

**WATER COMMITTEE**  
**DECEMBER 14, 2016**  
**MINUTES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Pete Frisina, Chairman  
James K “Chip” Conner, Vice Chairman  
Commission Chair Charles Oddo  
Steve Rapson, County Administrator  
Lee Pope, Water System Director  
Jimmy Preau

**NON-VOTING MEMBERS:** Dennis Davenport, County Attorney  
Michael Diaz, CH2M

**GUESTS:** Stephen Hogan, Tony Parrott

**STAFF PRESENT:** Russell Ray, Anita Godbee

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

**I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING ON NOVEMBER 9, 2016.**

Vice Chairman Chip Conner made the motion and Lee Pope seconded, to approve the minutes from the meeting on November 9, 2016. There was no opposition.

**II. WATER TREATMENT PLANT UPDATE.**

Russell Ray updated the committee on the Chlorine Dioxide system. He described the Purate unit with the two pumps, the vent pipes going out the side of the building, the location of the chlorine dioxide feed line, chlorine dioxide sensors, as well as the booster pump that boosts the water into the mixing chamber. He pointed out the stainless steel eyewash and shower. He then showed the PAC system; we are in the start-up process for it. He described how the feeder system works and showed a video of inside the wetting cone where the carbon drops down and then moves into the delivery pipe to the raw water.

Michael Diaz stated that carbon has amazing absorption capabilities. It is not just the carbon and the equipment, but also the location. We will be able to provide a longer detention time in the piping to be able to take care of any potential chemical pre-cursors coming from the raw water before it makes it into the flocculation and sedimentation basin. There can be anywhere from 800 to 1,000 pound super sacks compared to the current method, which is pretty labor intensive for the operators. Once the carbon gets on you, it is pretty hard to remove. This is an open area and is safer than the existing room.

**Mr. Pope commented this system went on line at the perfect time, that was when the lake was getting lower and we were seeing higher organics coming into the reservoir, so we stayed just ahead of any TOC issues this year.**

**Commission Chair Oddo asked what do you do with the bags once they are finished, are they recycled? Mr. Ray said we have not found a recycling source yet, but we will look into it. We have had eight bags go far.**

**Mr. Ray then showed photos of the pipe gallery. Filters 5 through 8 piping have been re-cleaned, and they will do some touch up painting. The contractor has been acid washing and pressure washing the floor. They will put a coating on it, clean the stairs, and paint the stair railings. He said we are approaching the end of the pipe gallery work and getting it cleaned up. He then showed a photo of the pipe gallery for Filters 1 through 4. They have caulked all the joints in the pipe gallery; all the painting on the walls is complete.**

**Michael Diaz pointed out the painters still have to go back and label the pipes with what is inside and the directional arrows to tell you where the flow is going. It will make it a lot easier now; you have a different color schedule for the piping, so when you go into the room, you can quickly know which pipe is doing what and where the water is flowing.**

**Mr. Pope asked when they will be finished labeling the pipe. Mr. Diaz said they will probably finish next week. He mentioned having a meeting at the plant; everyone has seen the before, now they can see after. Mr. Pope said he recommends having the first or second meeting in January at the Crosstown Water Treatment Plant. Everybody can have a final walk through.**

**Mr. Ray commented the contractor has gone back and re-grouted the railings that had become loose. On the other end of the filter area, some of the railings were bolted on, so they have gone back and replaced the bolts with new bolts. Mr. Pope commented the hand rails did not feel secure if you leaned up against them, they might fall. Mr. Diaz said the aluminum hand rails were still in pretty good shape and it did not make sense to go through and completely replace them, but there was an opportunity from a safety standpoint to be able to get them up to par.**

**Mr. Ray showed photos of the Zero 2 Waste system showing the sensor that has been placed down in the filter water. As the backwash occurs, the media rises and the sensor measures the level of the media as it rises and it also has a turbidimeter in with it to measure turbidity. As it backwashes, the turbidity is going to go down and we can track it for optimum efficiency. Mr. Diaz said at this point the filters backwash in auto, the operators have had a good opportunity to be able to do it manually, and it is always good for them to get a feel for all the nuances associated with it. This backwash analyzer has the opportunity to think of that first.**

