

**WATER COMMITTEE**  
**JULY 23, 2014**  
**MINUTES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

**ABSENT:**

Pete Frisina, Chairman

**NON-VOTING MEMBERS:**

Dennis Davenport  
Frank Destadio

**GUESTS:**

Mary Giles  
Kneisha Collins, City of PTC

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Chip Conner at 8:00 A.M.

**I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING ON JUNE 25, 2014.**

Commissioner Steve Brown made the motion and Lee Pope seconded, to approve the minutes from the meeting on June 25, 2014. There was no opposition.

**II. OPTIMIZATION PLAN UPDATE.**

Mr. Pope reported that a report will be sent to the State with our answers about each one of the deficiencies. Preliminary indication is they are really excited about what we have already done and what our plan is. There are some concerns about the filters and whether we will be able to get them completed within the 12 months, but they have already stated that they would probably be glad to issue us an extension if we are making the progress that they see necessary. Due to the design and completely remodeling the filters at Crosstown, it could take us beyond the 12 months that they allow, but they are not going to be mad at us if we take a few extra months. They said they would be glad to give us an extension.

Mr. Destadio commented that they (the State) were very pleased with the progress that is being made. They are happy that we are following the plan, and as long as we keep making the progress, there should be no concern.

Commissioner Brown suggested looking for some things where they have awards and things like that. This has been the comeback case of the decade; he thinks EPD would back us on some of that stuff, too. Mr. Pope said there are some awards with GAWP that we can apply for. Commissioner Brown said to make sure that we have something in the hopper. He said you guys have done a fabulous job.

**Mr. Destadio stated for the record that he knows there were calls about some water in Tyrone. He said that he called his daughter who lives in Tyrone, and quite honestly she said the water is the best it has been in the last two years. There have been no problems at all where she is.**

**Mr. Pope explained about the carbon we are feeding and the things we are doing to eliminate the THM's and TOC's; there should not be a taste and odor problem. Although, as we get further into the agenda we will talk about some of the concerns with the tanks; there are still some things in the Distribution system we have to tackle. Overall, we are putting out a really good quality of water.**

**Vice Chairman Conner asked if they have started the actual filter work. Mr. Pope replied, no, it is under design. He said that CH2M Hill has given us a timeline to be completed by the first of September; that is what they are hoping. Mr. Destadio commented that they are actually ahead of schedule for the design.**

**Mr. Rapson said they have billed us for about 90% completion so we should be pretty close. Mr. Pope said that the EPD has asked to be involved, because this is an exciting project for them.**

### **III. LAKE PEACHTREE UPDATE.**

**Mr. Pope reported that he went out with Rochester and Alan Bowling from CH. They walked around the lake and identified the areas that we want to survey for the dredging. They are going to come back with the information that they have.**

**Mr. Destadio explained what they were doing is the first step in terms of actually defining the sites. You can put on a map the areas that were on your agreement, but it is easy to put an "X" on a map. Then you go out there and actually put surveyors out there to find it. They wanted to make sure the surveyors know exactly what to do. Alan Bowling, one of the design guys went out there and he spray painted and marked off exactly where they were going to be able to do the dredging, what they wanted done on the seven areas. They expanded that and looked at the areas. As discussed, they have looked at asking them for a separate cost for snake island; this is the survey crew, and a separate cost for areas around the boat areas, the homeowner's areas, if they want it. The plan is, they will provide Mr. Pope the cost estimates from Rochester to do what is agreed to. They will provide the cost to do snake island and those other areas that can be provided to the homeowners and the City. If they in fact want to have that designed, paid for, and done, they can do that. The most optimum time is when we are doing the dredging.**

**Commissioner Brown clarified that because it is dry dredging there has never been a better time if they want to do this, to do it. This is the best time; we may not be in these circumstances again for another forty years.**

