

**WATER COMMITTEE**  
**FEBRUARY 26, 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

**GUESTS:** Stephen Hogan, PTC WASA  
Jimmy Preau, Smokerise HOA  
Joe, Rath, Smokerise HOA  
David Scarborough  
Pete Nelms

**STAFF PRESENT:** Russell Ray  
Matt Bergen

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

Commissioner Steve Brown asked to add one agenda item for Smokerise Homeowners Association to speak about Lake Kedron. The Committee agreed to add this item as number 2 on the agenda.

**I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING ON JANUARY 8, 2014.**

Vice Chairman Chip Conner made the motion and Lee Pope seconded, to approve the minutes from the meeting on January 8, 2014. There was no opposition.

**II. LAKE KEDRON LAKE LEVEL.**

Mr. Preau explained that a lot of their properties in the Smokerise subdivision front on Lake Kedron. He said they have been concerned over the years about the water level. They understand that their lake feeds Lake Peachtree, but there have been times when Lake Kedron has been way down and Lake Peachtree’s dam/gate is open letting water out. He said they would like to see better management of the lake, try to keep their lake up longer, a better fill than it has been in the past. He said in the last several years they have basically had a little creek going through the middle with grass growing in the lake bottom. They are asking for some consideration that Lake Kedron be kept in mind as far as the levels are concerned as it feeds Lake Peachtree and then let Lake Peachtree down.

Mr. Pope stated that what he has experienced is (for lack of a better term), poor management of our resources. That is because we don’t have any tools in place to

manage the reservoir. He is looking at speaking with USGS to see if they will add a cfs gauge below Lake Kedron and below Lake Peachtree. This will allow us to manage, one, the cfs that we are pulling out of Lake Peachtree as well as what is flowing over the dam, then to minimize what we are releasing from Lake Kedron. We should only release what we need to replenish Lake Peachtree. If we know what is flowing through the dam at Lake Peachtree and what we are pulling out, we should be able to get that close. Right now, there is absolutely nothing out there to manage.

He went on to say that he can foresee that when Lake Peachtree is dropping and we are pulling out of Lake Peachtree in the summertime, we then go up to Lake Kedron and just open the gate. We have no idea what we are releasing until it starts to overflow into Lake Peachtree. At that point we are wasting the resource. He said this is the plan that he has in place; he has some meetings scheduled with USGS, they kind of set the standard in the world for flow management. They are very well recognized for their methodology for managing stream flow. Everybody can do flow management in a concrete structure and in pipe, but they actually set the standard for management of a stream or water body.

Mr. Pruea stated that this is exactly what they are looking for, better management. That is all they are asking for. Mr. Pope agreed. Commissioner Brown asked Mr. Pope what his timeline looks like. Mr. Pope said that it will come down to us funding the USGS projects which won't be a lot of money. He said that he thinks a cfs gauge is going to be somewhere around \$8,000.00 a year, each. He said he is looking at adding two.

Mr. Rapson commented this will be part of the optimization plan that he will review. This was already on our radar, so the timing is perfect. The reservoirs, management of the reservoirs and the quality associated with reservoirs is not just the residents looking out their back window, but also people that want to use it for a dock, kayaking and all that kind of stuff.

Pete Nelms commented that the hydrologist in Peachtree City has been pushing, trying to get that done. That will make them very happy. It will actually help with some flooding downstream, and some better management with flooding downstream toward Peachtree City and that area too.

Frank Destadio commented that will help with the silt build up. The more water you put out over at Lake Kedron, it just flows down Flat Creek and continues the silt process.

Chairman Frisina asked if we are under some obligation through agreements with Peachtree City to Lake Peachtree. Mr. Rapson commented that we have a contractual agreement. Where that becomes an issue is if there is a drought. If there is a drought, then Lake Kedron will be lower than the others, and that is because of the contractual relationship.

**Mr. Destadio stated that the people he has heard from are saying the water is flowing over the dam/spillway at Lake Peachtree. Mr. Pope commented that nobody minds us keeping Lake Peachtree full, we understand that. Actually the agreement with Lake Peachtree doesn't say we have to keep it full. It says at mean level, unfortunately, mean level is the average, which over the last fifty years we have been keeping it full. Now the average is full.**

**Mr. Rapson stated that the average and the contract go back to 1966. For the record he stated, that is not a new average. Vice Chairman Conner stated that we have to maintain a flow downstream.**

**Mr. Pope said that is right and we have no way to measure the 7Q10 flow that we want to monitor. He went on to say that any time we are releasing from Lake Kedron and we are overflowing at Lake Peachtree, then we are not managing efficiently. We have to have some gauges in place.**

**Mr. Preau commented that it sounds like we are all looking at the same thing. He said that he appreciates it. Commissioner Brown asked Mr. Preau to leave his contact information with Lisa for future contact.**

### **III. SANITARY SURVEY UPDATE.**

**Mr. Pope reported that we have received the CIP list from CH2M Hill. He said we are going through it to prioritize and identify what is most critical. He plans to bring it back to the Water Committee next month.**

**Mr. Rapson said that he thinks at the next meeting they will be able to give an update in regards to where we are on the deficiency list that we currently have. Then give the committee not only an Optimization Plan but update that list in regards to the time frame and how we are going to implement those CIP items. We can then, at that point, provide that to EPD as part of the consent order so that we can get all that wrapped into a package and then move forward with the budget process as well.**

**Mr. Destadio stated that the Sanitary Survey has only identified certain things that need to be done. The rest of those things can be put into a time frame that you can do it in the out years. When the chlorine injector is moved, during that process, they need to get the sketch that was provided to the Water System up to EPD. They need to know why we did it, and who the Engineer of Record was that signed off on it. The draft letter was sent down. He explained that when you move a major piece of equipment you have to get their (EPD) concurrence. They are more than willing to understand why, that it was too close to the filters and needs to be moved and CH2M Hill gave a simple sketch. He said that this is really part of the Sanitary Survey in a sense that it has to be approved.**

**Mr. Rapson said there will be other things on that list that we may not be wrapping into the consent order, they are part of our Optimization Plan, items like this are a good example. This is not on anybody's list that EPD gave us in regards to fixing the issues with the water management between the two reservoirs, but it will be something that is part of our overall plan.**

**Mr. Pope explained that moving the chlorine feed was something that he wanted to do. He said that he needed somebody at CH2M Hill to sketch it up so that EPD could see it. They like for it to come from an engineer when it is something that is a permanent move. He said that he will get a cover letter done and get it sent up to EPD right away.**

**Mr. Destadio stated for the record that he thinks Mr. Pope has done an outstanding job with his Plant Managers in finding things that not everybody could have missed or did not bother to take the time to look at. That list is a good healthy list of things. He has done a good job of putting that together. Mr. Pope commented that we have some changes to make.**

#### **IV. BOILED WATER POLICY DISCUSSION.**

**Mr. Rapson stated that Mr. Pope has done an outstanding job on the Boiled Water Policy; he wrote one from scratch and used pieces to get a policy that he submitted to EPD that EPD liked so well, that now they want to make it the standard and they wrote it out to the City of Atlanta. He said that Mr. Pope is to be commended that he wrote a policy that they have sanctioned. He asked if we have something back from them officially yet.**

**Mr. Pope said not yet, he thinks there are few things they are going to make us change, very small edits.**

**Mr. Destadio made a suggestion. He said that what we have gone through in the last year or so with bad press, he does not think it is a good idea for Mr. Pope to do it, but he thinks that CH is more than willing to forward it up to John Munford and people up at the Citizen that says "look at this".**

**Mr. Rapson said that he thinks this is a prime example, and a press release is exactly what we need to do. Mr. Destadio stated that he would be happy to write something. Mr. Rapson told him to go ahead and draft something, then coordinate with EPD; they probably don't want to be part of the press release, but let them know that we are doing it, in that regard. He went on to say that the fact that they took this policy and sent it to the City of Atlanta, and then asked City of Atlanta to call Mr. Pope if they have any questions, is a good indication that they think it is a good policy.**

