

WATER COMMITTEE
JUNE 25, 2014
MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

NON-VOTING MEMBERS:

Patrick Stough for Dennis Davenport
Frank Destadio

GUESTS:

Mary Giles
Dave Borkowski, City of Peachtree City
Stephen Hogan

STAFF PRESENT:

Russell Ray
Chet Ward
Matt Bergen

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

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING ON MAY 28 , 2014.

Vice Chairman Chip Conner made the motion and Commissioner Steve Brown seconded, to approve the minutes from the meeting on May 28, 2014. There was no opposition.

II. OPTIMIZATION PLAN UPDATE.

Lee Pope reported that a couple of the task orders have been approved; CH2M Hill is moving forward with the design on the filtration system, the chlorine dioxide system, and the carbon adjustment. The carbon adjustment on the feed systems will be at both plants, but the filters are just for the Crosstown Plant. He met with a couple of plants here locally to discuss the control systems we are interested in. There are a couple more plants to go look at. The kick off meeting is immediately after this meeting at Crosstown; to get the design initiated for the filters.

Mr. Pope went on to say that we will be looking at changing out the under drains, the media and the control for the valves, basically it will be a full remodel on the filters; which is the largest portion of that task. The chlorine dioxide systems will be upgraded and moved to a different location which is required by EPD in their Sanitary Survey. We are beginning to check off some of those larger items on the list. He referenced the spreadsheet update with the many items that were requested as deficiencies to repair on the Sanitary Survey. He commented that we have done a

lot of the low hanging fruit; now we are hitting the ones that are a little more intense that have some design stuff involved.

Vice Chairman Conner asked if this is basically the Crosstown Plant. Mr. Pope said that it is, there are a few things we are going to do at South Fayette, actually the liquid lime system will probably be the first thing that goes out for bid because it has already been designed. It is pretty much a package purchase system. Once we change to liquid lime that will eliminate the problem we are having with the lime feeders. We are going to adapt the current lime feeders to bulk carbon.

Mr. Pope explained about the lime feeders that are below, the hoppers are actually old outdated feeders at both plants. We are going to basically put in a new carbon feed system that will attach the hopper so we can utilize the existing hoppers and save a good portion of money by using those hoppers. We will be able to buy carbon in bulk which will save us a lot of money in operations. They also make a carbon feeder that will attach to those hoppers that is a lot neater feeder system. The operators won't be handling carbon, and there won't be as much waste. He said that this plant is more updated than Crosstown and the carbon room is in pretty good shape. Carbon is a nasty chemical to feed. The less handling you have, the cleaner the feed and the less loss you have. Any chemical that you don't actually get into the feeder and get into the water is wasted. When you go to a bulk system like that, it is a lot cleaner and neater; and is a more efficient operation.

Mr. Rapson stated that we also submitted our consent order revision with the optimization plan to EPD. They have accepted that plan and we are working through some of their minor comments. There is nothing on there that is major. He went on to say if you are interested to know which line items were approved in regards to the \$370,000.00 change order we just did for the design, that was on the last Board of Commissioners meeting. They are all detailed on that agenda. Basically it is all the big ticket items for both, Crosstown as well as South Fayette. EPD seems to be fairly happy with it.

Mr. Pope said they feel real good with the direction we are going. Again, the consent, once they accept our response, the twelve months begin to tick off on when they will expect us to start handling things, but we are already handling them. They are pretty comfortable with what our plan is. Mr. Rapson stated that they are pleased with the progress we have already made.

III. WATER BOTTLE UPDATE.

Mr. Pope reported that we are ready. He said they are waiting on him to get them the label that we all saw at the last meeting. We are ready to place the order.

IV. LAKE PEACHTREE UPDATE.

Mr. Rapson explained that there are basically two issues that are occurring with Lake Peachtree and suggested discussing the dredging first. He said the contract provides some language in regards to the dredging project. We are in the process of finalizing a task order with CH2M Hill so we can go ahead and move forward with the dredging. We are probably 90% there. He went on to say that they have already been working and we have gathered a bunch of data; now it is actually the nuts and bolts of getting that change order adopted and approved. That will probably be this week.

Mr. Rapson went on to discuss the spillway project. He said that we had started a dam breach analysis in anticipation of it may be a Category I. As soon as we were notified that it is a Category I, it made us pause. At this point, we have paused and reached out to Peachtree City. They are currently in Savannah at the GMA Conference; we will have a meeting with them next Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. in Peachtree City to go over what our approach is going to be moving forward. Obviously, Peachtree City, as the owner of the lake has to make a decision in regards to whether they want to move forward with this.