Mr. Pope said that we will work together; Mr. Borkowski is out of town this week, between Mr. Pope's team and the City's team they will look at one area that does not need to be dredged. Area 6 is still down to the rock bed. Mr. Rapson said that he emailed Jim Pennington and he explained that Mr. Borkowski was out; that is why Ms. Collins is present. Mr. Rapson said that we will focus on the seven areas that we have in regards to the dredging project, they could expand it if they want. He went on to say that he had an opportunity to speak with Ted Meeker and all of that is being communicated to the Mayor and Council through Jim Pennington and staff. He said that he suggested starting now having a meeting with Peachtree City to say here are the areas, here is what we have outlined; do you want to expand it, do you not want to expand it; then start talking about egress. We need to figure out where we are going to put the temporary roads and how we are going to get on and off the lake. That is a discussion we need to have with Peachtree City.

Mr. Destadio explained that they have identified the haul routes. Mr. Rapson stated that we have them on a map. Mr. Destadio said they walked them and there are some that are very good and there are some that the City continues to...they went ahead and put in the path by the park, the fence and all that stuff. That is one of the main haul roads for all the stuff in the front. The seawall and those kinds of things, if we had talked easier, it would have been less damage. There will be some cost associated with trying not to do damage. He went on to say that we will have to remove that fence; obviously the asphalt will get torn up. He does not know how we are going to protect that wall. That is a main route out.

Mr. Rapson said that is a discussion to have with Peachtree City, to find out where...there are several different areas along that route we could put a temporary road in. Mr. Pope commented that he and Mr. Bowling may have found a way that we won't even have to touch that wall. Mr. Destadio said there were several areas they looked at that are clear right out to Hippocket. They would be good areas to get to; there are about four or five areas that, when he walked it first with Mr. Bowling they checked it out, then Mr. Bowling has come back with the surveyors to make sure. There has been a lot of people out there looking at the way we can haul it out depending upon which areas we are dredging.

Mr. Rapson said that is a discussion we will start having with Peachtree City. Mr. Pope said that we will sit down with the City and all come together on that. Commissioner Brown commented that this is future consideration, too. Obviously, this won't be the last time the lake is dredged. Maybe there needs to be a look at maybe a service road or some kind of service area that is always maintained.

Mr. Pope said there was some discussion yesterday, and when we meet with the City we will talk about it, about designing a small rock filter dam or something, where the streams come into the reservoir; to make the sediment drop out so it won't move further into the lake. That was a project that he was working on at Rockdale that he would like to see us do here. Then, streambank restoration, to minimize any sediment impact on the reservoir in the future; we should not be dredging on a

regular basis. We should design to prevent that. Mr. Destadio commented that you have to get up Flat Creek and stop some of the erosion that is coming from Kedron. That is the vast majority of the silt that is coming in there. He went on to say that we had some areas that have problems access wise; getting into where you want to put that; on the other side, on the Windham side. Getting in there is going to be hard; that is where you have to stop it.

Mr. Pope explained that the thought process is to have it dropped out in a place that would be easy for us to remove it on a regular basis. Then, we could have a maintenance program and not go through some full dredging project like we have.

Vice Chairman Conner asked if there is anything happening on the breach assessment. Mr. Rapson said that he talked to Ted and he said basically that project is moving forward and is on whatever the timeline they have. One of the things that he suggested to Ted was, as we move forward with any type of notifications or any type of timeline, either we are on the timeline or off the timeline, that we communicate that to Peachtree City and then Peachtree City in turn, kind of keep us apprised of the dam breach. He said that he would talk to Jim about that. It is good for us to keep the communication going back and forth because, again, when you talk to the EPD, the Corp, whoever you are talking to; it is always good if we all know what is going on in both of those projects. They tend to call whoever they are thinking of calling at the time, which may not be the person who is responsible for that project. That is one of the things that we are going to try to do a little better at.