**Mr. Destadio commented that positive press from our residents would be good for us too.**

**Mr. Pope explained that currently the guys are going out and doing hand notices to customers when we have a line break (main break) and they have to go out and notify people. We are doing hand delivery, but there really wasn't any methodology behind checks and balances to make sure we were contacting each customer. He said that he knows Commissioner Brown has some concerns about people contacting him when we missed people. He said that is why Pete Nelms is here this morning to talk about us notifying people. This gives us a process to make sure that we went through every step possible to notify customers. Fortunately, during a main break, it is really not necessary to do a boil water notice in most instances. When we put this in place we won't be doing a boil water notice for every single main break. The process we have in place did not meet some of the things that were required by AWWA, EPA and EPD to allow us to omit the boil water notices. That is why we were placed under a boil water. Once we implement this, we won't be doing a boil water for every main break.**

**Mr. Pope went on to say that his concern was, and he thinks Commissioner Browns concern was, that when we did go out and do a boil water, we missed a few people. The reason that is a concern is what if we really had contamination in our system and we needed to notify the customer. He has already written an SOP (Standard Operating Procedure) to go along in conjunction with the boil water notice that actually makes sure that we are going to list each customer that will be affected by the main break. We will have a sign off on who gives them a hand bill for the boil water and who gives them the rescind. It will be a check list basically, but we make sure that each customer is notified. It also covers if we go to a full system boil water. All the methodology will be used; we will actually use Mr. Nelms system to do the calls to the homes, which does not cover the whole county.**

**Mr. Nelms said that it can, but it has limitations. They only have 10,000 minutes, if we go beyond that 10,000 minutes then there is an up charge for each minute you add. The first 10,000 are part of the contract. It is a little bit more involved than that, but technically we could.**

**Mr. Pope stated that we would use that method. We would also use local media and things of that nature to get it out, if it was full system. The problem we were having is we were doing segments of our system; one or two streets, or one subdivision. This gives us some things to put in place along with signs at the entrance of the subdivision, or signs on each side of the main break. So that people know that they have entered a boil water. We are using every possible method out there to inform the people that are in the affected area that they are under a boil water and to also do the rescind.**

**Mr. Pope commented that this is a work in progress; that was one thing that when CH called him the state was interested in passing this around, he thinks everybody needs to make adjustments to make it fit their system. This will certainly be one we will work on. The policy will be put in place by the Board of Commissioners, but the SOP will be something that we can continue to adjust until we have met all the**

**demands out there. He said that his concern is that he had several calls, and he knows that both Mr. Rapson and Commissioner Brown had several calls from people we missed. That is a concern, because had we had a contamination it could have been serious.**

**Mr. Rapson explained that we had several calls from people we missed, but the majority of those calls were people that were saying they were missed because their neighbor on the other side of the street got a notice and they were not really supposed to be notified because they were not part of that main break. Residents don't really understand that just because there is a line running down your street that everybody is not on that same line. A lot of times, the neighbor may be right across the street, the three houses might have been affected, you are on the other side of the street and you are on a different line; so you are not affected. It is very hard for folks to understand that, especially when you are talking about neighborhoods, subdivisions and streets and such. There were quite a few of those that thought they should have been notified, when in fact they shouldn't have been notified.**

**Mr. Rapson went on to say that the only one that he is aware of that was not notified was the lady that was on the corner where the actual line splits and she was right at the corner of the split. She wasn't notified, but everybody down the street was notified. That is the only one that he is aware of that was incorrect.**

**Mr. Pope explained that hers was a special circumstance where she was tapped off of one street, but her residence and her driveway was on another street. Really, unless you went up to the house and checked, you would not have known that she didn't have any water.**

**Mr. Rapson commented that he thinks it is important that we get that in the minutes because when people read the minutes and they talk about us not notifying customers, he does not want to create a sense of panic or urgency. There was one customer that he knows was not notified, the vast majority of the folks that he has spoken to thought they were those customers, when in fact, they had nothing to do with the water break.**

**Mr. Pope said that this goes back to the list where we sign off. What would happen is we had different people doing the boil water notices and different people doing the rescinds, which is going to happen because of the time frame. If we go out and give you a rescind, maybe you did not need a boil water and all of a sudden you get a rescind and these people were panicking because they were thinking they were supposed to have been under a boil water and they indeed were not. They were given a rescind by mistake. This is going to clear up a lot of that confusion.**

**Mr. Rapson said that this policy will make it a little easier to do the rescinds because as we are operating today, we don't rescind the notice until we get notified by EPD that we can rescind it. Lots of times, we know that we could rescind, but we are**

waiting on notification from EPD, this streamlines that process as well so that we could do those rescinds a lot quicker.

Commissioner Brown asked what the process was when we have someone on staff that is going to a home and they are doing the boil water notice, what are they doing? Mr. Pope explained that they are supposed to try to make contact with the customer, but a lot of people won't come to the door; then they either tape or affix the notice to the door. We have not had any major issues with that.

Commissioner Brown stated that his point is, you do have some people who only enter and exit their house through their garage, most of the time. They don't ever go to the front door. He wondered if we could flag something on the mailbox pole or something like that; so that it is something prominent that you could see it.

Mr. Destadio commented that he gets things all the time that are taped on the side of the post or side of the mailbox. You can't put it in the mailbox. Mr. Rapson commented that he is a good example. He never uses his front door; he always drives under the garage, but when he pulls up to his house, he always looks at the front door, because that is where they will leave packages or notices. That is where FedEx and everybody post their notice. He said that he has not heard that it is a problem. It is only as good as the tape you put on it.

Mr. Destadio stated that he agrees with Mr. Rapson, because he also goes in the back, a side door; they have often had something on the front door that he hasn't seen, but every day he walks the dog, he sees what is on the side of the mailbox.

Mr. Rapson stated that if that is the policy we use for Code Enforcement, that's the policy the Sheriff uses for notices, that's what FedEx and everybody else is doing. He said that he is not sure that we should have a different policy than what everybody else is using. Commissioner Brown stated that is the reason, he was thinking about using the Emergency Call System, where we could identify those houses on that street. It then automatically gives the phone call as well. Mr. Rapson said that is great, except that he doesn't have a land line, so he will never get the call.

Mr. Nelms explained that there are ways for people to sign up. Commissioner Brown stated that we need to do that anyway. That is a major thing that we need to really start advertising and putting it in our PR, we need you to sign up for the emergency notification. Mr. Rapson said that he totally agrees that we need to be using emergency notification.

Mr. Nelms explained that if Mr. Pope gave him a neighborhood, whether it is one address or a radius of three miles around. He said that they average hitting about 70% of those that have landlines, public landlines that are advertised and in the phone book. You will not hit those that are unlisted, it will send a printout of the address that was connected to the phone; whether you have an answering machine,



whether someone picked up, whether you got an early hang-up – some people think that it is solicitation. It will actually give you an address of everyone and whether they got the message or not.

Vice Chairman Conner asked about the cost to go over your 10,000. Mr. Nelms explained that they sell it in blocks; we have 10,000 and what we don't use in one year rolls over. We can increase it if needed.

Vice Chairman Conner asked what you would use in a year. Mr. Nelms replied that they have used it for gas leaks, missing children, sewage spills, and a bank robbery. Mr. Rapson stated that he does not think the cost is prohibitive, the question becomes is this system you can notify a street or you can do a radius. He said that he thinks we need to notify the people that we need to notify, but we don't need to notify the people outside the area that we need to notify. We don't need a radius of a mile because the whole purpose of this is for the people that have to boil their water to boil water, but not to panic people that have nothing to do with that particular area. He said that he thinks working with Mr. Nelms; we can use it where we think it is appropriate. If we have a big enough leak, maybe we do both. That is easy.

