

WATER COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 8, 2017
MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Pete Frisina, Chairman
James Preau, Vice Chairman
Steve Rapson, County Administrator
Lee Pope, Water System Director
Chip Conner
Commissioner Steve Brown

NON-VOTING MEMBERS:

Dennis Davenport, County Attorney
Michael Diaz, CH2M

GUEST:

Tony Parrott

STAFF PRESENT:

Russell Ray

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

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING ON JANUARY 25, 2017.

Commissioner Steve Brown made the motion and Chip Conner seconded, to approve the minutes from the meeting on January 25, 2017. The motion passed unanimously.

II. DISCUSSION OF STARR'S MILL CLEAN UP.

Mr. Rapson commented he and Lee Pope had a nice meeting with Mr. Breest and the incoming president of Kiwanis. They met at Starr's Mill and talked in concept of what we want. Mr. Rapson said his suggestion is having the exact same meeting so they can show what we think we want to clean, and how we are going to mark the trees, and where we plan to clean. A lot of it has to go back to the triangle on the other side of the road. They were completely on board with all the different recommendations we had, but he said he thinks we would like to have the next Water Committee meeting on site at Starr's Mill. He said bring your boots and we will walk around and he will show the Committee exactly what we want to do. He said he thinks the Kiwanis Club wants to team up with Mr. Breest who has a bunch of folks that want to come out. What we would do is invite the Historical Society, the local members of the HOA's and those who live on that side of town to walk the property, too.

Mr. Rapson said we are not doing crazy stuff, he thinks people have these ideas we are going to go in there and clear cut trees; that is not what we are talking about. We are really talking about cleaning up; if you are standing at Starr's Mill looking at the dam side past the water fall where the creek wraps around, there is all this brush and stuff that has blown up; debris that we want to clean up. We want to make the far side of the stream look like the near side of the stream. The near side

of the stream is pretty much cleaned up all the way to the bank. We want to do the same thing to make it look more aesthetically pleasing. This would be below the dam, and we would go up and clear around the edge of the lake above the dam, and then on the other side of the dam where the right of way is, we would just clean up all the underbrush of the trees all the way up to the pull off on the other side of the highway. We would not go way into those woods, just stop at the triangular piece. He said that would give people a better view of Starr's Mill.

Mr. Pope said he was supposed to meet with Steve Hoffman, but they were not able to get down there. They will get together before the next meeting and Mr. Hoffman will have some recommendations on what he can do with the pull off; there is a pretty good drop off from the asphalt. We are limited in what we can do, because there is State right of way. Mr. Rapson said we are just trying to make the area a little safer. When you come down there, there is asphalt to a point and then it just stops; then there is a drop. We want to find a way to smooth that out, we are not trying to create parking or anything over there, just make it safer to go in and out of that pull off on that side.

Commissioner Brown commented that he thinks the entrance on Highway 85 should be nothing more than a service entrance. It is incredibly dangerous pulling out with cars flying through there. Your sight line for the guy on Highway 85 is not very good. The guy is coming up on a hill to pull out of there; it is really hard for somebody to see. If they are speeding, you have a real problem. He said he would love to see the 74 access be made a little nicer. There is a trailer out there on the adjacent property; maybe do some sort of buffering where we put some big *Elaeagnus* plants out there.

Mr. Pope mentioned when they walk the property this first phase will be a cleanup phase. Then we can talk about more. Mr. Rapson talked about how to make the parking more controlled and even the boat ramp needs to be redone. We are not talking about doing all that this phase, we are really talking about just cleaning up the underbrush and all that kind of stuff. We can certainly talk about that while walking the property.

Mr. Pope said he thinks it is important we have cleanup there and then talk about more. Mr. Rapson said he thinks it is important that we get everybody we had at that first Starr's Mill event, invite those same groups so everybody can be there, we can all walk around and talk about what we are doing. He said they have talked to a couple of folks that had real concerns, but after talking with us and us showing them what we want to do; they said we probably should have already been doing all that kind of stuff.

Commissioner Brown pointed out the banks are cut out really bad. They are nasty looking. Chip Conner asked if the church is still active. This building now belongs to New Hope and they use it.

Mr. Rapson said we need to figure how to get in there more safely. We are not prepared; we have not talked with anybody about that kind of stuff. He said Commissioner Brown has a great point; when you come out of there; either the pull off or the main drive you come into.