Mr. Destadio said that the good news is that as an engineer you know the permits that we are talking about is not just the building permit that you fill out a piece of paper and send to the Corp of Engineers. This was a lengthy engineering analysis that had to be submitted in order to ask for the waiver. The pumps that were used in the past, which is not to be in the water, quite honestly they looked at where Flat Creek comes in and divides and the three areas you have to go. The approach was aggressive to say that we are not going to touch any water. But, relationships with the Corp was such that they said yes, they approved that. They do want to have the national waiver to go through, which is easy. That means we can now start, because our approach is going to be approved, so we can do the...there is no sense in starting the analysis if they were going to say no. Then we would have to be back to the way it was being done in the past. That is a very positive step.

Mr. Rapson said that the analysis, the concept, the design, all of that; we understand the sensitivity to it. He said that he drives by the lake every day. We are trying to expedite wherever we can. Mr. Destadio said this will allow us to move forward, even though you have to get a 45 day waiver for that, that just means before we start work we don't have to wait anymore to decide whether or not the approach, dry dredging versus wet dredging is going to be approved. It was, and that is a very positive step, but in the same token, we have gotten a lot of feedback about people calling the Corp of Engineers. He asked that Mr. Rapson let Mr. Pennington know

calling the Corp of Engineers does not expedite anything. Mr. Rapson said that it actually harms the process, but that has been communicated.

Mr. Destadio asked a question; in several articles it talks about having your engineer doing a breach analysis and comparing what was being done by Golder. Golder was doing more than a breach analysis, Golder was doing not only a dam breach analysis, a spillway breach analysis, they were doing an emergency action plan and they were doing alternative designs and approaches that we could do to the spillway. Then, the big thing they were doing is having Rochester do a very complete analysis survey of the area behind the dam that would be filled up, if there was a breach. We would have very current data in order to show Safe Dams, not just the current data that someone has to one or two foot elevations would be accurate as of today. Mr. Destadio stated that he hopes the City's approach was going to be the same, because if they intend to go to Safe Dams they are going to need more than a breach analysis.

Mr. Pope commented that the more paper you have when you go up there the better opportunity you have convincing them to change their category. Mr. Rapson said the good thing about it is the City does have our scope of services which detail all of that, and then when they decided, as the owner of the lake, they were going to waive off and do their own dam breach analysis, they already have our scope. He said that he can't really tell you which direction they went in, but that would probably be a good conversation to have, maybe we all get together and talk about the egress; to catch up on where they are and what that scope is. His understanding in talking to Ted, Ted is an attorney; their scope was a little larger than that, because they were looking at more the entirety as opposed to just what we were focusing on. Again, he does not know whether that is true or not.

Mr. Destadio commented that they do need that emergency action plan and that detail survey. Mr. Rapson said that the other attorney they brought in is very familiar with this process and he thinks that he is probably aware of that.

Mr. Destadio stated that a lot of people are complaining about the height of the grass. The vast majority of that grass is part of the areas that are going to be dredged. The areas that are not going to be dredged, if the grass is down there, the grass will die off, you can look at it and if they want to have it removed (homeowners, because it is near their boats), but, quite honestly the organic material that is going to be generated by that grass that is left is going to be filtered out at the plant. When it has all reached the right points it needs to be, the organic compounds and stuff that you remove, then you will start pulling water out of the lake, not before.

Mr. Pope stated that he does not see a problem; that is what he and Mr. Bowling discussed yesterday. Most of the grass is in the areas we are going to dredge. Apparently, people do a good job of seeding their lawns over there. Mr. Rapson commented that he thinks the one thing this has eliminated for the residents of

Peachtree City is the misconception of how deep the lake is. He has heard a lot of folks talking about they were out there with their friends, folks that are on the lake that are actually boating out there, skiing and stuff. Now, they have kind of taken a different opinion of that.

Mr. Pope commented that is not unusual to have growth like that. He really was not surprised.