David Scarborough said that he has a question related to a project that Mr. Bergen has been working on for some time; with the Water System and our GIS layer. He said he knows it is not complete, but would that not also be a tool that would be used. That would give you the ability to get specifics all the way down to each individual meter and each customer so that you would know.

Mr. Pope commented that the GIS system would be more effective, the system Mr. Nelms has, the reason it would not be effective is because of people like the lady that was on the corner. Her address would have been on the wrong street. She would not have been notified either.

Chief Scarborough said that GIS would be, because it will be point specific to your meters. Mr. Pope said that we are continuing to develop the GIS system. Mr. Rapson said that what he thinks we would do, when it is up and running, if you had ten addresses you dial the ten addresses and if you hit just seven of them, it does not matter because you will put ten notices on the doors. The whole purpose is to let people know.

Mr. Nelms said that in the message they say "please notify your next door neighbor". There is no perfect communication system, but it has served us well. He said we could set up an account for the Water System, and the charges would be billed directly to the Water System if it went over. He said he has not gone over, historically. Mr. Pope said that he does not envision us going over, either. Mr. Nelms said they do not use this system for weather warnings and watches, they do the sirens.



**Mr. Destadio asked if the people who go out to put the notices on the door know enough that if the individual answers the door and asks what this is all about. Mr. Pope said they know the details of what is happening. That is one thing they make sure they do, even sometimes we have to use people from the plant. Mr. Destadio commented that had happened in Dekalb County.**

**Mr. Rapson said that this is policy, but what he would like is a note with the scripting that the person can explain it. The last thing you want is somebody walking in the door saying they don't know.**

**Mr. Destadio said that in Dekalb County when the guy was asked he said "I don't know, I'm just handing out this notice".**

**Commissioner Brown commented that we had that with the odor and taste event where somebody is opening a hydrant and the resident goes up and starts talking to the person. We better make sure we have some prepared remarks for them to be able to deliver if they are asked. Mr. Pope agreed that everyone needs to be consistent.**

**Mr. Destadio stated he would draft something for the press release and send it to Mr. Rapson to take a look at.**

#### **V. UPDATE ON LAKE PEACHTREE.**

**Mr. Pope explained that he has gotten some prices for the dredging from USGS on the cost for a bathymetric survey. They do a very thorough survey of reservoirs in regards to sediment that needs to be removed, and sediment deposits. While the lake is drained, he thinks we could do our own bathymetric survey, if we did a fly over and identify sediment since we can clearly see where the sediment is now and where it is being deposited. Have a visual of those spots, and that would save us almost \$200,000.00 in having a bathymetric survey done by having somebody fly over. He said that we actually identified someone with a helicopter that can fly over and take the images for us.**

**Mr. Rapson said that he thinks we would be foolish not to do that. Not only is it a cost saving measure, but as opposed to us having the lake full, trying to figure out where the sedimentation is we can actually see the sedimentation today. He went on to say that we had a meeting with Peachtree City representatives and the HOA and what we kind of committed to them was what we think the plan was going to be. They wanted to have enough time to fix their docks; the plan then was that we were going to leave the lake at the level that it is at now through the end of March. It may be sooner that we start filling up, but the end of March is what we agreed to. Then we would enter into how we were going to do the dredging project and start working with Peachtree City over the course of the spring and summer. We would in effect do what we are doing today next year; and as part of draining the lake to work on the docks at the same time, we would do the dredging project in that time frame next year so that we can have an entire cycle to plan how we are going to do**

that as opposed to trying to go right into trying to do a dredging project this year. He said that they seemed to be fairly agreeable to that. He said that Jim was going to go back and talk to the mayor and council, but he thinks we are at the step now, working with CH2M Hill in regards as to how we are going to do the dredging, which is why he thinks it is important that we do this flyover to try to get an idea of what that project will look like going forward.

Mr. Destadio stated one of the things he thinks we should consider is the bathymetric survey gives you the topography of it. He said that he agrees that a flyover will give you a good idea. The other is a depth analysis, because area times depth gives you the volume. The reason he says this is when you let the contract out, every which way you go, you are going to tell Company X we need you to go out and dredge and we estimate it is 350,000 cubic yards. Then when he pulls it out we should have some way of measuring to make sure we are getting 350,000 cubic yards, so that he doesn't pull out 150,000 and get paid for more than that. A little extra up front will save, hopefully, in not paying for something you are not getting.

Mr. Pope asked about the cost for the flyover. Mr. Destadio said the guy that was going to do it is a helicopter guy out of Falcon Field. At the time he said it would be around \$4,200.00. It was a pretty extensive survey of the whole area. Mr. Rapson said that we are doing the entire lake which includes the inlets, which was addressed; Homeowner Association questions as well as Peachtree City. Some of those areas, while it may be outside the scope of what our dredging project would do, we would incorporate a contract in such a manner that if Peachtree City wanted to do some dredging at the same time, or HOA's wanted to do some dredging on what is behind their home, we could incorporate and make that all part of one big package.

Mr. Destadio explained that the day they looked at trying to do this one, they had talked about it, and it was a warm sunny day. He happened to have his camera loaded on his helicopter going somewhere doing something else and he gave us a price. He said they then decided to bring it to the Water Committee, and we have had snow events and so on. Mr. Destadio said that he called him and said if he really wants to do this and work for Peachtree City, he said he would honor that number.

Mr. Rapson said that Mr. Pope has the budget and he has the authority to approve that up to \$5,000.00, and we will let the Board know that we are going to do that flyover for that purpose. That is not going to be the end all, how we do this thing, we will still do the depth drilling and all of that. CH is coordinating getting the corings and all that, so that we have a complete picture. He said what he would like to have at the end of March is aerial photography of what we are going to do, we would have the depth done at the same time, so that we could sit down with Peachtree City and say this is the dredging project that we envision we are going to do. Go ahead and give them a time line so that when residents ask, or the council, (there is a new mayor and council in Peachtree City), they can know what that time

line is, too. Mr. Rapson explained that this will give us time working with Mr. Destadio, Mr. Pope and Peachtree City in regards to issues that are outstanding such as what we are going to do with the silt. Do they want to use it for a golf cart path, do they want to extend the peninsula. There are still some issues that he thinks are political in nature with Peachtree City that they need to make a decision on what they want to do. There have been a couple of scenarios given in regards to maybe filling one little lake, and they need to make a decision on what they want to do.

Mr. Destadio said that is a good approach, spread it out, and decide what you are going to do, work with them. If you look at the 1966 agreement, which was altered in nineteen eighty something; it says bring it back to the original levels. Who knows what they were, it was never identified. One of the things he thinks the depth analysis would give you is you guys could decide how much to take out. Then once you have that level, he said he thinks you might want to discuss it with the City and say this is the level we will maintain it at. We are not going to go back. He said what he thinks you can see is happening is where typically it has come in at the inlets, and we have cleaned those out, but it doesn't mean that it doesn't continue to silt down the road. If we do it every ten years, in twenty years, the center or the areas that aren't in the inlets are now starting to fill up as well because we cleaned this out.

Mr. Rapson commented that we are broadening our scope a little bit, too. What we need to do is fix what is causing the silt. We then go into the inlets and fix those type of issues to mitigate having to do this every ten years. Commissioner Brown said that we have to look upstream; if the golf course is cutting the grass again all the way to the creek. We are doomed, you just can't do that.

Mr. Destadio commented that if you just walk from Lake Kedron down Flat Creek you can see the erosion on the side of the banks, just the last heavy rains that we got before the snow, there are trees that have fallen down because they are undermined so much, they have come down. That silt is going somewhere; it is going into Lake Peachtree.

Commissioner Brown commented that we have to work with people upstream on keeping those banks in good condition. Mr. Destadio commented that is long term. Mr. Rapson agreed that is long term, but there probably is some that we want to mitigate as part of this process. Mr. Destadio said that he agrees. There are some that we probably ought to look at. Some of the stream restoration projects can be very long term, and you need to get everybody and his uncle involved, Chattahoochee River, they are all involved. We ought to decide internally what we are going to do, before we make an announcement we are going do too much.

