

WATER COMMITTEE
MAY 24, 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:

Dennis Baker
Dean Breest

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 May 10, 2017.

Lee Pope made the motion and Steve Rapson seconded, to approve the minutes from the meeting on May 10, 2017. The motion passed unanimously.

II. WATER TREATMENT PLANT UPDATE.

Michael Diaz reported he got a progress report from ICS last night on the replacement and adjustments of the seats at Crosstown. So far, they are making good progress, and are tentatively looking at getting Filters 5 through 8 completed later this week, or early next week; considering Memorial Day holiday is Monday. They have the support from Lakeshore and that has helped them make a lot of headway to get in there and loosen up some of the bolts.

He went on to say it will be a little more challenging on Filters 1 through 4, just because of the nature of the piping and the flow of the water through the gallery, but it is not anything insurmountable. We have the ability to high rate, so there won't be an issue.

Russell Ray gave an update on the contractor pay application. Pay application 19 came in, we are down to a balance to finish of \$86,686.20, and of that \$71,965.23 is retainage. We are very close to finishing up. Mr. Diaz commented we are holding it because of the valve repair. Mr. Rapson commented it is very good that the contractor and the vendor are working well together. Commissioner Brown suggested, once we are finished, send them a letter with positive comments they can use for their advertising or referral material. Mr. Pope said he has told them we

can draft them something. There was further discussion of how pleased we are with the actions taken by the contractor to resolve issues and enhance the project during construction to make the job successful.

Mr. Pope reported the quarterly drought call was yesterday. This call is required by the new rule for EPD to do as long as any portion of the state is under a drought level. Some areas of the state are still under Level 2. Most of our region is doing pretty good; we are in excellent shape. All of our reservoirs are overflowing with the exception of Lake Horton. Lake Horton is down a little over a foot, which is better condition than it was when we started seeing high demands about two months ago. The lake is actually higher than it was then. He stated we are in really good shape and we will continue to monitor that; there will be another quarterly call in a few months. We are pumping from the Flint River to supplement Lake Horton, and that is one reason it is gaining. The rain has allowed us to shut the plant down more than we are usually able to this time of year. This is good news. We will continue to monitor it and reach out to our customers about water conservation efforts to make sure we can maintain our resources.

III. STARR'S MILL CLEANUP.

Mr. Pope showed photos that were taken during the clean up on May 11 and May 13. May 11 was Keller Williams Red Day, which is something they do worldwide. They go out in the community and try to give back. We had a pretty big showing, he said he is not sure how many groups were from Keller Williams; there were over 100 people at lunch time and 97 vehicles were parked.

Mr. Pope reported they cleaned the banks from the mill all the way to the boat launch area. He pointed out Water System personnel that assisted. The fire department donated 4 chain saws for our use. They used the county chipper truck. A professional tree service came in to remove trees that were too tall for us to handle internally. They also ground the stumps while they were on site. Saturday, it was pouring down rain and still about 20 people showed up. Saturday was for cleanup after the disturbance on Thursday. The stumps that are left will be taken care of in the near future. Windows on the mill were cleaned, and repaired where they were broken and loose. Also, the bird feces on the inside was cleaned up.

Mr. Pope stated they also cleaned along the bank toward the back of the back parking lot, just to clean out the underbrush and the small trees. He showed a photo of the site once they got it cleaned up.

Mr. Pope explained we have a mower that is set up for mowing areas like this. He said the long term plan is to do a stream bank restoration project; use it to educate folks. He said his long term goal is for this to be an educational center. Do a streambank restoration project there and show people what streambank restoration really is. Also, it would restore our banks to something that is useable; maybe put some picnic tables there. People can have picnics with their family right on the edge

of the pond. Long term is to make it an educational project and hopefully CH will assist us with that. It would be a good place to show people what streambank restoration looks like. There are some beautiful rocks along that bank, once we get it cleaned off, people can sit on the rocks, take photos and look at the pond. Mr. Diaz commented the potential for the site is pretty amazing. The right side of the property has been surveyed; there are some stake markers there, which will tell staff how far they can go in doing the cutting without affecting neighbors. Placing permanent pins is still in discussion. Mr. Pope said we are looking at placing Leyland cypress along the property lines. We obviously want to put some trees back out there for the trees we cut down. Some of the trees the tree company removed were rotten on the inside and were about to fall over.