**Mr. Pope explained we are cross training all the operators from both plants, day and night shift, to operate all the new equipment. The home operators (those scheduled to work at Crosstown or at South Fayette) will be certified on all their equipment by the first of January. We want to make sure they actually went through basic training and took a test on the operating equipment in manual, semi auto, and automatic operations to make sure they are familiar with operating the equipment. Everybody will be familiar and it will give us the opportunity to use all operators at all the plants. That is ongoing.**

**Mr. Ray then showed a photo of the curtain repair in the sedimentation basin; the repair was done by the Water System Maintenance Crew. Mr. Pope commented this saved us some money, using our in-house team.**

**Mr. Ray said we are processing pay request 15 that brings us up to 86% of the total paid at \$3,999,656.14, with the balance to finish being \$636,929.49. Chlorine dioxide is projected for the first week in January.**

### **III. DROUGHT UPDATE.**

**Mr. Pope stated on November 17 EPD declared a Level II Drought, which requires us to step it up a little bit in our conservation efforts in the county. We have an odd even watering schedule. We did a press release and water bill insert which was completed first week of December. There are ten recommended items in the new drought rule, of those ten that are recommended, you have to do at least four of those items. We are exceeding the four. These ten things are things you can do to educate your consumers to be more efficient with water usage and minimize their impact on the environment. We are well ahead of that. Mr. Pope went on to say our reservoirs never really got down to a serious level. When he made his report to the Board of Commissioners we still had a little over 300 days of storage in the two reservoirs we currently had on line. We have never even used the water out of Kedron or Lake Peachtree so they basically stayed full throughout this drought. We still had sources untapped here. However, our neighbors in the region were in far worse shape. The state felt a need to go ahead and move to Level II. He said he thinks that was a good move; they continued to have drought calls twice a month, and then once a month to make a decision on how we were going to proceed. In September we talked about cold weather is coming, October it will get better. Then October came around and we were still having sunny weather and people were watering their grass. We decided we could not wait another month, if we do this until November we will all be in serious straights. That is when they decided to go to Level II. The State was very engaged in interacting with all the Water Systems, so this was not something they rolled out as a mandate without any kind of discussion. He said it was very interactive and was one of the better droughts that he went through in his years in this business. He said he thinks we are at the level we need to be. Now we are seeing all kinds of rain; he does not anticipate them rescinding it until most of the reservoirs are fully recovered or near norm for their normal operating. We have gained a couple of feet in our reservoirs and they continue to rise. As the run off we have had and the recent rains hit, they will**

continue to rise. He said he has no concerns that we won't be back to full pool by our heavy season which will be spring of next year. He said he has concerns for some of our neighbors.

**V. APPROVAL OF THE 2017 MEETING SCHEDULE.**

Mr. Rapson commented we probably would not do the December 27 meeting; he suggested canceling that meeting. A special meeting can be called if needed. Mr. Rapson made a motion to approve the meeting schedule as presented with an amendment to cancel the meeting on December 27, 2017. Jimmy Preau seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**VI. NEWNAN UTILITIES INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT.**

Mr. Pope explained that Newnan Utilities and Coweta County have both approached us with concerns for being able to meet their obligations to their consumers moving forward. He said we are engaging in conversation with them about possibly becoming a wholesale customer. If Newnan does purchase from us, it will have to be through the Coweta County system. Therefore, Coweta is also interested. Newnan wanted to purchase raw water, but that would not be beneficial to us; he said we don't want anybody dipping into our yields in our reservoirs. They are at the ground level of discussion, but those utilities are concerned about what this drought effect will have on them next fall. He said he thinks that is a concern for a lot of utilities. They know they are going to be alright right now, but their concerns are as they move forward into next year, if we go through another dry summer, which is predicted, by next fall they may need a few million gallons a day to meet their consumers daily demands.

Vice Chairman Conner made the comment they are hitting Line Creek pretty hard now. Mr. Pope commented we have made some calls to them. We are able to watch the USGS monitors now.

Mr. Pope said he would keep the Committee updated as we move forward. He recommends if we do anything with neighboring counties, it would be on a very short term; he would definitely want Dennis involved and have his recommendation. We don't want to impact our customers so we would probably look at short term agreements, three to five years at a time; so that we can sit down and rethink things as our system calls for more demand. Right now, we certainly have plenty of raw water yields to assist those utilities.