Mr. Rapson explained because of the relationship we have had through this contract, and the fact that Lake Peachtree had been a water reservoir, we kind of had this quasi relationship with them. They are the owner of the lake, he does not think anybody is disputing that they are the owner of the lake. As the owner of the lake, back in the 1960's there was an Intergovernmental Agreement, that basically said we are going to own the lake, but we want you to kind of maintain the lake. That is where the whole dredging concept came from. There are only seven areas, and those are the seven areas that we are focusing on, on the other aspect of it, which is the dredging. Regardless of what happens with the spillway, the dredging project is moving forward. The spillway is a different issue because it is going to come down to your definition of maintenance. Peachtree City's definition of maintenance is we have to replace it and make it a Category I or a Category II, whatever it is. The County has not really taken an official position.

Mr. Rapson explained why we have not taken an official position. At this point, there seems to be a lot of emotion and speculation surrounding this issue. What we are saying is we wanted our consultants to evaluate the spillway, as well as the dam structure and tell us. It may be that we come full circle and they say, yes, it is a Category I dam, maybe it is Category II. We don't know; we really don't know the nature of what the problem is, or the alternatives, or the options we have to fix the problem. We thought it best not to take a position until we know what the problem is. That is kind of where we have been. Our consultants, working in conjunction with CH2M Hill were working towards that, but if you look at the EPD letter that was sent, it was very clear in the letter, the owner of the lake has to do this dam breach analysis. What we did was we basically paused our analysis that we had in place to find out whether Peachtree City agrees with that position, whether they

want to challenge a Category 1, or whether they don't. That is what this meeting next week is about; just lay that out and find out where is the City of Peachtree City in regards to their feelings in regards to the spillway, the dam and those types of things. Based on that meeting, we will have a better sense of direction on how to move forward.

Mr. Pope stated that he guesses it is an IGA, the biggest thing is on repair. It has to be a partnership that is why the meeting next week is for us to get together and find out what they want to do, what we want to do and make sure we are all going down the same route.

Mr. Rapson commented that we remain optimistic that we can reach some type of compromise between the two entities. We are not in a position to take a position until we know the nature of the problem. He said that we hope to have the analysis done to know the nature of the problem.

Commissioner Brown commented that the important thing is if a Category 1 designation is going to be appealed, it has to come from Peachtree City. We need them to move forward on that. There is a lot of anxiety on the Peachtree City side because they are getting a lot of complaints because people drive over 54 all the time and they see the grass out there. He said that he gets that, and we are trying our best to just try to say look, we are working on this, we are going to make sure we do it right. Let's don't jump to any conclusions until we get the study material and stuff like that. They have made some requests; he just gave them last night all the copies of all the Intergovernmental Agreements that we have on file. They have also asked for a lot of maintenance records and things of that nature. They wanted it by Thursday and he said it is hard to get 43 years' worth of records by Thursday but we are working on that; we will get that to them.

Mr. Rapson stated that we are going to provide as much as we can by Thursday, but at the end of the day, it really boils down to the classification. The difference between a Category I and a Category II, you are talking the difference between a million dollars and 4 or 5 million dollars. Until we know the nature of what that problem is, it is really hard for us to take a position in regards to the solution.

Vice Chairman Conner clarified that the breach assessment is on hold. Mr. Rapson stated they have gathered a bunch of information and we were right at the crux of them starting to do the meat of it and we basically have placed it on hold because we don't want the county to spend \$60,000.00 on a breach analysis and Peachtree City says they don't agree with your scope, we don't agree with how you did it, we don't agree with your findings and all of a sudden we have just wasted \$60,000.00. They are the ones, as the owner of the lake that EPD is saying has to do the breach analysis. It may very well be at the end of the meeting on Thursday that we agree we are going to move forward and the county would move forward. That is why we are having a meeting.