Commissioner Brown suggested planting Leyland cypress in a random pattern. You are creating a buffer, but it is intermittent; when you line them all up, they all grow together, and then they all die because they get diseased because they grow into each other. He suggested not doing the traditional row. It looks better when you create some depth with the trees and spread them out a little bit. Create a curtain that way.

Mr. Breest presented newspaper articles of the cleanup at Starr's Mill. Mr. Pope said we have had some positive feedback from citizens. People have asked what are we going to do out there and are saying it looks great. He said we have explained we basically are going to clean up the property and make it a little more picturesque. They are embracing it and we are getting some positive feedback. He said the biggest thing for him is it is amazing to see so many people willing to come assist us; donating their own personal time. Saturday was pouring down rain and we had 20 something people out there. They were raking in the rain. That was a good thing to see.

Commissioner Brown mentioned he has brought up several times among our Board members the entrance to 74 is something we probably ought to look at as a potential project/purchase or something like that. Set up something in the future years. Create a nice entrance into that site; if the church ever wants to give up that small church, sell or whatever, he thinks we ought to look at it as possibly a potential purchase. Just to keep the area the way we want it to look, as opposed to something else going in there that may not work with the surrounding area. Mr. Pope commented it would be nice to have another entrance.

Mr. Diaz mentioned the trip to the Gwinnett County Environmental & Heritage Center is scheduled for June 29. The June 28 Water Committee meeting will be canceled and a special called meeting will be posted for June 29.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT.

Commissioner Brown reported Water Guardians worked at Lake Horton this past Saturday. It was perfect, no rain and then two hours after they were done,

it just poured. You could not have had better timing. He said they only had 12 to 15 bags of trash which was amazing. This time they had as many people walking the banks and the trails as they had in the water. It is starting to pick on that other end; people who don't have a kayak or canoe are not interested. The interesting thing was the people walking the trails said there was absolutely no trash here. That was surprising because normally they pick up a lot on the paths and the parking lot. He said about fifteen minutes later he got a text from a gentleman in Woolsey who said he and his wife were not able to join on Saturday, but he and his wife went out on Friday and picked up a couple of bags of trash on the paths. Commissioner Brown went on to say they had a great crowd. There were Girl Scouts and school kids working for credits for their community service credits for their clubs and associations. J R Ramos volunteers; he brings his rig and cooks for them for free. When he doesn't bring his grill he brings his canoe, and he goes out there in the water with his wife and they pick up trash. He has been a die-hard volunteer. One thing they have noticed is the need for an annual audit on the facilities. Tons of wasp's nests and things like that are in the pavilion. Obviously, that is kind of a hazard, also a lot of the wood work is getting older, nails are letting loose, boards are separating. There is a drop hazard when some of those timbers come down. Some of the grills definitely need some attention, they need some rust removal, repainting and getting them in better shape. That is something we probably want to make sure we are doing; an annual audit of the infrastructure out at our water parks. Making sure it is all safe and in good condition.

Mr. Pope commented said from his desk it is great to see that many people in the community willing to take their own personal time and come in. They had a good time, it was fun. Commissioner Brown said a lot of people ask him on occasion, as one of their elected officials what they can do, how can they help. He said this is a great way to bring a lot of people in; the fact that people that don't even have the kayaks and canoes are falling in place and jumping in there; scouring the woods, the trails, everything.

Chip Conner made a motion to adjourn the Water Committee May 24, 2017 meeting. Vice Chairman Jimmy Preau seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, Chairman Pete Frisina adjourned the meeting at 8:20 A.M.

Peter A. Frisina

The foregoing minutes were approved at the regular Water Committee meeting on the 12th day of July, 2017.

Lisa Speegle