parts. Mr. Rapson said that he agreed.

Mr. Pope said that the GAWP training with the operators will begin on January 23. Mr. Rapson asked that once we have the training dates, to let him know so he can roll them out, that if folks want to show up, they know where to come. Mr. Pope

explained that there will be several waves of training. We will look at Customer Service, lab procedures that he is concerned about, some special training for the jar testing. He said that his concern with the jar testing is that he wants to make sure the operators know how to run jars from start to finish. It is not that they can't run jars, but we want to do that as a refresher. There are several other little things like that.

Mr. Pope stated that he has been meeting one on one with the operators; what he is trying to explain to them is that we are there for them, and we want to make sure that they have the tools, resources and the training to do their job to the best of their ability; empower them to do that.

VII. BEAVER TRAPPING AT WATER SYSTEM PROPERTIES.

Mr. Pope reported that Travis Lemay is the gentleman that wants to do some trapping out at Starr's Mill. He said that we have identified that we need him to also do some trapping at Lake Horton dam and Horton Creek wetlands in Brooks. He says he can do that; he can start the 20th and would like to trap through the month of February. He needs something from us saying it is ok. Basically, he is going to do that at no charge to us because he can make the money off the pelts. He said there had been some discussion that this may be good for him, but what is good for us.

Mr. Davenport asked Mr. Pope to send him an email with respect to the locations that he is talking about; and the duration that he wants this to occur. He can put together an agreement. Mr. Pope said that he knows he is doing this at no charge, but he wants to make sure the insurance and everything is covered.

Mr. Davenport stated that the consideration is that he is getting something of value and we are getting something of value, so it is flowing both ways, even though there is no money being paid. We need a contract, and we need to address issues such as insurance, indemnification and things of that nature.

Mr. Rapson commented that the contract should fall under the purview of something that he can approve as the County Manager; there is a budgeted line item for \$5,000.00 for beaver trapping. What we are basically doing is executing that contract at no cost to the county.

Mr. Pope said he would get the information to Mr. Davenport by the end of the day. Vice Chairman Conner questioned the wetlands; the whole purpose of wetlands is to keep them wet. Mr. Pope said that we have an overpopulation. What he told Rocky, who handles our wetlands, was to go out and identify if it is a problem, if we have a large population. He said that Rocky agreed that we do need either re-locating or ... This information was through Rocky, he was the one that he sent out to look on our behalf.

Mr. Rapson said that he agrees; he said that he thinks we need to isolate what beavers and what area. Some of the wetland that may be adjacent to a road, it might be a road safety issue, which is why they have to be trapped as opposed to if they are out there creating the wetlands that are in essence the wetlands; then they are doing their job.

Vice Chairman Conner said that we don't want to dry up our wetlands. Mr. Davenport commented that he would presume some of these wetlands could be mitigation property and if so, has anybody checked to see if trapping is allowable under the rules. Mr. Pope said that he thinks we have done it before.

Mr. Davenport asked if we have done it before as far as trapping or done it before as far as checked whether it is ok. If we have trapped before, that does not mean it was ok, it just means we trapped before. We need to make sure it is consistent with the rules set by the Corp. If the Corp finds out we are doing something that is against the rules, they will have a heart attack.

Mr. Ray mentioned that he believes the trapping was not done on the wetland property, per se. Mr. Davenport said that we need to have some provision, that if in fact he is trapping on mitigation property, he does not know. We need more of a specific geographic identity of where he is going to be.

Mr. Pope said that he does, too. He said that he thinks Mr. Lemay will go where ever we tell him to go. We will need to give him some more direction. Mr. Rapson stated that we need to define the "box". There is nothing wrong with trapping beavers adjacent to wetlands in our right of way; it is a problem when you go outside the right of way. Mr. Pope agreed.

VIII. REQUEST FOR WATER BILL INSERT FOR THE FREDERICK BROWN JR. AMPHITHEATER.

Mrs. Speegle explained that the copy provided was from last year. The new line-up has not been set yet, but the insert will look the same. Mr. Rapson asked if there is a way we can bring a recommendation to the Water Committee that would describe all the inserts we typically do during the year, for example: The Fred insert for the concert series. Basically just say these are the inserts that the Water Committee is approving for the year, as opposed to every time we get one bringing it to the Board. He said that it ends up hitting the Board of Commissioners as an agenda item, which is fine, but he would hit it once as opposed to hit it five times.

Commissioner Brown suggested saying what the format is going to be and list it out. Mr. Rapson said that it would be similar to when we approved the contract for Fayetteville in regards to these are the events that we will ok on our property. Do it one time. Commissioner Brown said just set the parameters for what the things will look like.

Mrs. Speegle agreed to look at what has been done in the past and combine the request. Peachtree City Water and Sewerage Authority already have one approved for March, and then the CCR will be in May. This request from The Fred is for April.