Commissioner Brown commented the bridge on Highway 85 is on the Board of Commissioners agenda. He said we are going to try to get DOT to do something that is somewhat architecturally significant since it is next to an historical landmark. If we do take away all the vines and stuff hanging out of the trees that bridge becomes abundantly clear. He said he took some photographs of it for the meeting just to show everybody what it looks like. The bridge is very visible and then, if you clean up some of that stuff it becomes really visible. Hopefully DOT will work with us. There was a great piece in the AJC this past weekend on vanishing landmarks. The photo on the cover for that piece was Starr's Mill. It is not vanishing, but the guy is talking about we are losing a lot of these historical quality venues. They are few and far between now a day. He said he thinks it is good that it bodes well for us that it was one of the ones they highlighted about preserving. Maybe it helps us with DOT.

Michael Diaz commented about several of the greenway projects he has been involved with in the past; usually when you start talking to the public about going in there and doing some clean up, removing the invasive plants, you make them understand that once you do that you actually start getting more animals coming through. Sometimes those pathways with the vines and things get in their way; they just don't want to get in there. With stream restoration, it is amazing what you can do trying to realign the streams and the cleanup you can do in those areas.

III. RESERVOIR SPECIAL EVENTS APPLICATION PROCESS.

Mr. Pope commented we are a little confused on how we want to handle events moving forward. The Peachtree City Rowing Club has asked to have a scrimmage there on March 11. What we have been trying to do is funnel all this through Anita; she is the one who pretty much does those applications and approvals. There is another event, the Sailboat Regatta that we approve every year. It will be in October. This gentleman is already asking for the ability to use the park for his event as he has done every year. The problem is do we send him through to Anita, or does that come before us. The last few years we have approved that and made a recommendation to the Board. Commissioner Brown commented that the Board had approved it after Water Committee made the recommendation. Mr. Pope asked do we want everybody that is going to use the park to just go through Anita or do we need to present something to Water Committee.

Mr. Rapson said what he thinks we have done is we have taken the water parks and we have turned them into the process that Anita has for reserving the pavilions, gazeboes and those types of things. The question is do we want her to do that also with the lake. Ultimately, even if Anita approves that process it is still going to route

to the Water Committee and it is still going to route to the Board because we don't close the parks without Board approval. That is the chain we have. He said he had suggested that we get a calendar of these events, get the Water Committee to say if you are having a sailboat regatta; because we have looked at it twice; then that is a pre-approved event. Maybe get the Board of Commissioners to say these are pre-approved events, but we are not just continuing to run the same events through them. There will always be brand new events we have never done before. With the Rowing Club, he said he thinks this is the first year of many years they want to have that type of an event; the same thing with the Sailboat Regatta.

Mr. Rapson said his suggestion is go to the Recreation Commission and say these are two events we want to have from now on; are you all okay with them; have them sanctioned. Then have the events sanctioned by the Water Committee and the Board of Commissioners sanctions them. Then at that point Anita can handle all that behind the scenes and basically advise us March 11 is the event this year.

Mr. Pope clarified that moving forward Special Events would go to Recreation and they would still come before Water Committee and the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Brown said the trigger is if you have to close the boat ramp, if you are going to consume a large amount of the parking capacity, then it probably needs to go to the Board. Anything else would go to Anita.

Mr. Rapson said we would not have the Water Committee approving a pavilion rental, but if it is a large family reunion and they want to close the park for it, that would require the Water Committee. His trigger is exactly what Commissioner Brown said, if they are closing the park for normal business. Mr. Pope commented what we need to do is route everybody through Anita.

Chip Conner commented that he does not want to see us run afoul with the EPA in any way. Mr. Rapson said that is why when we close the park he thinks that is a Water Committee decision; that is where EPA will be involved. Mr. Pope commented that when they are having the 4K's, swim and run events and they are swimming in the lake; those things have to go before the State.

Commissioner Brown said it would not be a bad idea if Anita had a flyer that when you go in and sign up and rent the pavilion; he said he has gone through that process. You go to the office, sign a form and give them a check. If they gave you some sort of pamphlet that said these are the rules of the lake for Lake Horton, Lake McIntosh or wherever, Lake Kedron; then that way at least you have given them the rules and they can't plead ignorance if we catch them doing something. You have at least given them the warning.

Mr. Rapson commented that would be good; you could have a family reunion and maybe they are all kayakers. All of sudden there are thirty kayakers down there that you did not know were going to be on the lake.

Commissioner Brown commented there is a large contingent of the standup paddle boards, now. It is a growing group. One of the things he has seen with the people on the boards is they often times get in the water. We need to really make sure that we are getting that message across that with water reservoirs as the law states today, you stay on the board. It is very easy to get in and out of that thing. They have a group on Facebook now that has several hundred members and it just started about a week ago.