Vice Chairman Conner expressed concern about the timeline which is 30 days from the date of the letter. Mr. Rapson commented that EPD, in regards to those 30 days, if we have started the process and we are into it, that 30 days is kind of a loose deadline. Mr. Pope stated that during those 30 days, we have to let them know that we do want to appeal. It may take; there is a lot more technology out there so there is a lot more data that can be gathered to make a decision about what we do, how we want to dispute that categorization, so we would let them know within the 30 days. Mr. Rapson commented on the timeline; we have said that they were not going to have the report until the week of June 28, which is really the first week in July. We are going to lose 4 or 5 days, but it should only push it 2 or 3 weeks; that is what we are thinking.

Commissioner Brown commented from a liability perspective from our side of it, with them having the ownership, we started saying we need to really say, here Peachtree City, this is it; get something from them in writing saying yes, proceed. Do it that way so that we don't go and spend \$60,000.00 to \$100,000.00 and then all of a sudden, they don't like what you have done.

Mr. Rapson said that when Peachtree City went out and hired a separate council to manage this process, it changes the tone of the conversation. Commissioner Brown agreed that it did. Mr. Rapson went on to say that now, what we are trying to do is help everybody stop, catch their breath, sit down and have a meeting to discuss this with elected officials; that is really what we are going to do Thursday. He said that our hope for that Thursday meeting is that meeting would consist of himself, Mr. Pope, the Chair, and probably one other Commissioner. Hopefully on their side the Mayor, another Council member and their staff as opposed to having an open meeting with all the elected officials. Vice Chairman Conner said as long as we don't lose that window of opportunity. Commissioner Brown stated that it would not go by.

Mr. Pope commented, unofficially, he thinks that EPD is expecting us to appeal it. We have not sent them anything official but they know that we are collecting data and planning. Mr. Rapson stated that since everyone is going to read these minutes, let's talk about why we feel that way. He said that he thinks it is important to understand. When they had the meeting with Safe Dams that was supposed to be a preliminary type meeting with staff to talk about what their feelings were in regards to the spillway. When staff showed up, there were issues that Peachtree City had in regards to topo, and the topo is the contours of the lake and really helps define if there are any downstream impacts for a breached dam. The Piedmont Engineering report, which was the draft report they had was finalized that morning and was laid on the desk at the meeting that they had. Nobody had a chance to review that, neither Safe Dams, nor our staff, nor Peachtree City staff. That was the meeting they said they think we are Category I. What we basically said was we appreciate your opinion that you think it is Category I, and that is when we, as a county started moving forward to make a determination whether we agreed with that. It could just

as easily be that we spend \$60,000.00 come full circle and our engineer, Golder, comes back and says they have looked at it, and we think you are a Category 1.

Mr. Rapson went on to say that he thinks part of the premise that they made that decision on was that a Category I status is automatic if you are a drinking water reservoir. As he told EPD, we really don't need Lake Peachtree as a drinking water reservoir, and that set off an entire craziness in Peachtree City. What he was trying to say was, we pull 4 million gallons out of Lake Peachtree; that permit is actually for Lake Kedron, so Kedron drains into Lake Peachtree and then we withdraw it. For a long time, that was basically our reservoir, that and Starr's Mill. We took Starr's Mill off line, Lake Peachtree is a fairly shallow lake; he thinks people understand that today, but they did not understand it 4 months ago. There are only 4 million gallons there; when we brought Lake Horton and Lake McIntosh online, both of them are 14 million gallons apiece. So, we went from having a 4 million gallon reservoir to 28 million gallon reservoir. When we say we don't need Lake Peachtree, what we are saying is Lake Peachtree is good to have, none of us are saying we don't need Lake Peachtree, he said he thinks they (residents) extrapolated we don't need Lake Peachtree as a reservoir to we are not going to fill it back up. That is not what we were saying at all, we were basically just saying from a water reservoir perspective, it would be nice to have Lake Peachtree as a 4 million gallon backup, but we really don't need Lake Kedron or Lake Peachtree because we have 28 million gallons now. We are only processing 11 million, now.

Mr. Rapson went on to say with Lake McIntosh and Lake Horton online, the relevance of Lake Peachtree as a reservoir is substantially decreased. He said they did not have that information at the meeting that they had. When they are making a lot of these decisions, he thinks that part of their default was you are a drinking water reservoir, so you have to be a Category I, then, all of a sudden, when that was taken off the table, if you look at the EPD letter, they don't reference the reservoir, it is referencing the downstream analysis. Since no one has looked at the downstream analysis or done the breach dam analysis, he thinks it is a little premature to say it is a Category I without having that analysis done, which is one of the reasons why, full circle, why we expedited that process. Because we wanted to get ahead of it; we knew at some point if they gave us a letter, there would be a 30 day window. We also knew when that window came and they made that designation, that it wasn't our decision. That it was really the City's. That is where we are.