#### **IV. UPDATE ON SECURITY ISSUES.**

Mr. Pope said that we have several things going. We are looking at cameras, putting some cameras at some of our facilities, actually county wide, not just water facilities. Also, we are looking at overall security at each facility; then we will bring back some recommendations to you guys to look at. His concern is that we are kind of secure and we are kind of not secure. We need to decide how secure we want our facilities. His plan is to have several levels, so that we can kind of lock it down if we need to; but then we can have it be a little more user friendly, so to speak. We have some certain areas of the plant that need to be a little more secure in regards to the communications towers and things of that nature. There are a lot of security concerns, so to speak, and we are going to get some companies to look at that. Along with that add some cameras so we can keep an eye on things to make it a little safer. Especially with us looking at shutting down the South Fayette Plant up to 12 hours a day. We need to have some eyes down there so we can keep an eye on the facility.

Commissioner Brown asked who is going to monitor all that. Mr. Pope said it will probably go to Crosstown, because that is a 24 hour manned facility and it always will be. We will probably have them be the hub. They can currently see what is happening at the plant. Mr. Rapson said that the system is going to allow that feed to be up to the Cloud, so Mr. Pope could literally pull it up on his iPhone, the Marshal will have access to it, and 911 operators will have access to it. Sheriff's Department will have access to it, depends upon what the circumstances are, instead of the Marshals determining "do we need to go out and look at McIntosh or Horton in regards to activity at the lakes". They can actually pull up the cameras and see nobody is at Horton, so they don't have to drive all the way to Horton and find out there is nobody in the parking lot. It will help make us more efficient and at the same time provide some measures of security. We are talking about putting them at the 5 above ground water tanks and 3 below ground. You can perimeter around them and the plants themselves. We are looking at all those.

Mr. Pope said that we want to be able to look at the drivers that are bringing the chemicals in and things of that nature. When the original vulnerability assessment went out, that was one of the things that was recommended, that you are faxed the security tag that is on the shipment and then the driver's ID, so that when they arrive at the facility you can verify who they are before you let them in. We have never had anything happen, but those measures should be put in place before something happens. We should be able to check ID's and stuff at the gate.



**Mr. Rapson commented with all that said we have steel doors on all the facilities, we have locks; it would take considerable effort to get into the facilities, but we want to be able to move that security fence back, up at the gate. As opposed to at the front door.**

**Commissioner Brown commented on the kids at the spillway and stuff like that. That is the really big step; too, making sure we keep an eye on that stuff. He asked if Peachtree City PD is being included in the security plans of the Crosstown Plant. Mr. Rapson stated that once we get the cameras set up, he envisions us providing some of those feeds to local jurisdictions. Commissioner Brown said that he thinks they should be included in something. Maybe, as you have zones, so that if we knew something was happening, and we did not have our people in the area, and we needed Peachtree City to get over there, we could say it is “Zone 3” and they would know exactly where to go.**

**Mr. Pope said that he talked to Pete yesterday, he was in a dam breach meeting that we had. He talked to him about us doing some table tops and including the Cities. We should actually sit down and go through some scenarios, so that everybody knows what their part is. When we had the plane crash a couple of weeks ago, it was a little bit disorganized from his viewpoint; who was supposed to be taking the lead and where everybody’s place was. To him, we need to have some table tops, where we sit down and go through some exercises.**

**Commissioner Brown commented that if he had been just a few degrees over, it could have been really nasty for the plant. That could have been a really bad situation. Mr. Destadio said there is not much you can do about that, it is right alongside the airport. Commissioner Brown said like Mr. Pope said, everybody knows what they are supposed to do. What do you need to be doing?**

## **V. TANK MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS.**

**Mr. Pope said that we are moving forward with this, we have our inspection reports back from the tank company. We will be issuing an RFP for companies to submit to do our ongoing maintenance program. We have one tank that we are going to do some repairs on right away to get it back to the condition that we would like for it to be in. Other than that, he really was not surprised at the reports that came back. He knew there were some things that were going to have to be done. It looks like we just need to get a tank maintenance program rolled out and we will be working with Purchasing to get a good RFP out, and get some vendors in here to give us a price on an ongoing maintenance program so that our tanks are looked at on a regular basis.**

**Mr. Destadio asked if we are going to remove one. Mr. Pope said we are going to do repairs to that one. Mr. Rapson said we will be bringing forward an emergency repair Thursday night to the Board and then at the same time letting the contracts**

for the maintenance for all the remaining tanks, so that hopefully by that second meeting in August, we will actually know the first tank to fix and then all of them will be back on line. Then we will put the maintenance program in place. It is all part of the overall...when we talk about EPD and we talk about consent and we talk about this, usually we are talking about one of the two plants, but there is an entire distribution system that makes up that as well. Now, we are starting to broaden that review in regards to maintenance and security and all those features. Outside the two plants that we have been focused on. We call it a water system, and a big chunk of that system isn't within the fenced area of those two plants.

