

WATER COMMITTEE
JANUARY 10, 2018
MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

NON-VOTING MEMBERS:

Dennis Davenport, County Attorney

ABSENT:

Michael Diaz, CH2M

STAFF PRESENT:

Russell Ray, Matt Bergen, Carrie Gibby
Anita Godbee, Blaze Jeffery - Recreation

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

I. NOMINATION OF CHAIR.

Commissioner Steve Brown nominated Pete Frisina as Chair of the Water Committee. Steve Rapson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

II. NOMINATION OF VICE CHAIR.

Commissioner Steve Brown nominated Jimmy Preau as Vice Chair of the Water Committee. Lee Pope seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING ON DECEMBER 13, 2017.

Lee Pope made the motion and Commissioner Steve Brown seconded, to approve the minutes from the meeting on December 13, 2017. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. PRIVATE WELL SYSTEM EMERGENCY ORDINANCE DISCUSSION.

Attorney Davenport stated he is looking for any comments. Discussion followed about having the private water system owners attend a meeting to discuss the policy before going to the Board of Commissioners. Mr. Pope agreed to send a letter including the draft ordinance to all the owners so they can see the proposal; and invite them to the next meeting. The Committee can get their comments, make a decision, and then make a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners. Mr. Davenport stated he thinks it is better to have those comments in hand before going to the Board of Commissioners. They may bring up some issues, we may not agree with them, but at least we can represent to the Board, and they are free to attend the Board of Commissioners meeting as well. Commissioner Brown suggested notifying all the water system owners and the home owner's association presidents and the rest of the Board of Commissioners. Mr. Rapson added notify anyone we have an email address that has had concerns about all of this to begin with; any HOA

members we have personally talked to; as well as people that have come to the Water Committee meetings. Mr. Rapson clarified that we send the notice to the HOA president if there is one, the permit holder, and the people that we are aware of.

Mr. Davenport said, for example, if you just send it to the permit holder at Newton Plantation, and you don't let anybody from Newton Plantation know, they are not going to be here. If they knew about it, they would be here. Mr. Rapson said if you send it to the HOA president of Newton Plantation, he may not give it to the people that we have talked to. Be all inclusive as we can.

V. MNGWPD REGIONAL MULTI-FAMILY REBATE PROGRAM.

Mr. Pope explained we have a rebate program for residential customers. Now, they have stepped that up. The District has adopted a new plan as of June. One of the requirements of this plan is that we have a multi-family program. We have contracted with them to do our residential program and they are offering to allow the members of the District to contract with them to do the multi-family. He said what he thinks we ought to do is send a copy of the document to the committee, let them review it and vote on it at the next meeting. He recommended contracting with the District to run the program for us, they have done a great job; plus they keep up with all the data. They will handle all the applications and we would budget a lump sum amount as we do every year for the residential program; we would also budget for the multi-family program. This program is far more expensive.

Commissioner Brown asked what does that entail. Mr. Pope explained that it must be a multi-family residential property on a master meter, built prior to 1994. They have to replace at least 30 toilets. Further discussion pertained to the definition of multi-family, whether we have any in unincorporated Fayette County, and cities within the county having their own agreements. We need to identify how many are involved.

Commissioner Brown mentioned landscape hosing used for irrigation constantly leaking, landscapers running over the heads with the lawn mower and water gurgling up; it goes on for weeks before somebody gets around to fixing them. He asked if there is ever any kind of check on those. Do we require anything for them to keep those things in working order? Mr. Pope said we could come up with a water waste ordinance; this is what some cities have done. Commissioner Brown said this is all about conservation.