Mr. Pope stated since he has been here, it has been a very short time, the most complaints that he has had is from the residents that live on Lake Kedron and Lake Peachtree about us using them as drinking water. That affects how the reservoir is used. Naturally we would put those on the back burner, we never want to lose those resources, but it is pretty clear we have two other resources that can meet our needs. We would never want to lose them, but we don't have to lean on them as much as we used to. He said that he and Mr. Ray were having a conversation yesterday that we are very fortunate right now, to be where we are because if this had happened a

couple of years ago, he does not know what we would have done for a drinking source. It has kind of surfaced itself at a good time for us, that we can go in and fix it. Had it been uncovered a couple of years ago, he does not know what the county would have done. Especially going through droughts at that time; we are in a great position to fix this and take the time, do the analysis and do the right thing. He went on to say that is why he thinks it is so important, that is why they met yesterday for us to sit down with Peachtree City and let's all put our heads together. He said that he is very comfortable that we are going to be able to work out a solution.

Mr. Preau asked if we have a firm date on the dredging. Mr. Rapson said that we will not have a firm date until we approve that task order. We have to go through the process of getting all that engineered. We probably want to do a better job dredging than they have ever done before. Part of what is going to slow it down is the fact that we are not going to go out there and start digging stuff up, we have to know what we are getting, what the depth is and we are trying to create some standards so that going forward we don't have this whole mystical magical where's 1966 and the waterline, that type of thing.

Mr. Pope stated that it is not real clear where we need to dredge. We are trying to come up with that, some coring will be done and we will make sure we do it thorough this time. He stated that we are going to try to minimize the impact on this reservoir so we don't have to continue to dredge it like that. That is kind of ridiculous to be dredging on a regular basis. That is not real smart operations. We are looking at some stream bank restoration through the Corp. There is some permitting that we have to do; that is making this a little more cumbersome but it is really good timing; we will be able to figure out what we need to do with the spillway structure and hopefully do a really good job of dredging and cleaning the lake out. He said he knows people are not real happy about it, but when we are finished in a year or so, he thinks they will be in really good shape.

Commissioner Brown stated that he thinks the dredging will be the best that the County has ever done. It will be the best they have ever seen. We will do it right. He said that he keeps reassuring everybody. Mr. Rapson commented that he thinks the problem that he hears mostly from the residents, and he thinks to some extent that it is being echoed by the Peachtree City Council, we can't just go out and hire equipment, put our guys on them, and put them in the lake. He thinks that a lot of folks think that is what we are going to do and we can't. This is the big caveat, if you are asking why the dredging has not occurred. We were teed up to do dredging; we had approval to do wet dredging. We were going to lower the lake two or three months, we were going to fill the lake back up and then we were going to start the dredging project. As soon as you went from wet dredging to dry dredging, EPD says hold up, we gave you approval for wet dredging and it is a Catch 22. We can do dry dredging now, but we have to go back to that gauntlet.

Mr. Rapson said that he told Jim Pennington with Peachtree City, if you want to blame someone, blame Safe Dams, they are the ones telling us we can't fill the lake

up. We wanted to fill the lake up to at least the base of the structure, which would have allowed us to do a lot of the wet dredging. But, they said no, you can't fill it up at all.

Chairman Frisina stated in the long run, dry dredging is better than wet dredging. Mr. Rapson commented that you can see what you are getting. Mr. Pope commented that you get a bigger bang for your buck. He went on to say that he does not know who was here the last time; David Jaeger did a power point at one of the Ocmulgee Advisory Council meetings. You have to have a place to off load that, they used Drake Field the last time. That obviously was a mess. We are going to bypass having to do any of that.

V. DISCUSSION OF PUBLIC COMMENT.

Commissioner Brown commented that Mrs. Giles, who is here, sent an email about public comment. We did not offer public comment at this meeting. We so rarely ever have public at the meetings. It is easy to forget that you don't have someone in the room and you are not reminded. He said that was a very good point, and he thinks we ought to have it as a regular agenda item. If somebody is here and they want to make public comment or whatever, we give them the opportunity to do that. If you are going to take the time to show up at 8:00 in the morning for a committee meeting, you ought to be allowed to say something.

