

WATER COMMITTEE
DECEMBER 10, 2014
MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ABSENT:

Steve Rapson

NON-VOTING MEMBERS:

Dennis Davenport

GUESTS:

Frank Destadio
Stephen Hogan
Ms. Mary Giles

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

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING ON NOVEMBER 12, 2014.

Vice Chairman Chip Conner made the motion and Lee Pope seconded, to approve the minutes from the meeting on November 12, 2014. There was no opposition.

II. APPROVAL OF 2015 WATER COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE.

Vice Chairman Chip Conner made the motion to recommend to the Board of Commissioners to accept the 2015 meeting schedule as presented. Jimmy Preau seconded and there was no opposition.

III. LAKE PEACHTREE UPDATE.

Lee Pope reported that the dredging bid went out last Thursday; we are on track to open bids on January 8. He said we are on schedule. We are waiting for the City to give us the Land Disturbance Permit; but there was no reason to hold off going out for bid. It is clear the project is going to move forward. If the City identifies anything that they want adjustments to, we can make those adjustments. But, in order to stay on track, we went ahead and got it out for bid. This was with the City’s agreement.

Mr. Destadio commented that maybe he is pessimistic, without a Land Disturbing Permit we added to that some broad descriptions of what the city wants to add to the county’s design. They did the survey and depth analysis, soil analysis and grading plan, and all that is there for the contractors to bid on. The City came along and tacked on another map and some areas that they want looked at without necessarily a depth analysis, what is there and so on. He said he talked to one contractor who is asking how he bids on both of those. You bid on it however you want to bid on it. They are obviously going to look at it and make some decisions. Hopefully, we will get the same unit price, if not you might get two unit prices. His

only concern is that the City in the past made changes. If they go out and make changes after the bid at the time they are issuing the Land Disturbance Permit, then we may have to have an addendum to the bid package. He said he hopes they don't make any changes and they give us the Land Disturbance Permit based upon the design we have without any changes.

Mr. Pope stated the mandatory pre-bid meeting is December 18 at Peachtree City Hall. He said Peachtree City graciously offered their Community Meeting room for the meeting. He said everyone would meet there and then tour the lake.

IV. CHEMICAL SYSTEMS ACTUATOR IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS UPDATE.

Mr. Pope explained this is the liquid lime that we put out for bid; we are now at the point of awarding the bid and negotiating some fine details with the contractor. CH2M Hill is assisting us with that. Liquid lime will be added at both plants and we are putting a permanganate building at the Crosstown facility. We are feeding permanganate there to assist with the organics in the raw water. It is actually just sitting out in the middle of the field. We need to have some sort of structure, it is very small, but it had to be added to that contract.

Mr. Pope explained we have to change out the actuators because currently the old actuators for the Crosstown Plant cannot run the pumps from Crosstown. We are upgrading them, they are aero-hydraulic, and the hydraulics is leaking so badly that they can't open the valves.

Mr. Destadio stated the low bidder was All South and they are working with us. Mr. Pope stated they are doing a nice job. A meeting is coming up to look at the filters which will be the next project. CH2M Hill is already working on that. We just need to iron out the final details so they can finalize it and get it out for bid. He is praying January or February. Mr. Destadio stated that it is pretty far along.

Mr. Pope stated we just got approval yesterday from EPD. CH2M Hill came and did some chemical studies to look at chemicals in the system. He said they used ferric at the Rockdale plant which is good for this region. That turned out to be a good coagulant for us to use, but we have to get the states approval to test it. Then, if we test it and it works out, then we can officially change our coagulant. We got that approval back yesterday. We have been waiting several months from EPD to get that approval to do the test run. He said to be honest, he is not complaining, EPD has done a great job with responding to us on some of the more urgent things that we have needed. A coagulant change is a big deal to them. It is a primary component to your treatment process. Everybody has reservations about that since the Milwaukee incident that happened in the 90's. Carrollton had some issues here when they made a coagulant change years ago. Everybody gets a little shaky when you start talking about coagulant changes. The state takes their time in looking at the data before they send something like that out. It is a pretty significant change. He said he thinks they are just cautious, but we did get that approval. We will be

testing ferric sulfate as a coagulant which is going to give us a lot better quality of water. CH2M Hill has run some tests, and we need to do some jar tests in the plant. We know we are going to get a better quality of water. The reason why we are doing testing is as the seasons change so does the water quality. As crazy as it may sound we may use ferric during the winter and alum during the summer or vice versa. That is why there will be about a year's testing. He said that he thinks we will be able to use it year round. There are some de-watering questions because we have to take our sludge and de-water it. Alum is a little harder to de-water than ferric. He said he thinks we will see some savings in that component.