Mr. Rapson said that over the next 60 to 90 days, we would have the three of them and whoever the representatives are from Peachtree City, they would meet and

develop some type of time line. At some point they would roll it out and say this is the approach, and this is what we are going to do over the next year.

Mr. Destadio said that it is the worst he has ever seen it and he has been here fifteen years. Mr. Rapson commented that he has gotten a couple of calls from elected folks of Peachtree City that were shocked in regards to how shallow that lake is. Their impression was that it was a forty foot depth lake, now all of a sudden you can see stumps; and people ski on it.

Vice Chairman Conner stated that from the bridge to the dam is only twelve feet of fall, which is a mile and a third.

Commissioner Brown suggested, from staff perspective and from ours, too, if we send correspondence on anything to Peachtree City that we address it to the Mayor and Council, because one of them is calling us and the other one is calling us and they are not talking to each other. Make sure we always address everything to the Mayor and the Council, and then they are responsible for distributing that. There is a lot of discussion that is not happening on their side. Let's make sure we address it on our side. Mr. Rapson agreed that we could do that.

Mr. Destadio said there are a lot of calls from people, not just homeowners, but from people driving by. Mr. Rapson said he has gotten calls from the elected officials wanting to know why the lake is so low. The response has been that they asked us to lower it. Commissioner Brown said we have have talking about this for months and they have no idea, so they are not talking to each other, so if everybody gets the correspondence we are better off.

Mr. Rapson stated that is the way we are laying things out. His impression of that meeting was that everybody thought it sounded like a good plan. But, he has not heard anything back. Mr. Pope stated that he is supposed to meet with the engineer today.

## **VI. DISCUSSION OF SEWER BILLING AGREEMENTS.**

Mr. Rapson explained that he did an analysis. Years ago, the decision was made that the Water System would do the billing for WASA, City of Fayetteville, Tyrone and Brooks in regards to water bills, those types of things. Basically we have always charged \$1.00 for those billings. He said that he started doing an analysis just to see how close that \$1.00 was. It seemed to him that the direct expenses were almost catching up with the revenue that was coming in. Obviously, the intent was for us not to make a profit, but we should not be losing money in regards to the billing. He explained if you look at the revenues for the entire year, if it is all based on volume, we are getting in roughly about \$146,000.00 a year. The direct expenses associated with that are about \$72,000.00. When he says direct expenses, he is talking about the cost of an envelope, stamps, and those types of things. The indirect expense is the labor associated with it. When you add the

labor, it is \$163,000.00, which means were spending \$236,000.00 and we are getting \$146,000.00.

Mr. Rapson said that he called Stephen Hogan and they talked about the fact that the dollar was not covering our cost to do this. What they decided to do is we probably need to make a rate adjustment from \$1.00 to \$1.62. He said that sounds like a 62% increase, but you are basically talking about something that has been there longer than 15 years. The current agreement was written in 2002, it was done when he was the Chief Financial Officer in Peachtree City. It used to be Georgia Utilities. Mr. Rapson said that Mr. Hogan is ok with this from WASA's perspective; they are our biggest customer. He said he does not want to implement this until our next budget cycle which is July 1. That will give us enough time to notify Peachtree City, Tyrone, Brooks and Fayetteville that we are going from \$1.00 to \$1.62.

Mr. Rapson said that as part of the budget process he has asked everybody to look at all the different revenues. The revenues historically for the county have not been looked at in the last ten or fifteen years. His policy is, when you look at fee based type revenue, you never want to be the highest, you never want to be the lowest, but you need to be somewhere in the middle. When you don't look at it over ten or fifteen years, then all of a sudden, when you have a 25% increase, people go "Oh you are giving me a 25% increase". If you have not done it in twenty five years, you should have been increasing it about 1% a year. You need to keep up with what the historical true cost is. He said that he thinks it is good to do this every three years. You need to be looking at your rates, any type of fees every three years. He said that he has the entire county looking at it from one side. This is one aspect from a Water System side that is really, probably the biggest fee that we do other than our rate structures for the Water System.

Mr. Destadio asked if this includes one of the things that Mr. Pope is working on, for the long term improvement plan. The same thing that he said, there has been very little work that has been done on the system for a long time. All of a sudden, you go along and then it comes. If you really average it out, it is like 2% a year. People need to realize, and he thinks most people do, he hopes; as a resident he thinks he does; you really need to put in something every year. You need to look at your system all year long and identify; that is what Mr. Pope is doing, putting together a plan. He said that his question is, if you go in there with this sort of thing, which is an excellent approach, he agrees with it. You might want to consider what you really ultimately are going to prove for your plan five and ten years out; so that you can start that slow process. Instead of \$1.62, maybe it is \$1.85. In their opinion, you have the perfect opportunity right now, because everyone is coming off of all the concerns and things are leveled out. Now, you come back and say, hey, because all these things have happened all these years, nothing has been going on, it really averages out to such and such over these long years. Now is the time, he thinks more people, he would accept the opportunity to raise it, so that he knows you are going to be improving the system.

**Mr. Rapson asked him to raise what? Mr. Destadio said to raise the rates. Mr. Rapson said that he is talking about the billing rate. Mr. Rapson asked if he is talking about the water rates. Mr. Destadio said yes, isn't this ultimately what comes out is the water rates. Mr. Rapson said no, this is the charge for charging the cities \$1.00 to do their billing for us. He said that he is not proposing we do anything with evaluating the water rates. He said he thinks after we optimize the plant and we figure out what we can do to make those efficiencies, and then we take a look at the total revenues and the total budget as part of the budget process. If we get upside down then, that's when we do it. Mr. Rapson said quite frankly, the bond covenants are going to dictate at some point that we look at the water rates.**

**Mr. Destadio said absolutely, he misunderstood this, but yes.**

**Stephen Hogan added that utilities as a whole are now forced to do full cost accounting. There were times previous that we were able to rely on federal subsidies or state subsidies or general subsidy, but the reality now is that all utilities will now have to be self-sufficient and self-sustaining which is the process that we went through about three years ago with their rate restructuring. He said they did the same thing. We weren't able to meet cost. That is his perception, now the Water System is looking to meet cost, not necessarily, based on the analysis, this is the cost. It cost what it will cost and that is unfortunately passed on to the rate payers.**

**Mr. Destadio stated that is what he was talking about. We went along for so long with sewage rates and then you had to go in and do some, and you average that out over fifteen years. Mr. Hogan said to his point, he is correct, their rate increase and rate restructure was one of the largest in history, however if you go back over the fifteen years of WASA's existence it only amounts to something slightly over 4%.**

**Mr. Destadio said they are not recommending that, they are just saying that in the budget process, it is good to think about that plan. Mr. Rapson said we have to, whether we want to think about it or not, the bond covenants require you to.**

**Mr. Destadio stated that you have to have a funding source, whether it is state, local, federal or rates. Mr. Rapson said the bond covenant is 10% coverage for WASA and ours is 20% coverage. When our operating revenues aren't sufficient enough to drop enough to put into R & E and it is 20% over your expenditures, we don't have to do a rate increase. We don't even have to pitch a rate increase, but when we get closer to the 1.2 and if we can't make it, if we drop to 1.17, let's say, and we are not covering that relationship, then the bond covenants basically say you have to do a rate study and you have to increase the rates, because that was part of the bond covenants that we did when we issued the bonds. Commissioner Brown asked if this needs to go to the Board of Commissioners for approval. Mr. Rapson said he believes we do. He went on to say that he feels very uneasy about increasing any fees, so he says that all fees need to be adopted by the Board. He said he would put**



it on the March agenda, basically saying we are going from \$1.00 to \$1.62. Commissioner Brown said that it will require a new contract.