Mr. Rapson said ultimately, we would know which ones we are going to get. He went on to say that there will be those that when we are getting ready to send a notice out if we have a violation, that is all by itself and that is fine. Mrs. Speegle agreed to work on this.

Steve Rapson made a motion to recommend to the Board of Commissioners approval of the water bill insert request for April from The Frederick Brown Jr. Amphitheatre. Vice Chairman Conner seconded and there was no opposition.

IX. WATER BOTTLES FOR FAYETTE COUNTY WATER SYSTEM.

Mr. Pope explained that he is trying to design a label for Fayette County Water System to bottle our water. He showed an example bottle from Henry County. The bottle costs around 40 or 50 cents depending on the cap that we want. The caps are 6 cents for a flat cap, and about 12 cents for the sport's top. He said that he is leaning toward the sport's top. We can get about 240 bottles for a little over a hundred dollars. The labels can be printed on our laser printer, and we can get 700 labels for about \$40.00. We are looking at a very minimal charge. We will be able to bottle it ourselves.

Mr. Pope went on to say that he and Mr. Rapson have discussed the quantity we want to do first. Twenty cases are a good many. The main places that he wants to have these are at the Water Committee meetings, Commissioners meetings and offer them at any kind of meeting that we have, as well as give one to staff. He said he does not know how many we want to order at first, but on a regular basis we should not have that many on hand at one time.

Mr. Rapson stated that it would be nice to have a case in the Administrative Office for meetings with citizens. He said in his mind, it is a good form of PR and Marketing to begin with. It is a minimum cost, used at the discretion of the department head. Mr. Pope stated that he would really like to have an image of staff at one of our facilities or maybe have some kind of nice photo done. Tamica could probably help us with that. We will do a generic label and then we can decide about the photo that we want on the background. He said he would like to have staffs photo kind of in the back of it.

Mr. Destadio recommended limiting it to those meetings that you say. A lot of companies, theirs for example, stopped buying bottled water, just because it creates plastics and it is more recycling. It is a good idea when you have meetings and stuff that are really limited to citizens coming in where you are not going to have a pitcher of water. It is not like your office where we all have bottled water.

Mr. Pope stated that what he would like to do in the future is what the City of Savannah does. They have glass decanters that are refillable. It is their label on there and says that it is bottled by the City of Savannah for your convenience. Those are the ones they have at their meetings. For now, what he is trying to do is put a brand on our product, because right now he does not know what public perception is. We need to regain their support, and he thinks one way of doing it is to show them that we are drinking our own water.

Mr. Pope stated that he will be contacting Henry County. He also will talk to Gary at City of Macon; they won the National Drinking Water Contest for Best Tasting Water in the nation. They are bottling theirs. To make sure what laws we have to comply with to bottle water. Most people don't realize it, but bottled water, officially bottled by a bottling company does not follow as many testing stipulations as we do.

Mr. Davenport mentioned all the governments as well, that are on the Fayette County Water System; we could provide them a case at a time for their meetings. Mr. Pope said that would get our brand out there. We can bottle the first 240 for about \$120.00. He went on to say there have been discussions about having a bottling company come in and bottle a thousand at a time, like Coca Cola, they will do that for you. He said that he does not see a need for that.

Mr. Rapson stated that he likes the idea and Mr. Pope has the authority as the department head to go ahead and do it. Then when he gets the case, we can make a big deal of it at a Board of Commissioners meeting. Once the label is printed Mr. Rapson said it would be reviewed by the Board.

Mr. Pope stated that he does not envision this growing to the point that we need a bottling company come in and bottle. He said that he thinks it is important that we are showing that we are drinking our own water. In the future, at Commissioner meetings and things, we buy them the glass decanter that has our label that they can utilize.

Vice Chairman Conner clarified that this would be done in-house. Mr. Pope said at his previous employer, they had a decanter with the "R" logo on it. In the middle of the "R" was the water drop, and they were provided to all department heads for their meetings. Everybody knows what a bottle of water is. When they see a decanter with something etched on it, they don't know what that is, but they will know what the bottle of water is. They will take a look at that label and once we get our brand out there, and people know who we are; then we can look at doing something special for regular meetings.

Chairman Frisina asked if we have the facilities to bottle and follow all the regulations for whoever governs this. Mr. Pope said we do. We probably will have to allow the state to tell us where we can bottle at. They probably will not want us to bottle it at our drinking water facility. We may have to bottle it, either here

(McDonough Road) or... That is the next step. We know a lot of counties are doing this and they are following the rules. Henry is right here. We can just go over there and ask them who we need to talk to and find out.

OPEN POSITION ON WATER COMMITTEE

Mr. Rapson mentioned that with Brian Cardoza's resignation, that position is being advertised. He will be asking the Board to appoint someone to be on the selection committee. Commissioner Brown stated that 2013 is the first year that the County has ever gone through solicitation/interview/application process.

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 26th day of February, 2014.

Lisa Speegle