Steve Rapson made a motion to recommend to the Board of Commissioners to approve the request from the Peachtree City Rowing Club to change the date from April 15 to March 11, 2017 for their event at Lake McIntosh. Steve Brown seconded. After further discussion Steve Rapson amended his motion to include recommending to the Board of Commissioners approval of the request from Charles Ellis for the Radio Control Sailboat Regatta at Lake McIntosh on October 26, 27 and 28, 2017. The approval includes waiving the parking fee for participants in the event. Steve Brown amended his seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

IV. UPDATE ON WATER TREATMENT PLANTS.

Mr. Ray commented that we reached another milestone in this project last week. They started the chlorine dioxide system, this is based on the purate chemical which is a combination of sodium chlorate and hydrogen peroxide. When you lower the pH those two chemicals react together to create the chlorine dioxide. It is a very efficient process; and another benefit is there is no gas chlorine involved. This is one more step of removing chlorine from the process.

Commissioner Brown asked if it is a significantly reduced hazard in terms of a hazmat incident by doing it this way. Mr. Ray replied yes, you have to be careful with sulfuric acid, but you don't have the off gassing, the cloud that could form with a major release of chlorine that could shut down an area of the City.

Mr. Pope commented that basically we just removed gas chlorine from this site and there will be a project coming up, hopefully, next year depending on how budget works out; to remove gas chlorine from the other plant. We are trying to get gas chlorine out of this county.

Mr. Ray showed a photo of the delivery truck delivering the sulfuric acid. He described the process of unloading the sulfuric acid from the truck into the storage tank. Commissioner Brown asked if safety protocols had been revised. Mr. Ray explained plant personnel were trained and the safety data sheet is provided by the chemical company. Mr. Pope stated splash guards and safety gear has been ordered. The operators should not even be around this chemical; but if an event happens they may have to get involved, so we want to be sure they have the proper equipment. For all intents and purposes we are minimizing the hands on chemicals being touched by our operators. Commissioner Brown clarified the material going into our system is handled by the vendor and not us; we don't have any human contact with the transfer of the product. Mr. Pope said yes, that is the same thing

with the liquid lime, we are trying to make it safer for our operators. Mr. Ray pointed out the truck driver in the photo; he is trained in how to handle the chemical, he is wearing the appropriate suit and face shield with goggles. We have respirators with the full face shield for our staff.

Mr. Diaz commented that you can also see in this picture the safety shower and the eye wash. Mr. Pope stated it is right on site where an incident might happen. If the fitting blew off all you would have to do is step right underneath the shower. Mr. Ray pointed out the container that holds the sulfuric acid is a high density cross link polyethylene tank. Concrete containment is around the tank. Mr. Diaz said there is a level sensor in the containment area so if there is a leak, then the operators will get an alarm that something is happening or if you get a big storm event, then it tells you there is water there and it needs to be emptied out. Ideally you want to keep the drain closed in case of something happening.

Mr. Ray showed the sensor that shows the level in the tank. It feeds back to a screen in the SCADA system inside the lobby of the chemical building. In both cases there is chemical in the tanks and it shows the level. Inside the containment area, there is a flexible joint in the tank piping to prevent leaks if there is any movement in the structure. Special valves can handle the sulfuric acid and the concrete has a chemical resistant coating applied to the containment area.

Mr. Ray then showed pictures of the generator for the chlorine dioxide. He described the process involved. Mr. Rapson pointed out that Mr. Ray has an incredible amount of knowledge in regards to the infrastructure that it would be nice to have documented. Mr. Ray agreed that this could be incorporated into the procedures as they put together the O & M manuals. Mr. Diaz commented that during training the manufacture sat down with the operators.

Mr. Ray said after the chemical has been mixed together and created chlorine dioxide, the site glass right before the sensor shows the greenish yellow color. The operators like having the site glass to assist them in confirmation that everything is working correctly.

Mr. Ray then showed photos of painting that has been completed around the outside of the plant and work that has been completed on the outside stairs. The sidewalks have been completed and he showed photos of those as well. These sidewalks make a big difference to the plant staff since they are working at all hours and many times have to be walking to these chemical buildings during the night. Mr. Diaz commented that Lakeshore was willing to work with us. Conceptually two years ago we had a rough idea where these sidewalks needed to go, and then as we got closer we had an opportunity to sit down with staff and the contractor and talk about some reshuffling. Mr. Rapson commented that when Disney puts in a new ride they put in the sidewalks they think they need, then they come back six months later and see where the paths are and then they put those sidewalks in. Mr. Pope pointed out it is important to remember that sometimes operators are there at night

by themselves, rain, storm, snow and ice. They had to track through the grass and mud.