Mr. Pope said that he talked to Ted yesterday; they are going to meet and work with them to get a scope out, hopefully within a week. Hopefully, we can get that out, so that we can get it before the Board.

Mr. Rapson said by the time we ratify the emergency purchase where we pay for the tank that was off line, put it back on line and do the other ones, we should have in essence, a three to five year plan in regards to how we are going to fix all that stuff.

Mr. Pope said that it is important to point out that tank is out of service right now. Mr. Destadio mentioned that we need to put that in our CIP so that you keep the same general dollars in the CIP and not have a big ramp. Mr. Rapson said with the tanks and with the distribution system and then after all that, the next big RFP will be evaluating Brooks. Mr. Destadio said they can take the CIP that they gave us and start making adjustments, so that they still have a steady growth without a big peak.

Mr. Rapson said that we have five above ground tanks and three below. Mr. Pope stated that it is critical that we keep them all on line so that we can meet a minimum based storage, which is a requirement of EPD. That was the point of not removing a tank from service permanently, because then we would have the issue with EPD about not having a minimum day's storage.

Mr. Rapson commented that the tank we are having a problem with is the oldest tank in the system. It is also one of the smallest tanks we have in the system. It is not too much of a surprise.

### **RESERVOIR STATUS**

Vice Chairman Conner asked about the status of our reservoirs. Mr. Pope stated they are both down, but very little, we are in very good shape. We have some sporadic rain. Mr. Destadio commented that we don't take water out of Lake Kedron, we are certainly not allowing an undue amount of water to roll down Flat Creek, because we want to keep Peachtree as dry as we can. What it is down is down because of evaporation. Mr. Preau said that Lake Kedron is down a couple of feet. Mr. Pope stated that is about average for this time of year. Mr. Destadio commented that we have had some good rains, which, by the way, does not help us



on Lake Peachtree. We want that as dry as we can get it in order to do the dredging.

## **VI. PUBLIC COMMENT.**

Mrs. Giles asked about the water sources, top to bottom, what are the main water sources. Mr. Rapson said that we have Lake Horton, 14 million gallons. Mrs. Giles asked where you draw water from. Mr. Pope said right not we draw from Lake Horton and Lake McIntosh. Mr. Rapson said that we have up to 4 million gallons that we pull from Lake Peachtree, but it actually drains through Lake Kedron for Lake Peachtree. That is part of the whole maintenance agreement and why we are doing the dredging. Lake Peachtree used to be all there was and then we had Starr's Mill. Commissioner Brown commented that we took it off line. Mr. Rapson said that it is completely off line, and if you look at it for years, almost a couple of decades, the 4 million gallons that was coming out of Lake Kedron draining through Lake Peachtree was the source of water for the County. Then we brought Lake Horton online, which is 14 million gallons and Lake McIntosh that is another 14 million gallons. Part of the issues that we have always had with Lake Peachtree is the fact that it is shallow.

Mr. Pope commented that is one of the things that really has not come out of all the debates about Lake Peachtree. We are really very fortunate that we found the things at the spillway now, because we have Lake McIntosh. He does not know what this system would have done years ago before having Lake McIntosh. This is all really coming to a head at a great time, that we have this wonderful reservoir that is only a foot or two down and we are pulling on it pretty hard right now in the middle of summer, we are at our highest demand. We are very fortunate that we don't need Lake Peachtree.