Chairman Frisina asked if they want to go ahead and do that now. Commissioner Brown said absolutely, if the committee is in consensus on this he said that he thinks it would be nice to have it as a regular agenda item, if we do have somebody here we give them the opportunity. Mr. Rapson commented that he thinks it was clearly an oversight. Mr. Pope said that he thinks if we continue to go out with an agenda that has a public comment section, maybe we will have more people attend. They will feel like they have a voice.

Chairman Frisina polled the public and asked who would like to comment. Mrs. Giles responded that she would.

Mrs. Giles stated that she sent an email late last night because she just saw it late last night. She thought it might be something that could be discussed today. It has to do with the...she knows we have much bigger issues with Lake Peachtree, what is called the new sea wall. She asked if anybody is familiar with that. Mr. Rapson asked if it is the new sea wall behind Drake Field and All Children's Park. He said yes he has seen that.

Mrs. Giles said there is a ramp also over at Drake Field. Commissioner Brown said that is for things like the triathlon so you can enter the water easily without tearing the bank up. Mrs. Giles said that her question is from the Water System's perspective, since the lake is a water source right now, is there any effect on your

erosion issues, your dredging issues, having a wall like that installed along the banks of the lake.

Mr. Rapson said that where they installed it there may be some issue, because the responsibility we have for dredging are at the seven inlets that actually dump into the lake. He said that he thinks that one of those inlets is just on either side of that sea wall. He said that he does not envision that being a problem with dredging. They do those type of things as well.

Mrs. Giles asked if there was coordination or discussion between the Water System and the City prior to putting the sea wall in. Commissioner Brown said not that he knows of; Mr. Rapson said he does not think so. Mrs. Giles asked if the City is communicating with you at all regarding having this wall installed. She does not know that they would be required to.

Mr. Rapson said that he thinks what they would do is they could tell us they would do it, because again, it goes back to they are the owner of the lake. If they wanted to do a sea wall, he thinks at that point, they could just tell us that they want to do a sea wall.

Mr. Pope commented that is a good thing. Commissioner Brown stated that he thinks one of the issues that has come up... David Borkowski commented that they are trying to stop the erosion. Mr. Pope said that is a good thing. Mrs. Giles said there is positive and negative on this. It could be positive; it would slow down some erosion there. Mr. Pope said that we are kind of new on this whole thing, so it may have been in conversation prior to us being here. He is not so sure, maybe they did.

Mr. Rapson said there were no conversations that he was aware of. Commissioner Brown said that he thinks the point to make, obviously you brought up a situation that you can tell that there is not a lot of communication going both ways. We have got to fix that, we have got to make sure that we have an understanding. It would be nice, if not Mr. Borkowski, to have somebody from Peachtree City from the government, just attending the meetings, just so they can...he knows that Stephen Hogan come to a lot of them. But, just have the communications, he thinks for a long time the City had said the County does whatever the County does at the lake and then we just assume that whatever they are going to do, they are going to do. There is not a lot of cross there. We need to make sure that we are at least alerting people to what we are doing.

Mrs. Giles stated that is her point, as just a citizen of Peachtree City, the communication between the City and the other government agencies; is there a flow of communication going on so that everybody is aware of what everybody else is doing. That is all she is asking.

Commissioner Brown said that it barely exists right now. We are working on improving that. That is the reason for the meetings next week for the spillway.

Mr. Pope said they have met a couple of times since he has been here, and after next week, he thinks that we will start meeting pretty regular between at least Mr. Borkowski and himself. He said they get along great, so they do communicate and call each other to share things.

Mrs. Giles commented that Mr. Borkowski is wonderful, she has emailed him many times and he has been very responsive to anything she has asked. Mr. Pope said that he has made himself available for him a lot, too. Mr. Rapson said they communicated ad nauseum about the spillway situation and keeping them apprised of what we are doing in regards to the spillway and in regards to the dredging. They have been really responsive in regards to events that were supposed to be on Lake Peachtree that we have to go and ask EPD for. It is kind of a weird kind of relationship because Peachtree City does recreational events on the reservoir, but since we have the permit for the reservoir, we are the ones that have to coordinate with EPD to get those approved. It is a two-step approach in that regard. He said that he thinks we have kind of got that aspect of communication fixed, but he thinks having a re-occurring meeting between our engineer departments or between the Water System is something we are going to be expediting.