Dennis Davenport clarified that it is for all jurisdictions. Mr. Rapson and Commissioner Brown both said yes. Mr. Davenport said the first step is for the Board to approve it, and then circulate draft amendments to all the contracts to all the jurisdictions. It would take effect when all that is done. Mr. Rapson said on the March agenda we would just forward you an amended IGA and have your approval of that rate and then we would start circulating that. Again, it gives people to July 1, which is our new budget year.

Mr. Davenport asked if he wants to target July 1 as the date for the increase to occur, that way it gives everybody time to build it into their document, putting July 1 as the operative date. That is plenty of time to get it done by all jurisdictions. Mr. Pope agreed that it should be.

Mr. Rapson said the dollar amount is going to be \$78,000.00 more for WASA, because they are our biggest customer. City of Fayetteville would go up \$9,000.00, Tyrone would go up almost \$3,000.00 and Brooks would go up less than \$100.00. He went on to say if you look at it from a WASA perspective, the question is in essence he is going to start paying \$204,000.00 versus \$141,000.00, he is sure that Mr. Hogan looks at it the same way he does. Which is, what would it cost to send out the entire billing department to do all the stuff that we are doing for them. He stated that \$200,000.00 is a bargain. He said they wanted to talk to WASA, and then get the Board's approval, and then they would go out. He said they will reach out as part of the IGA.

Mr. Pope said that his thought process is, the way we have with Mr. Hogan, they will clearly see. It is not like we are arbitrarily raising; we have gone through extensive research to make sure we are doing this in a fair and equitable manner. Mr. Rapson said you have to estimate how much is being used for customers; he said he thinks we are extremely conservative in regards to the staff time and effort that it requires to manage the municipalities. We have already kind of ratcheted that back to the point where there...there is reasonableness and then we are way over here. We are not capturing probably every dollar that we can; we are capturing the vast majority of it. Again, that is the best way to do it. When you do an internal charge or you do those type of charges, you always want to be conservative in nature, so that you are not questioning. We are not trying to make money.

Mr. Davenport asked Mr. Rapson if he should build into the contract some language that the rate will be revisited every three years. Mr. Rapson replied that he thinks so; that is just good policy. Mr. Davenport asked about making it a three year agreement, renewable for three year terms. Right now, it is probably a fifty year agreement, but that is because it can be fifty years. There needs to be some



mechanism to cause everybody to look at this again in a period of time. Making it a three year agreement would probably be the way to do it.

Mr. Rapson explained that this is one of the examples of, we are a county, and we have the infrastructure, the staff and the resources to be able to do this and it is incremental to us, the additional work load, we can do it a whole lot cheaper than what they can do. Again, it is a way for us to compliment the jurisdictions that we have partnership and relationships to. We can do it cheaper, so we probably should be the ones doing it. Mr. Pope said for us to be hubbing everything through one facility it makes sense; but there is cost associated with it.

## **VII. WATER BILL INSERT REQUESTS.**

Mrs. Speegle explained there is a memo in the packet and a copy of the insert request from Fayetteville Main Street for inserting the end of March. The WASA insert will be done the beginning of March for the Peachtree City cycles. She referenced some examples of inserts that have been done through the years. She asked about making a motion to do these once a year, rather than each time they come up.

Mr. Rapson said that he had asked Mrs. Speegle and Mr. Pope to gather this information. A lot of the inserts that we do are inserts that we do every single year. In other words, The Fred is always going to have an insert, we are always going to have to do the publication that EPD requires that we do each year. For those types of things, it is almost like a housekeeping issue. He said that he thinks it is good, we will still notify the Board that we are doing those, but he is not sure that those are Board actions. He said what they did on the county side; they had the same situation with the Stonewall parking lot, where Fayetteville historically does the chili cook-off and four or five different events. He explained they just did an IGA with them that said for these six events, as opposed to bringing them all during the course of the year; he is suggesting for inserts, the normal type that we do, the Board can simply say you are ok doing Fred inserts, you are ok doing those type of things without individually looking at them.

Mr. Rapson said if we have something that is new, a good example would be for the boat race. That would be new and those would come before the Board because it is something outside the normal process of an insert. Mr. Destadio asked if the insert is manual. Mr. Pope said that we have a machine that will do it. Mr. Pope suggested the Committee see how the machine works when we are doing inserts one day.

Mr. Rapson said that these requests funnel through his agenda, and what he is trying to do is trying to get one agenda item that encompasses ninety percent of what we are trying to do and then let them see the weird ones that come through because that makes sense.

**Mrs. Speegle explained that she had pulled examples of the inserts that we have done the last several years. Mr. Rapson said that we only allow something from a municipality or something to do with rates, pretty much. Commissioner Brown mentioned that we need to keep an eye on the content in them. Mr. Rapson said that we would; just because there is an approval for The Fred does not mean we will allow The Fred to put something in there that we think the Board would not want. If we have an issue with that, we would say that we know we have been approved with The Fred, but we have an issue and here's this that we want Board action on.**

**Commissioner Brown said whatever language we use on this new policy we put a caveat in there that we reserve the right to refuse it. Mr. Rapson said this is not an IGA; it is just an agenda item that has a bunch of stuff on it. Mr. Davenport said yes, you are not trying to regulate any kind of behavior, so to speak. All you are doing is acknowledging that we are going to do this service for you on an annual basis, and you have your list of what you are going to approve.**

**Mr. Rapson said that his motion would be that the Board approves the list that will be provided to the Board of Commissioners in regards to the standard types of mailings that we do during the course of the year. Following is the list of inserts that we would agree to: inserts for Fayette Main Street – the concert series for Southern Ground Amphitheatre, City of Peachtree City – concert series for the Frederick Brown Jr., Amphitheatre, Peachtree City Water and Sewerage Authority – newsletter and rate change notice, Fayette County Environmental Health – septic system maintenance, Fayette County Recycling Locations, Keep Fayette Beautiful – recycle Christmas trees and backyard composting, For Fayette County Water System – toilet rebate program, rate changes, water restrictions and Consumer Confidence Report, and Fayette County Emergency Management. Anything outside of this would come as a normal agenda item for an insert.**

**Commissioner Brown asked that we reserve the right to refuse any of those if the Board is so inclined, be added to the motion. Mr. Rapson stated that if there are any issues with the content, we will bring it to the Board. Any issues with any content could be excluded at staff's recommendation.**

**Mr. Davenport commented that this gives us a level of making sure what we are putting in our bills is consistent with what you want it to be.**

**Steve Rapson made a motion to recommend to the Board of Commissioners approval of the annual water bill inserts (see attached list). Staff will continue to review insert content and any questionable inserts will be brought before Water Committee for approval. Other insert requests not specified on attached list will require Water Committee and Board of Commissioners review and approval. Vice Chairman Conner seconded and there was no opposition.**

### **VIII. CAMP SOUTHERN GROUND.**

**Mr. Bergen explained that there will be an adjustment to the IGA for the vault portion, because Scarborough gave them a cheaper price and Shockley has agreed to honor that price to get the work. The adjustment will actually be down, it is just under \$30,000.00 from \$41,000.00. He said that he is waiting for the written confirmation from Shockley.**

**Mr. Rapson asked if this changes the IGA. Mr. Davenport stated on the IGA side, his first step was confirming right of way for Ebenezer Church Road, because you don't start out by assuming you have right of way, you find right of way. He said that he has subdivision plats that show and recognize right of way, but that is not the same as right of way. He said that he does not think it will be a problem, but he wants to have that one piece finalized before we get an IGA together. He said he has the information that Steve provided him with, and he has put it in the IGA form. The other substantive information about the adjustment will be necessary to incorporate in that. He said that he can certainly bring something back for review at the next Water Committee in draft form.**

**Mr. Davenport stated that he recalls from talking with the folks at Camp Southern Ground in their meeting why they want it done, there is no urgent need to have it done in 30 days or 60 days; they want it done right. He said that he will bring back a draft IGA at the next Water Committee meeting just to look at the issues that we are talking about; so we are capturing all the issues of concern to the Water Committee.**