Chairman Frisina asked if they are trying to get other sources themselves. Mr. Pope said they are in contract with Atlanta; because of the Chattahoochee Atlanta is very protective of the resources that they have. Then, they have an agreement with Griffin, but Griffin is struggling to meet their own systems demands. They do not want to expand their delivery to those utilities because they are worried about being able to meet the obligations they already have in place. They are in a take and pay agreement right now with Coweta. This means Coweta gets a little over a million or

2 million gallons a day, period. Griffin is concerned about being able to meet those obligations as well as meeting their own because of their resources.

Stephen Hogan commented that Griffin is already in a Level III Drought level. Mr. Pope said they have petitioned the State to allow them to go to a Level III, that is how serious their situation is. As Newnan and Coweta approaches them wanting more yield in the future, they don't feel comfortable giving them that yield. They are concerned about meeting their own. We are the person on the rise as far as having the yield beyond what our demands are for years in the future. He does not think we do twenty fifty year agreements, but we can iron out the details as we move closer. He just wants the Committee to know those utilities have approached us, we do have capital improvements here that are needed, it certainly would be better for our neighbors to help us pay for those through some sort of a selling of our wholesale to them rather than trying to go to our customers for more money. That would be his recommendation. He said we have met with CH about our permits and one of the things that was brought to our attention is we need to look for more customers. Of course, we are receiving more customers on a daily basis as far as 5/8" taps for consumers. But, we are looking for some wholesale customers. We don't see a lot of industry moving in, but those two utilities are interested and that is certainly a way for us to move this utility forward. We have four places where we can connect. Three are relatively easy; he and Mr. Ray have been in meetings with them about those connections. He said in January he will make another report and show some rough drawings we have. This is for finished water, not raw water.

Mr. Rapson commented that once we have an idea for what Coweta or Newnan want we would have to update this Board and go back and talk to the Board of Commissioners. When we expand outside our system into other counties there are going to be concerns with items related to growth and those types of things. This will probably end up being a Retreat topic that we discuss with the Board of Commissioners. Right now it is just exploratory, but they have asked.

#### **VI. RESERVOIR PARK USAGE – SPECIAL EVENTS.**

Mr. Rapson reported they met with Commissioner Brown; one of the things that is happening is with Row America in particular. The relationship, to clarify for the Board, is between the County and the Peachtree City Rowing Club. That is the association that actually contracted with Row America. Everybody talks about Row America, but there is no relationship with Row America. It is really with the Rowing Club. One of the things they have requested is the ability to extend the park hours. We have asked this Committee twice and were basically told our hours are fine. Then we went to the Rec Commission, they basically said sunset to sunrise is fine. We are not talking about changing any of the park hours, but we are talking about allowing them to have access under our association agreements. We have agreements with associations; probably the easier ones to understand are soccer and football where people go on before hours or after hours. They get keys to go in the mechanical rooms to turn the lights on, turn the lights off, those types of things. What Row America needs is the ability to access the park prior to the park being

open and perhaps after the park is closed. When they go up to a tournament in Roswell, by the time they get back here, after 6:00 p.m. the park is closed. What we have to do is have the Marshal's go out there, or the Sheriff, somebody go open the park so they can pull their trailer in and park it; those type of things. What they are looking for is access to the park before and after under the Recreation and Association Agreement that we have. So we have issued them a special key that the Marshals would be responsible for making sure is used properly. They would have to notify us if they go in before or after and for what they are doing. As long as it is within the confines of their recreation association of what they are doing that is fine. We are not talking about having kids out rowing with lanterns on boats or any weird thing like that. He said the notification for us is key because if somebody comes by and sees somebody in the park while it is closed, then they dispatch the Marshals to investigate. With that notification we should be able to avoid that. That is kind of been the solution we all came up with. He said they all set in a room, himself, Lee Pope, Row America, the Marshal, Anita from Recreation, and the actual Association themselves. He said he has advised the Board of Commissioners of what we are doing, he told them he would also advise the Water Committee of what we were doing. He went on to say there was an article in the AJC that said the park hours had changed. That was completely wrong. He does not know where that came from. He said he was very adamant that the park hours that the Rec Board had set, which is sunrise to sunset did not change; and as far as the Water Parks were concerned, which is governed under the Water Committee that those hours had not been changed either. They are still opening and closing like we have always done. But, there will be some access through the key through security for that association. He said he does not need any action, he is just letting the Committee know what is going on and the AJC article is wrong.