Mrs. Giles stated that she had been going back over Water Committee meeting minutes for two years now, has the system 404 permit come into play. Mr. Pope said that it will with the dredging. Mr. Rapson said we will be doing dry dredging, and we are starting all over again. Mrs. Giles asked if that was an issue. Mr. Rapson said that we had already gotten approval on the wet dredging from the State, and what happens is when we couldn't fill the lake back up, we had to go to dry dredging solely, it resets and now we have to get a new permit just for the dry dredging.

Mr. Pope commented that he does not think it will be a long time. The State has been very sensitive in all of their departments in assisting us with frequent turn around. As a matter of fact, on the spillway meeting we had with them, they understand that there is probably going to be some construction and design and they have even said they are going to help expedite those documents. Everybody has been really responsive in his opinion, at the State level. He thinks it will be a pretty quick turn-around.

Frank Destadio commented that we are actually trying to do away with doing the 404 permit. There is some paperwork they are putting in that will try to justify not requiring it. The Corp is going to evaluate that first and if that is true then you won't need a 404 permit. CH2M Hill is completing the paperwork for the Corp of Engineers Mobile District.

Mr. Rapson stated that is exactly the same thing we got for wet dredging. They basically said that we don't need a permit to do wet dredging.

Commissioner Brown asked Mr. Borkowski to take back to Peachtree City that it would be nice to have a representative from Peachtree City that could come to the meetings, because of Lake McIntosh, Lake Peachtree and Lake Kedron; you have a lot of access points.

Mr. Rapson commented that might come up at the Wednesday meeting next week.

Mr. Destadio commented that they are working hard to complete the permitting application to eliminate the 404 permit. When they get done with that they will do a walk through, finalize the amounts with the County and press on.

SECURITY ISSUES

Commissioner Brown raised the issue of security related to the kids that were playing out near Lake McIntosh. He asked Mr. Pope to give an update at the next meeting about security measures.

Mr. Pope explained that we have already done signage out there and we are having some meetings. Mr. Rapson stated that we have a meeting next week; one of the things in this year's budget that hopefully will be sanctioned next Thursday is the surveillance camera system. Part of the surveillance camera system was primarily talked about being put in at McCurry and Kenwood Park. We will also be putting them at the water parks and the dam, as well as water towers and Mrs. Birrell wants to put one at Solid Waste. The whole approach of that is we are going to have static cameras or remote access type cameras that can be uploaded through the web so you have 911 looking them, Fire looking at them, Water can be pulled up, and Mrs. Godbee can pull Recreation. It will help us manage not only the security aspect of it from a Marshal and also from a Sheriff perspective, but it will give us eyes on the scene so we should be able to see those.

Mr. Pope stated that not only did we have children jumping off the top of the structure at Lake McIntosh, but we also had them climbing on top of the walkway that goes out to the intake gates at Lake Kedron. It is actually fenced and domed over, but they were actually getting on top of the dome and jumping off into the water. We put some signs there, too. That is another area we probably want to put cameras up. The cameras are just so if we see somebody, we can go up there and get onto them.

Mr. Rapson commented that there are cameras that are motion activated at certain levels. The only problem is that camera won't work at a park, but it could very well work at a water tower or something like that.

Mr. Destadio commented about how much grass is growing in Lake Peachtree. That grass will die when the lake is filled back up. Actually, most of it will be dredged out. All it does is add organic material to the water and that organic material can be handled at the plant. They will know about it and they will work in advance. He said that some people have asked how much grass is there and is that

going to cause problems. It just increases the amount of organic material, just like you get a lot of leaves blowing in during the winter and spring. It is handled as an organic issue at the plant.

Mr. Pope commented that we talked about that is not one of our critical drinking water sources right now. Mr. Destadio agreed and stated that it should not be a problem.

DRAGON BOAT RACES

Commissioner Brown commented for the record, that the Dragon Boat Races are approved. They have communicated that to Peachtree City. Mr. Rapson stated that he thinks every recreational event that they have that we are aware of has been approved by EPD. He said that he sent an email to John Rory and asked him to tell him if there is anything out there that we need to know about and to make sure...A lot of times when we ask for those dates, they will say, well the triathlon is on the 12th, so we get the 12th approved and then we find out they really need to do practice on the 9th, 10th and 11th. He stated we need to know all the dates they want to do something on so we can ask EPD for approval.