**Mr. Destadio commented there are some approvals that have to happen. It won't be in the IGA, but Camp Southern Ground needs to understand that once Shockley is ready and everything is a go, we still have to get state approvals and permits.**

**Mr. Davenport stated that we can recognize within the IGA that the parties agree that all permits necessary for the project will be obtained by this party or that party so there is a responsibility placed on that.**

**Mr. Rapson explained that this is a unique partnership, what we really have going on is we have Camp Southern Ground working with Integrated Science Engineering working with Shockley, who is the vendor we have primarily for what we do with waterlines, working with CH2M Hill who is our engineer of record, working with our Water System. The reason we are all working in conjunction together is because it is cheaper for them to do the project this way to get the waterline in which has the same results that we as a Water System want for the infrastructure, and it is going to save Camp Southern Ground about a quarter of a million dollars. Everybody has a role to play and he is not sure we want to do all projects this way, it takes a little more effort on our part, but he thinks that all the partners need to be commended that everybody came to the table and worked together.**

## **IX. WATER PRESSURE ISSUES IN BROOKS.**

**Mr. Bergen stated that he was approached yesterday about getting some numbers together. He showed a project estimate; conservatively we are looking at 2.2 million dollars. That does not take into account that they will charge hourly to do the tie overs into the existing infrastructure. He said that the main thing that he wanted to cover in that price is the current Brooks service area. He showed these locations on a map. Up by Whitewater Road, we have some of these services tied over into our lines. That won't be an issue, but the problem is we have the church up on the north end that is still tied into a 2" line. That 2" line back feeds all the way down to Price Road. Obviously, they have pressure issues. Some of those we can take care of in the corridor coming from Morgan Mill onto 85 Connector. Once you get south of there, there is a gap between where Brooks Woolsey and Morgan Mill is on 85 Connector. That is actually serviced by a 2" and that 2" comes down Morgan Mill Road to service two parcels. They have pressure issues as with the majority of the customers south of town. The other issue is Woods Road, for two parcels the waterline goes between the houses, behind the houses and comes back out to the road, crosses and then comes down all the way to 341, which is a large parcel. It goes from a 2" to 1 1/2" all the way down, which is fed off a 6" line.**

**Mr. Pope expressed concern about water quality flushing, the fire services can't do anything, these customers are certainly not receiving the quality of service we would like to give them.**

**Mr. Rapson said that we need to have a plan, what we are going to do about basically rebuilding the Brooks infrastructure. Basically we are talking about rebuilding the entire infrastructure.**

**Mr. Bergen explained what we have in Brooks now; 2" and 1 1/2" pipe on Woods Road, Price Road has an older 6" line, everything on the Brooks system that is 4" and above is asbestos. Obviously we want to get rid of that, it is past its life expectancy. We have some C160 that is feeding from Brooks Woolsey down to that asbestos line. It is about at its life expectancy. Coming down McIntosh Road is a 2", coming from the corridor at Gable Road, right behind City Hall, all of that is 6", but everything beyond that point coming down Highway 85 Connector and Brooks Road is all 2" line. He said that he has been told the majority of it is Class 160. Shockley actually did the repairs that we need to do again at Brooks Road and Highway 85 Connector. They said the last time they pulled it up, it was more repair clamps than it was pipe. Obviously, we need to do something about that. He said when he was looking at this area, we want to consider McIntosh Road comes out to Grant Road; we have facilities on Grant Road further up, but we don't have anything south of town. We could possibly have more development farther down; there is a subdivision in that area. (Mr. Bergen pointed out all these areas on the map).**

**Mr. Bergen went on to say what we want to do, so we don't end up with a pressure issue situation, we are proposing coming in with a 12" off of our loop line all the way**

down and terminate it where it currently ends. Then every side road, Woods Road would have an 8" line, McIntosh Road would have 8", Brooks Road would have an 8", all of the side roads that come off Carrington and Brooklet would be 6". We have to have enough volume to make sure there is enough pressure. All of that is inclusive in the price; to be able to bring a 12" line down through the middle of Brooks and then have sufficient sizes for all the side roads.

Mr. Destadio said that he agrees. Your systems are now old enough that it is a problem today and some will be a problem tomorrow. Down the road, two, three, five years you need that same kind of a plan that you are talking about. Your distribution system, Capital Improvement Plan, lays it all out at your priorities, what you want to get to. He said that this may be number one, he does not know. That is probably typical of a lot of places in the county.

Mr. Rapson stated that this has always been an issue. If you look at the red (he referred to Mr. Bergen's map), the red are the fire hydrants. This is an issue also for fire services. That is why we have to have a water pump down there as opposed to if we could have it as a rescue. In his mind, this ought to be part of our long term strategy, not only for fixing the water services, but also improving fire prevention as well. He went on to say the 2.2 million dollar number does not surprise nor shock him. Mr. Pope commented that he figured it would be a couple million.

Mr. Rapson said that he and Mr. Pope have talked about the fact that we have waterline money budgeted and we have half a million dollars, actually we have not really tapped it a whole lot because the biggest component was going to be Camp Southern Ground and since we have this other solution, it leaves a lot of this money on the table. He said that he thinks probably that is the seed money that we start with. Maybe running that 12" line is what we do this year, then we start adding 8", then we add 6", it may take three, to five, or six years to get there. That needs to be part of our conscious effort to upgrade our distribution system.

Mr. Destadio said not just in that area is what he is saying. You need to think about...

Mr. Rapson stated that we need to think about all our areas, but Brooks is probably the worst area that we probably have. Mr. Pope explained that there is an unavoidable background loss leak calculation that you can do for repair clamps, taps; if you did that in an area that probably is why we are seeing such low pressures because we have a lot of repair clamps, we have taps and we have small lines. That will never go away no matter how many times we dig it up.

Mr. Rapson stated for the record that asbestos was mentioned. People are going to focus in on that. These old pipes all had asbestos, there is nothing wrong with the pipes that are in the ground, and you just can't disturb them. Our plan would be that we are not going to be upgrading those lines with asbestos type lines; we are going to literally be laying our lines on top of the existing line, leaving those lines in

the ground. As long as you don't disturb those lines, they are fine, they are inert. If we were to start pulling them out of the ground and do things with them; that is one of the areas that we have concerns with. As you are doing a repair for one of those lines that is why there are so many clamps on them, because you don't really want to be messing with those lines or cutting those lines.

Mr. Destadio commented that may be a good area, you would have to look at exactly how it is laid out, but it is small enough and he thinks it has enough problems that it is where you can do a very simple study called a non-revenue water study. You can figure out how much water, what is coming in, what is coming out; and you calculate based upon your cost per; your water cost, what your losses are. You can justify a lot of it with those losses that Mr. Pope is talking about.

Commissioner Brown asked if Brooks still owns the water system and we are just a managing agent, for lack of a better word. Mr. Davenport said that it is their water system. Mr. Rapson commented that we are going to replace their water system and he assumes we would need to amend that agreement. Commissioner Brown stated that when we are talking about cost, probably cost should be bore by the customers that are going to receive the benefit.

Mr. Davenport asked if we will wind up absorbing these customers as our customers and basically putting the Brooks system out of business. Mr. Pope said they are already our customers. Mr. Rapson said that all we are doing is upgrading our infrastructure; the customers are already our customers.

Mr. Davenport questioned the water agreement with Brooks; does Brooks not have a water system that they piggy back off of with us as far as any kind of go between? Commissioner Brown commented that the way he is reading this is it sounds like they still have ownership of the system. They are using it because they have to justify municipal status, so they have the utility under them. Mr. Pope commented that we bill it and we collect it.