Mr. Rapson stated that is where he got criticized for saying we don't need Lake Peachtree. It is not that we don't want to fill it back up, or we don't want it to be a lake, it is from a water source perspective the facts have changed over the last five or six years. We went from a 4 million gallon lake to two reservoirs that have 14 million; that is 28 million gallons.

Mrs. Giles asked if there is a well on Loghouse Road that you use. Mr. Pope said there is. That is the only well we have on line right now. Mrs. Giles asked what determines whether you use that or not, or is it always being used. Mr. Pope said that we always use it, but it is a very small...

Mr. Rapson said that he thinks Peachtree City uses Loghouse primarily to water the entrance ways of the subdivisions. So, it is not really residential water used for the most part. The problem with well water is well water is very hard water, and it is harder to treat. There are more problems with well water, so we don't really do a lot of well water treatment. That is actually why one of the recommendations from Mr. Pope is that we get out of the well water program. Loghouse is the only well

that we have that is online. Mr. Davenport commented that is ½% of production. Mr. Rapson said that it is immaterial, but again, if there may be a nitch for that if you can somehow use that water just for the entrance ways. He does not know if that will work or not.

Mr. Pope explained that years ago nobody got rid of wells and then the State started having these large reservoirs, like we have now. We are very fortunate to have the reservoirs we have in this county, the wells are really insignificant to help us. They would not assist us if we got in a demand issue. If we had a system wide problem we would have to go to our neighbors and purchase water, the wells would not suffice at all.

Mr. Rapson commented that we have main trunk lines to the City of Atlanta, just for that.

#### **LEAK PROTECTION PROGRAM.**

Commissioner Brown asked if the Leak Protection Program notice had gone out yet. Mr. Pope and Mr. Rapson both replied it is going out. Commissioner Brown suggested making the heading a lot bigger. Mr. Rapson explained that as of right now, they are putting inserts for the Leak Protection Program in every bill that goes out. Zone 4 was done yesterday. He said we can make it bigger for all the other zones, and there are going to be some indication on the bills moving forward that you can still opt out of the program. Commissioner Brown said if you made it a lot bigger, it would really get people's attention, because they do need to read it. First time out, if they would read it. Mr. Pope said we did use a different color paper. Commissioner Brown said just to make it stick out.

Commissioner Brown clarified that we say unintentional water leak. In the event that somebody is digging in their yard or something like that happens and they accidentally hit that water line, is that covered under this? Mr. Pope said if that is unintentional. He would think if they hit their waterline, they would go and turn their water off until they could make repairs. They would not just let it run for a month or two.

Commissioner Brown said that sometimes they don't know that they even nicked it. Mr. Rapson said that from their perspective it is always unintentional. From our perspective, as long as they exercise some due diligence, we use common sense when we make those individual calls, take them case by case. Every now and then, there will be an unintentional, yes I busted that pipe and I left it there for 60 days and now I have a problem. If there is some negligence on their part, then we kind of weighed that too. But the practice of when we credit and when we don't credit is the same practice that we have had 35 years. We really haven't changed the practice; we've just kind of highlighted it a little bit more.

**NEWS ARTICLE ON LAKE PEACHTREE.**

**Mr. Pope referenced an article about Lake Peachtree will rise again, that it is important for people to realize that we just have some things we are going to handle and we are going to do them properly, but the lake is going to be put back in service and it will be in better shape than it ever was. Commissioner Brown stated that the joint press release has helped a lot. He has a lot of citizens coming up to him all over the place saying what is the deal with lake, is it going to be fixed. Is the county supposed to do it? Now, at least people see that we are working together on this, we have identified problems, we are moving ahead, both sides agree, Category 1, and both sides agree it is always going to be a lake. We have quelled a bunch of that stuff. That has helped tremendously. He said that he has not had a comment on it in a couple of weeks. He said that he thinks it helps to say that we are generally on the same page.**

**There being no further business, Vice Chairman Chip Conner adjourned the meeting at 8:35 A.M.**

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**Chip Conner**

**The foregoing minutes were approved at the regular Water Committee meeting on the 13th day of August, 2014.**

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**Lisa Speegle**