Mr. Pope commented that we have approval through September of next year. Mr. Rapson stated that they are turning the approvals around in two or three weeks, which is an amazing speedy process for EPD.

Commissioner Brown asked Mr. Pope to give a report at the next meeting, he said we had a gentleman a while back that came in about handicap access, easier access to get a canoe or kayak in the water. Mr. Rapson stated that would be Anita Godbee and she is working on that. It won't be ready by the next meeting. She has not started on that yet, because she does not have her capital money until the budget is approved for July 1. This is for Lake Horton and Lake McIntosh.

Mr. Pope commented that this gentleman was very nice and he had told him that we had budgeted for it. He and Mrs. Godbee have met and come up with some solutions for two of the lakes, but the problem is the funding was first and then we have to get EPD approval for us to put it in there. He said he does not think there would be a problem, but again that is a step we will have to go through. We can't just go in and put anything out there. Commissioner Brown suggested corresponding with the gentleman and let him know what we are doing and this is where we are. He said he knows it has been awhile since it was brought up and he does not want Mr. Gardner to think we are not paying attention. Mr. Pope said that his thing was just being able to utilize the lakes.

WATER BILL INSERTS

Mr. Rapson explained that the Senior Center has a budget issue where they are going to expand one of the buildings in the Senior Center. The county has funded some money for that renovation as well. They want to come up and actually have a fund raiser to raise half of the money. They wanted to put this insert into the water

bill. He said that he personally took a stance as the County Manager and said he does not think it is appropriate use for the water bill. He said that we still wanted to bring it to the Water Committee to get agreement with that position, but his position is even though they are part of the family because they have the Senior Services, we also have Bloom and other non-profit agencies and he does not think using the water bill as a fund raiser mechanism is an appropriate use of county dollars. That is the position that he took. He said that Dan is going to try to do something different, but he wanted to make sure that the Water Committee agreed with that position.

Commissioner Brown stated that traditionally what we have done is announced events and things of that nature. He said that he thinks that is appropriate. The fear is if you start doing fund raising for one, then what happens if there is something wrong with the fund raising campaign. Mr. Rapson said that he told them yesterday, he just wanted to let the Water Committee know.

Another request for a water bill insert was for Think Pink for breast cancer awareness. The committee agreed this was another type of fund raiser. Mr. Rapson said that he thinks that any type of mechanism that we ask for funding or solicit for funding in regards to; it could be as good as taking care of the homeless children for the Sheriff's Department, we just don't want to get into a situation where we are using our Water System for those types of inserts. We can do awareness, maybe put a comment on the bill that says there is a campaign or if you are Senior, look at the Senior Center, or put something on Channel 23; a proclamation or something like that. He thinks that would be better handled through the normal Board of Commissioner meetings. The Think Pink item could be discussed at a Board of Commissioner meeting and say this is going on to support breast cancer, if they wanted to do that. He does not think physically putting them in the bill and including them in a bill that we send out to every resident in the county is an appropriate use of that. If we open it up to us, then you have Peachtree City, Tyrone and the other will do the same thing.

CORRESPONDENCE INCLUDED IN WATER COMMITTEE PACKAGES.

Mr. Pope asked if the committee wants a copy of all correspondence we have; like Stormwater that we included. Mr. Rapson stated that anything that talks about the water should be in the Water Committee package. He and Commissioner Brown both stated they think it is beneficial. Mrs. Speegle clarified when the items should be included in the package once the response has been prepared; both items will be included in the packages.

Mr. Rapson stated that he thinks that every time we have good or bad we do a response and that should all be included together. Some of them take researching and if you are still researching it, wait and put it all together. Commissioner Brown stated that we have really tried to hunker down on the responses and be sure that everybody does get a response. Mr. Rapson commented that he thinks that any citizen, regardless of good or bad, sends you something, they deserve a response,

either, hey I think you think we are doing a great job or they really don't like the answer, but this is what the answer is. Either we are going to control how that pans out or U-tube, the newspaper, whoever they go to, because ultimately residents deserve a response back from the county, whether they like it or they don't like it.

Mr. Pope commented that each one of us is a citizen, so we all want to know that we are heard. He thinks that it is important that they know they were heard. They are not always expecting to get it their way, but he thinks we owe it to them to give them some sort of response.

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

Peter A. Frisina

The foregoing minutes were approved at the regular Water Committee meeting on the 23rd day of July, 2014.

Lisa Speegle