Mr. Davenport asked about the Brooks connection, if we have a system run throughout the county, that portion of the county comes under a Brooks permit as opposed to our permit to the county. Mr. Pope replied that they do have a system permit. Mr. Davenport said when we go in and put in lines tied to our lines, and it is not tied to their system are we still recognizing we are piggy backing off of Brooks permits or are we piggy backing off of our permit? It is a subtle difference, but it is the kind of difference that we need to address. Mr. Pope commented that this is a consecutive system, which means the two systems are operating in conjunction with one another. Cobb-Marietta is also a consecutive system.

Mr. Davenport said that is fine today, but with this envisioned upgrade it is going to be a seamless transition between the loop waterline and the rest of Brooks. It is part of the county system that has no input from Brooks whatsoever other than it is in their geographic area. We are still recognizing the permit from Brooks for that



portion even though they have no ownership of the system at all. Mr. Davenport explained that he is trying to figure out the legal relationship.

Mrs. Speegle stated there are 12 sewer customers in Brooks. There are approximately 88 water customers, and we took over their system as it was. We bill for the 12 sewer customers.

Mr. Davenport stated that he has always understood Brooks to be different with respect to water service as well. He wants to make sure that if we change the relationship by putting in a seamless transition from the loop line down to Brooks that we are still ok to honor that permit issued by the state to Brooks, because Brooks has no ownership of anything down there any longer. They don't have any lines down there, nothing; this is all coming off the Fayette County Water System. Is that still going to be proper to recognize the Brooks permit?

Mr. Pope said that we can verify with the state, but basically what we are doing is providing their customers with water. Mr. Davenport questioned whose customers are they, ours or Brooks. The committee agreed that we need an answer to this question.

Mr. Destadio asked how this works. In order for Brooks to be a municipality, they have a permit and we do the work, "ie". How does it work for Fayetteville and Peachtree City? Mr. Rapson said there are nine city services and you have to provide five. One of these is water.

Mr. Davenport said that he does not have any problem still recognizing Brooks permit, but he does not want to do it if it is going to be an issue with the state. That is all he is going to get around. Brooks probably needs it to maintain their qualified municipality status for local option sales tax revenue distribution.

Commissioner Brown stated that there needs to be a lot more definition on this. We need to define are we putting it in their infrastructure and if it is who is paying for it. We should not be taking that bill system wide. Mr. Davenport said if this was anywhere else in the county, it is no question, it is a county system. He said he knows that it is still a county system, but has a Brooks flavor to it. He is trying to understand what that Brooks flavor means. Mr. Rapson commented that it is something like a service delivery issue.

Commissioner Brown said that he sees it as a water bill, we are billing them for the water and there is another added on fee for this cost. Mr. Rapson stated for the sake of argument all the infrastructure is the City of Brooks; we would still want to put in a 12" trunk line through the City of Brooks to provide their access to their system. In Union City, with Fulton County when you look at the water services there is a distinction that the City of Union City takes care of any waterlines that are above 12" and everything below 12" is the City of Atlanta because they are City of Atlanta customers. They have the customer size pipes and we own the trunk pipe,



or vice versa depending on where you are. Maybe that is the type of relationship we end up in. He said that he thinks a 12” trunk line through there will help, but not if you connected all the 2” lines.

Mr. Bergen commented that we have to be looking at PRV’s if we are going to start from that end coming down.

Commissioner Brown said that we would blow every line in the area. Mr. Rapson said that he agrees that this should be something that is part of our long term strategy for distribution. This is part of the capital plan for distribution. He said that we can figure out who pays for what, we can figure out how the IGA’s are done, all of that is part of that process, but staff needs to move forward in regards to fixing the asbestos issues and alleviating the concerns we have with the existing infrastructure in the ground.

Mr. Pope asked if we purchased the Brooks system. Mr. Rapson said that it is almost like we inherited it, like we inherit from a developer, same type of philosophy. Mr. Pope stated that he would like to read their permit and see what it says; see how it is identified.

Mr. Davenport commented that he knows it is an issue, he does not know how it is going to come down. One way or the other, we need to resolve it. Mr. Pope said that we can run lines through another service area, but they have to approve it. If we want to run a large trunk line through the City of Fayetteville, we can do that as long as City of Fayetteville agrees to allow us. Of course, they would benefit from it, because it would be through their city.

Mr. Davenport said that this is more than running a line through somebody’s city, this is having customers within the city itself. He said that he does not know about the prior relationship, how it has come forward. It is just an issue that we will find the best way to resolve it.

Mr. Pope explained that how this came forward is that some of their leaders are calling us complaining about pressure on their system; it is theirs. He said he has been very confused how to answer the questions.

Mr. Davenport stated that he can rest assured that they are going to be very reluctant to give up that permit, if that is what it takes to do what we want to do. He went on to say that he is not saying that is what it takes; he is just saying that it is an issue. We need to find out the ins and outs of it.

Commissioner Brown commented that you also have some potential customers. We need to think about how we offer that extension and who pays for what. He said that he thinks there are some opportunities to pick up some people along the way. Mr. Bergen said that we have some people at the end of Woods Road on Grant; we are more than 2,500 feet from where they want to be, but if we had an 8” on Woods,

we would be a lot closer to be able to service them. The whole idea is not to just think about these people in this service area. It is also other potential tie-ins outside of that service area. Over on Padgett, we have a private water system that we could potentially end up picking up in the future. It has happened before, there is a possibility, you never know. We want to make sure we allow adequate volume to be able to do that.

Mr. Scarborough commented that all those improvements improve fire service long term, because it eventually gets them out of the water hauling and tankers. They would like to get out of it, but until you have the infrastructure throughout, they are subject to have to continue to do that. That has always been a long term goal of their department.

**X. REQUEST FOR WAIVING PARKING FEES AT LAKE MCINTOSH.**

Mr. Pope explained that this is something we have already discussed, and Mr. Rapson had asked that we get it before the Board around April. This gentleman came in about the sail boat races.

Mr. Rapson clarified that it would be for that weekend for that one event and just for the participants, not the spectators.

Steve Rapson made a motion to recommend to the Board of Commissioners waiving the parking fees at Lake McIntosh Park for the participants in the Sailboat Regatta planned for August 2 and 3, 2014. Vice Chairman Conner seconded and there was no opposition.

**THM's, HAA's and TOC's**

Mr. Pope reported that we have made some piping changes in the plant. We have made some operational changes, just to try to improve the overall operations of the water treatment facility while we are waiting on some larger changes. He said that he thinks, for the first time, this came from Pam Johnson, our lab manager; she thinks in about 2008 or 2009, in about four years, for the first time we have passed THM's. We got the results back from the state. We passed them very well in some areas and in some areas not as much as he thinks we can. He said that he thinks we still have some improvement to do. We need to be below a 60 and we got some 46's which is kind of high for him. The key is, this is the entire sample, and all of them passed.

Commissioner Brown commented that this is awesome, very good. Mr. Rapson said this is awesome news.

Mr. Destadio added, as he said earlier about the boil water notice, we have had enough bad notices, we ought to get a press release out that says things are improving.