Mr. Rapson commented he has asked the Marshal to look at the gate closing times in two or three months, then if there are any issues he will come back to us and let us know. Right now, the only issues we have had with the entire program is the fact that right before the daylight savings time change from 8:30, the gate was closing at 6:00 and there were still folks in the parking lot with the parents trying to get the kids picked up. For about half an hour the Marshal had to open and close the gate. We were in that little gray area that only occurs now, and then it doesn't exist for the next three or four months.

## **VII. WATER BILL INSERTS FOR 2017.**

Mr. Pope commented the first insert will be the SPLOST insert; a copy is included in the packet. Mr. Rapson said it was put together by Vanessa Birrell and her team, Environmental Management. He said they did a really good job. They have been placed at every Municipal office, the libraries and the fire stations. He said we are just trying to educate the public on what is the SPLOST and what items are on it, so they can make an informed decision. These water bill inserts will be mailed out in February. The marketing campaign that is set up to educate the public starts in January. There will be multiple mailings.



**Mr. Rapson made a motion to approve all the water bill inserts as scheduled for 2017 as well as the ones we have typically done in the past. Lee Pope seconded and the motion passed unanimously.**

### **VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT.**

**Anita Godbee explained the Recreation Department has received two special event requests. They involve the Water Reservoir Parks, one for Row America; they want to have a regatta. They are going to bring in two teams and have the regatta on the water. It will entail shutting down the park. There will be a reservation fee, and it will come back into the Water System funding. Mrs. Godbee said she would bring the Lake McIntosh item back to the committee for approval in January.**

**Mrs. Godbee said they also received a special event request from Whitewater High School Lacrosse Booster Club. They want to have a 5K at Lake Horton on January 15. That will entail utilizing one of the pavilions and the walking/running trail. The park will not need to be closed; the Booster Club will notify walkers and runners the day ahead of time that they will be using the walking trails.**

**Steve Rapson made a motion to approve the event at Lake Horton for the Whitewater High School Lacrosse Booster Club 5K on January 15. Vice Chairman Chip Conner seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

### **LAKE MCINTOSH PARK ACCESS**

**Steve Rapson briefed the committee on this item; he explained at Lake McIntosh when you drive into the park just before you get to the gate, just to the left, the fence line runs up to the corner of the airport fence line. The people who own the property on the other side of the fence; the property kind of wraps all the way around the airport; want access to that property. He said he and Mr. Pope met with them. Mr. Rapson said he told them we would be willing for them to put a gate up along the fence line. They said this is investment property and they really don't need to do that now, they just want to make sure they have access to it; the question is what is the solution long term, when they develop that site? He said he sent them an email saying we would give them access along that fence line, for now, if they want access today. When that site is developed we would work with the developer in regards to figuring out the permanent solution. They would need access along the back side of that property; it is their property too, which it would come through our park. He said at that point we would work with the developer to figure out what that solution is.**

**Mr. Rapson commented that the Committee has talked several times in regards to what is that long term solution for the property to the left side of the airport. He said he does not have an answer today, but he was not willing to give them carte blanche allowing them access into the park after hours to get to their property. He said he thinks that will facilitate what they need today, and they seemed very happy with that as well. One of the things they offered to us is if you want to park some**

vehicles on our property, they have about 14 acres that are pretty dry, and is really adjacent to the other side of the fence on our property. They would be amenable to doing that. That is one of the things he thinks Row America will probably pursue if they do a regatta; figure out how to park people over there.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Vice Chairman Conner made a motion to adjourn to executive session for one property acquisition item and one potential litigation item. Lee Pope seconded, the motion passed unanimously and the committee adjourned to Executive Session. Dennis Davenport briefed the Committee on these two items. Vice Chairman Conner made a motion to close Executive Session, Lee Pope seconded, the motion passed unanimously and the Committee adjourned from Executive Session.

**ADJOURNMENT.**

Commission Chairman Oddo made a motion to adjourn the Water Committee December 14, 2016 meeting. Jimmy Preau seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, Chairman Pete Frisina adjourned the meeting at 8:55A.M.

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Peter A. Frisina

The foregoing minutes were approved at the regular Water Committee meeting on the 11th day of January, 2017.

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Lisa Speegle