Mr. Destadio suggested that Mr. Pope mention the emergency at the clear well. Mr. Pope stated that Chet Ward has noticed a leak on the clear well at the South Fayette Plant so CH is going to be coming in to look at that fairly quick. We have a French drain that is flowing constantly, so we know there is some sort of a leak. We have no clue what it is; it is not a major leak, but we don't want our clear well leaking our treated product. It is just like throwing stuff down the drain. We will bring a specialist in, drain the clear well down and go in together; take some photos and investigate; put it back in service so the plant is not out of service for any extended time. Then we will get a plan to get it repaired.

Mr. Pope stated that we have THM analyzers in both plants now. This is a very new product that was actually developed in Europe. We had THM issues here in the county, now we are able to monitor the THM's in our treatment process and the way our plant managers; again they came up this; we bought one unit and put it in the lab. In the lab we have a sample pump that pumps a sample from several stages of the treatment process. So we bought one unit and valved each sample pump through the unit. We can look at THM's at every stage of treatment from the plant that we want to instead of buying seven of these \$40,000.00 units, we bought one. By changing valves we can see which stage of the process we are looking at, generally you look at the finished. That gives us a real time snap shot of THM's that is being produced in the plant. We are the only ones doing this. There are six in the United States; we are two out of six in the US.

Commissioner Brown stated this is good press release material. Mr. Pope commented that EPD is excited; they are coming out to take some photos with us. EPD is really excited because there are other systems that are battling the new THM rules. They are on board with the fact that we are able to see it real time. Generally, we take THM samples in the distribution system, send them off and it takes several weeks to get the results back. Trihalomethanes and Haloacetic Acids are byproducts of using chlorine as a disinfectant. They can have health concerns if you use the water off about 70 years; that is what tests have shown. It is not that serious, but we want to put out the best quality of water we can.

Mr. Pope said that he does not like to ask his operators to put out a good quality of water and then, they find out the quality two or three weeks later when they get the

results back. He said that he wants them to know right now, so they can go run jar tests. We are the only ones who can do this in the state.

Commissioner Brown encouraged Mr. Pope to get a press release out on this. Mr. Pope stated that we also run our own TOC's (Total Organic Carbons), which is a raw water product that comes from putting chlorine in the water; it gives you the byproducts of HAA's and THM's. We are able to monitor the TOC's on a daily basis.

Mr. Pope stated that we have some state of the art equipment. What he is shooting for is to make this a number one water treatment facility; that is his goal.

Vice Chairman Conner asked about the monitoring below the dam in Peachtree City. He said he does not see a discharge rate, is it up and running. Mr. Pope said there should be a discharge rate on Lake Kedron. Vice Chairman Conner said he has been looking at the unit below the dam on Lake Peachtree.

Mr. Pope explained there is about a six month calibration period. They look at rain data and all that. He said that we made rain events for Kedron by opening the valve and creating high water flow so they could hurry and get that one calibrated because we were concerned about the levels in Lake Kedron. It ended up, we are releasing about nine times the amount of water we should. Looking at the Kedron gauge, it gives you the cfs of flow, which generally should not change unless we make a valve change or we have a rain event. There is also a red line, which is our compliance. We have to release at least that amount. He said that we have to release more than that.

Vice Chairman Conner said the same thing should appear on Flat Creek below the dam, but it does not. Mr. Pope said they probably have not calibrated it, but he will ask about it. Right now, we are not as concerned about keeping Lake Peachtree full like we are Lake Kedron due to the dredging coming up. Mr. Pope went on to say that they will have the same thing and everybody will be able to go to those gauges and look at the flows. He said that he would like for people who are interested to go in and look at them. He said he does not have a problem with people calling him and saying "hey, what is going on, I see a high flow." That can help alert us. He explained that you can set up emails to send us alerts. If you want to have a low flow or high flow event, that web site will send you an email telling you it is getting to your cfs. We are setting up an email for that red line; we don't want to fall out of compliance.