**Mr. Rapson said that he thinks there needs to be one on that as well. If you get right down to it that is ground zero that got us through the last six months we have gone through. That is ground zero; and it was those quarterly readings back to back to back that ultimately got us the consent order.**

**Mr. Destadio said the missing things that were not there. He said that is really great. That is really good news and he thinks that we ought to let the citizens know.**

**Mr. Rapson asked him to draft something and we will tweak it, and put something out over the next couple of weeks. Mr. Pope said he would email the report to Mr. Destadio.**

**Mr. Pope said this is for THM's and HAA's. HAA's generally are not a problem, then, of course since December we have passed our TOC's, too. This was something that was kind of hit or miss over the last few years; as far as he knows.**

**Chairman Frisina asked if the standard on those is going up in the future. Mr. Pope said yes, they will continue to change, because those are the ones that create the disinfection byproducts. Mr. Pope went on to say that we are actually testing a chemical at Crosstown as of yesterday. As soon as we get state approval; it is installed and has been tested, but we are doing a pilot run on sodium permanganate, which should eliminate probably all of our TOC's. We are supposed to do a 35% removal and he anticipates seeing a much higher removal rate. Wayne Jackson is our inspector and he has asked us to write something up on what we have out there right now before we run it. Just so they are aware of what we are doing. But, on the phone, he immediately agreed that we should probably have been feeding that. He said that he will get something to Mr. Jackson today and he assumes we will probably turn it on tomorrow. Mr. Jackson thinks he can get approval as soon as he gets the document.**

**Mr. Pope reported on the valves on the basins. He said that Mr. Ray has done a good job on pulling that together. Now, we will be able to put all four basins on line, which will give us more detention time with our treatment process which will help us with putting out a better quality of water.**

#### **CARL VISION INSTITUTE REPORT.**

**Mr. Rapson stated that another thing that is going to be flowing through the Board of Commissioners will be the results of the Carl Vinson report that we did. He said they went out and looked at all the employees in the Water System from the Director's position all the way down to the maintenance folks in the Water System. He said they will be making some adjustments to six or seven people; bringing them within market. The primary concerns we had were our Water Operators and the Plant Operators were not being compensated at the right level. This will correct that. This will go to the Board the last meeting in March. Just to let the Board know that we have righted the system, we brought new senior management, obviously, we brought in a new Engineer of Record, we are finalizing the**

Deficiencies List, we have the Capital Plan, we have the Optimization Plan. Now we are basically just making sure that we are compensating the people at the right level, too. We are trying to right all those shifts all at the same time. He said that he thinks that we have done a pretty good job, bringing all that within the benchmarks that they need to be in.

#### **STORMWATER CORRESPONDENCE**

Commissioner Brown asked about Stormwater letters that come in. Are we sending them something back? Mrs. Speegle replied that the Stormwater letters go to Stormwater and they respond to them. Commissioner Brown asked if there is a form letter that we send to them, or do we address it individually. Mrs. Speegle said she would get him a copy.

Commissioner Brown stated that he has a power point that he is going to be presenting Thursday. Paul Lentz has been putting all these things in the newspaper and people have heard it enough times that they actually believe it, now. He said that this woman is writing exactly about what Paul Lentz has said; how dare you build this park and do all this stuff. He went on to say that when she says there are plenty of people who feel the same way she does; they have all called him. He knows they feel the same way she does. That is something that we really seriously need to get a handle on and make sure that they have accurate information.

Mr. Destadio commented that the information in the newspaper articles that he has read is wrong. Commissioner Brown stated that he is just making it up as he goes.

Mr. Rapson said that he has done a good job and he thinks Mr. Pope has done a good job with bringing Mr. Lentz in and explaining to him the true facts. We can't control, obviously, what he is writing, but it is not because staff is not communicating what the reality of the situation is. Even when you look at the park situation that he is talking about, which is the latest park that we built, if you look at the analysis of the million two that they spent, only \$200,000.00 of it is associated with the true park, the playground and all that kind of stuff. The rest of it is part of the design program for the dam. That information was shared with him. He said that he sent Commissioner Brown the excel spreadsheet that he sent to Mr. Lentz as well as the papers.

Mr. Rapson said with a lot of these folks that like to write the blogs... all that we can do is communicate the facts to these individuals. That is really where our control ends. What he is saying is in regards to the positive things that have happened at the plant, he thinks that is where we do the press releases and we start telling our story. He said that he thinks to a large degree we haven't done a great job of telling our story and our successes. If we look at where we were a year ago compared to today, it is not even the same type of system, the same type of management, the same type of even thinking or vision. We are sitting here talking about a distribution system down in Brooks and fixing the pressure issues. Those are the progressive things that he thinks we need to see.

**Mr. Rapson said that the Stormwater issues are in the million four, he thinks Commissioner Browns power point pretty much is going to address those type of issues. The million four that we currently have, there is not a dime in there that has anything to do with parks. Commissioner Brown said there is no park money or anything in there. We can either breach the dam and it cost a certain amount of money, or we can maintain the lake, fix the dam; and if we fix the dam, it may be that we end up giving our citizens an eighteen acre recreational amenity that we could put some passive park stuff in the next three to five years. That is really the only decision before us. Quite frankly, if Mrs. Phillips does not want to donate the eighteen acre lake and the land that we need to do a passive park, then we will obviously do what the cheaper is, which is breaching it.**

**Mr. Rapson stated that he thinks before people say it is cheaper to breach so just go ahead and breach it; before you do that, he would suggest going and visiting the lake and taking a look at what we are talking about, because he thinks when you are standing there and you are looking at the lake and you are looking at the possibility of that being a passive recreational area that is a quality of life issue.**

**Mr. Pope commented that is what needs to be considered in taking away a lake. Mr. Rapson said that he would encourage people; because the two or three people that he has talked to, say obviously we need to breach it. He then said, envision this road being cut in half, cul-de-sac on both ends, and this being completely empty and dry. If you want to see what that looks like and you don't have anything to do, just drive to Lake Peachtree and look across the road. That is what it is going to look like.**

**Mr. Rapson said that we have a unique opportunity with that particular aspect as opposed to another one. He said they have already met with her once, we are meeting with her again, they talked about the conception; quite frankly, if she doesn't agree that what the county thinks we need to do to have a recreational amenity, then we will go with the cheaper option.**

**Commissioner Brown commented that we definitely need to make sure that we are giving a solid response to things like this. This woman has taken it hook, line and sinker and she thinks we are building parks with Stormwater money. That is just not the case, Stormwater money is detailed for Stormwater projects only; no parks, no sliding boards.**

**Mr. Rapson said that what the Board needs to see is the reply, so the Board can see what the residents are saying and how we are replying. He said that he knows we are replying to them now, but if someone is going to take the effort to write a letter or someone's going to take the effort to do an email, then we should have a response to that and both should be in the packet. That way the Board can see them both.**

**Mr. Rapson said for the good, or the bad, anybody that puts something in writing, we need to respond in kind for the good and for the bad. He thinks that it is an**

opportunity. Silence can be deafening. Commissioner Brown said that he thinks the one reason that Mr. Lentz's stuff has proliferated is we have never responded to him. He thinks we are getting more and more people now saying that nobody's giving an account or argument, so it must be true.

Mr. Rapson said that we have responded to Mr. Lentz. He can assure you we have. Commissioner Brown explained that what he is saying it is not publicly. No one has ever refuted anything he says.

Mr. Rapson said that his responses to Mr. Lentz went to Cal Beverly and Pat Cooper as well. Commissioner Brown commented that it never made it into the newspaper, though. Mr. Rapson said he can't make people print stuff, but it is not because he didn't send it.

Mr. Pope stated that he reviewed two letters that Mr. Lentz wrote the paper, just wanted to clarify so he would be correct, because he wanted him to be factual, because he is worried about him putting something in there to make him look bad if he said something. There are people in this county who are very educated about water. He said that he wanted him to look professional. He said that Mr. Lentz did not like it because of the changes that were made. Mr. Lentz said that neither one of those articles would every get printed.

Commissioner Brown talked about the piece that Mr. Lentz was going to put in the paper about industrial waste getting into Lake Peachtree. He said that he literally gave him the water quality people at EPD's phone numbers and names. He told him to call these people and see if they agree with his assessment about what is going on.

Mr. Destadio commented that the real point is that you need to start having positive articles going out. He said you are doing a great job, and you ought to stop some of this false advertising, so to speak.

Vice Chairman Conner said to tell him to go look at all the mussels that are in the lake bed. That is a good sign of clean water and a healthy environment.

There being no further business, Chairman Pete Frisina adjourned the meeting at 9:25 A.M.

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Peter A. Frisina

The foregoing minutes were approved at the regular Water Committee meeting on the 12th day of March, 2014.

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Lisa Speegle