Mr. Ray showed a photo of a vault; when they had to put in the new backwash flow control valve they had to actually cut out the existing top a little bit larger than it was in order to get the new equipment in. We ordered a larger hatch, raised it to get it up level with the sidewalk coming in. He said this turned out really nice. The lid is aluminum and can easily be opened by one person. From a maintenance standpoint it makes it a lot easier for staff to get in there to take a closer peak to make sure everything is still functioning.

Mr. Diaz said the contractor is now working on seeding, grassing and mulching, stabilizing and cleaning things out little by little. Mr. Pope said we will shoot for some Best Operator Plant awards with this plant. Mr. Ray said he will be working on a before and after presentation of all the photos he has taken. Commissioner Brown commented it would be great to give that to EPD.

Mr. Pope said we just had our Sanitary Survey and he came by to see Mr. Rapson. Mr. Rapson said Mr. Jackson was extremely happy.

WATER BILL INSERTS.

Mr. Pope commented we are doing some bill inserts for the SPLOST. Those start going in the mail today. Mr. Rapson said we sent ours out and Peachtree City wants to send their version of it. They are not going at the same time. Mr. Pope went on to say as we continue through the drought we are forced to continue to do some outreach and some education to the public. He referenced a letter in the packet that will be going out as a separate mailing to all Water System customers this month. This is just to educate them a little bit on where we stand with the drought and what is going on with the drought. Mr. Rapson commented this is one of our educational requirements to do that as well. Mr. Pope said we still have to do monthly reports just for the drought. Mr. Rapson commented we will also do a very high level press release that will be sent out about the drought as well. Mr. Pope said we have recovered pretty well here, but there are still some counties that have not fully recovered. He said Jack Capp was at their meeting at Callaway Gardens a couple of weeks ago and he assumes they are going to raise the drought level, but they have not done anything yet. Lake Horton is about 3 ½ feet down. We are pumping out of the Flint every chance we get; as much as we are allowed per day. CH2M is going to assist us in looking at those permits because in his opinion, we should be allowed to pump more if it is above flood stage. We can pump 10 MGD now, but if it is above flood stage, during the time when our reservoirs are down we should be able to pump. Mr. Rapson commented one problem with Lake Horton is it is shallow; so when it goes down it looks really bad. Mr. Ray said full pool on Lake Horton is 780'. Mr. Pope said we are gaining about a foot a week. He went on to say we are looking at doing some piping adjustments so we can use Lake McIntosh at both plants. Right now the only resource the South Fayette plant has is Lake Horton.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT.

Commissioner Brown commented that since the weather is starting to warm up they are going to start the Water Guardians back up again. The heavy rains we have had as of late, the trash has really been coming downstream big time. He said he was kayaking in Lake McIntosh the other day and there was trash floating on the water. He suggested letting everyone know sometime in March or April, they will get started up again. A lot of it is flowing downstream; it is not really our people. Apparently the creek that goes up into Coweta County on Lake McIntosh, the people who own that property have built a bridge over the water. There was all kinds of trash in there. He said he does not know what they are doing, if they are hunting on that site or camping on that site, but there are tons of trash in that area. He said he does not know if they are able to legally build these types of bridge over the streams without getting some sort of permitting or something. But they are doing it. They are dropping trees and then laying boards across the trees and crossing the streams that way. He said there was also a No Trespassing sign dead center in the middle of the water. Someone later removed the sign.

Mr. Diaz commented in looking at the Water Guardians and then looking at the Starr's Mill cleanup, does it make sense to have people in the water at some point at Starr's Mill to help with that? Mr. Rapson said most of the problem at Starr's Mill is mostly vegetation and debris. He does not see a whole lot of trash. Commissioner Brown and Mr. Pope both agreed Starr's Mill is relatively clean. Commissioner Brown commented the only thing he had seen was people go there and smoke and leave their cigarette butts laying all over the place.

Chip Conner made a motion to adjourn the Water Committee February 8, 2017 meeting. Steve Brown seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, Chairman Pete Frisina adjourned the meeting at 8:45 A.M.

Peter A. Frisina

The foregoing minutes were approved at the regular Water Committee meeting on the 22nd day of February, 2017.

Lisa Speegle