Vice Chairman Conner commented that there is a lot of good information on that web site. Mr. Pope said he likes to keep things monitored because he likes to be in compliance. The key to this is when you put something out there, the data is out here and we have to do a really good job of monitoring those flows to keep ourselves in compliance. Without that, nobody knows what we are releasing. Obviously, we were releasing more than we needed to, which is good for the aquatic life, but it is

bad for our storage volume. We are able to manage the water a lot better now. Now, that data is there, so we have to make sure we do a good job of monitoring, because we know what we are releasing. Monitoring can be good and bad. He said that he is all about doing things right.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT.

There was no public comment.

CHANGES TO WATER BILL.

Lisa Speegle reported that the change on the water bills showing the customer number and account number has been completed.

SMELLY WATER

Commissioner Brown explained he has a thing that monitors if anything comes with Fayette County, Peachtree City, Tyrone or Fayetteville. All of a sudden he saw a blip one night; it shows up on his phone, across the top of the phone. He said he saw it said smelly water. He said he then saw another one saying they have that too. He then went on Facebook to see what was going on. It was very interesting. There were a lot of people who had comments. He said he found these people; he tracked them down, either through the internet or the phone book or something. He contacted them and asked them to tell him what they were experiencing. To a person, they all had pretty much the same complaint, in terms of describing what they smelled, or whatever it was. He said he got a little panicked there at the end. He thought these are people in various places; one was a nuclear physicist that lives down the street from him. She is not somebody who just throws things out flippantly. He said we got some people down there; they grabbed some samples that evening. We were able to reassure people. We got on it real quickly, nothing was the matter and we got a lot of very positive comments because we jumped on it. After what we had last year, we are going to have to always be that diligent on making sure we check on complaints. He said he thought it was interesting to see all that. Some of them were complaints about what he thinks is stagnant water near Lake Peachtree. They are complaining about some water odors there. He gave them David Borkowski's information and told them perhaps they need to call David and see what is going on. He said that he thinks that back pond off of the lake; the water has not changed at all. He said he thinks it is getting stale. If it is near the golf cart path people are starting to pick that up. That is probably something that Peachtree City is going to have to put out some public notices on. Everybody thinks that somehow that is affecting the drinking water, because they can smell an odor out there in the wide open. He thanked Mr. Pope for handling this.

Commissioner Brown said that one woman noted that she saw somebody flushing in her neighborhood. That makes people panic when they see people flushing. Maybe in a water bill sometime down the line, we tell people why we flush the hydrants, what basic maintenance looks like, stuff like that to reassure people that you don't have an emergency if somebody is opening a hydrant on your street.

Mr. Pope commented that he thinks it is important to know that we have a flushing meeting this week. We will be talking about the flushing program. We are looking at doing something on the web site so people understand what it is. This county has had a great flushing program; they have a plan in place. We are looking at maybe stepping it up a notch. He said that he talked about THM monitoring in the plant, we are looking at putting smart flushers in the distribution system. They will come on and flush the water for a few seconds, then take a sample and look at the THM's. If it sees a problem, it will flush until it gets the THM's back in line. It will also send us an email. It will be web based so everybody can see it. They are expensive, we can't just put them all over the county, obviously, but he thinks due to the fact that we have a THM problem we did budget for that in the Capital Plan that we talked about at the Retreat last year. We will go ahead and put those out there again since they are so expensive we want to be careful about where we put them. It would be really good to have web based material and knowing what the quality of our water is in our system.

Commissioner Brown commented a flyer in the water bills would be good explaining why we do this. People still have it on their mind, all the stuff from last year. Mr. Pope said he explained to the newspaper when they called; in a system this large, people are going to potentially always see stained water or have smelly water. What they really need to do is to contact us and lets get out there and take care of it. We don't want them to have water that is smelly. If they will call us, we will definitely take care of it, but when a system is this large, people go on trips and leave. The water usage changes all throughout the system, sometimes you might have water sit in the pipes and it gets a little musty. We want to flush it out and make sure they have the best quality of water. If they will contact us, he said he promises we will take care of it.

Commissioner Brown commented that he appreciates this.

There being no further business, Chairman Pete Frisina adjourned the meeting at 8:20 A.M.

Peter A. Frisina

The foregoing minutes were approved at the regular Water Committee meeting on the 15th day of January, 2015.

Lisa Speegle