Mr. Pope said the water waste ordinance would cover that, it is also even if their sprinkler heads are not operating properly, but spraying on the concrete or the asphalt, that is considered a waste and you would cite them and give them a certain amount of time to get them adjusted. Commissioner Brown asked if we have an enforcement capacity. Mr. Pope said we could bring this policy up and adopt it. Commissioner Brown commented that he thinks we should have something where

you should fix it within a reasonable period of time; especially in a drought period. He saw the last one we went through, there were a couple of grocery store shopping centers where the 18-wheeler turned the corner at the entrance and ran over the pipe and water was gurgling out of it constantly. Mr. Rapson commented he was thinking of the one at Publix in Peachtree City that leaked for so long.

Mr. Pope explained the rebate is \$50.00 for high efficiency toilets and \$75.00 for the ultrahigh efficiency toilet, and then there would be an application fee with the District charged to us for those for 30 to 90 toilets; which would be \$400.00 per application, then 91 or more toilets would be \$675.00 per application. We can use those numbers once we identify the facilities. We can go ahead and identify who would qualify so we could figure out a budgetary amount to budget for this program.

Mr. Rapson suggested the committee review this and bring it back at the next meeting for approval.

VI. HR 158 RESOLUTION TO RESTORE TRUST IN STATE GOVERNMENT.

Commissioner Brown stated this item is on the Boards agenda. He said he put it on the Boards agenda, he explained that the state collects all kinds of fees for all kinds of things if you buy a set of tires, and there is an add-on fee. If you change your oil, there is an add-on fee; all these different things they do. The unfortunate part of it is, and in some cases some of these funds, more than half of the funds never go towards the intended purpose. They start ripping them off and start using them in other parts of the budget, doing pet projects. There is a real movement going on now, with some of the environmental groups and some of the advocacy groups, and things of that nature; ethics groups, about if you are going to charge us the fee and those problems still exist. We have plenty of environmental issues for cleaning up and things of that nature, we are not lacking with those. He stated this is Georgia Water Coalition. One of the things they want to do is say if you are going to charge us the fee, lock it into the intended use. For 98% of the population that is common sense. It is a shame that we even have to go to the legislature and say please do what you told us you were going to do. Unfortunately, that is where we are today. We are trying to demand that the legislature actually do what they said they were going to do.

Mr. Rapson commented that he thinks the ACCG, which is the county side of that equation at the state level, as well as GMA is the city side, they support that bill as well. For him, it would be like him taking SPLOST dollars and using them on the General Fund for a bridge that is not part of his SPLOST program. Everything we have we treat as special purpose revenue; that is how they want these funds treated at the state level.

Commissioner Brown commented for the purposes of putting it on the Water Committee agenda, we could say the Water Committee also supports this bill if the

Committee wanted to. Mr. Rapson said he seconds that. This is on the Boards agenda for Thursday and we wanted to have the Water Committee voice support of the same thing. Commissioner Brown made this a motion to recommend Water Committee support for HR 158. Mr. Rapson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. UPDATE ON 2018 WATER BILL INSERTS.

Anita Godbee introduced Blaze Jeffrey, Special Events Coordinator, who is coordinating the Balloon Festival this year. She said they are requesting to do the water bill insert during the month of April. Mr. Jeffrey updated the committee on this year's Balloon Festival and the water bill insert request. He said this year they are looking at Saturday, June 9. They have sent out their request for balloons and are waiting to hear back. As far as the insert itself, they are waiting on the logo from the school competition for t-shirt designs. He has already sent this out to all the schools and made the request to middle and high school students. The final deadline is the end of this month. At that point they will move forward and put it into an insert flyer. They will have the date, location, and times on the flyer. They don't have anything worked up because they are waiting on the logo. It will be one page and they are looking at doing the insert in the water bills in April.

Commissioner Brown asked if they will do something closer to the date, also. Mr. Jeffrey said yes. More inserts are not in the budget, but they will be hitting social media really hard and using some other marketing tools. It will be the same location as last year, Whitewater Complex.

Steve Rapson made a motion to approve the water bill insert for the Balloon Festival as described by Blaze Jeffrey from Parks and Recreation. Commissioner Brown seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT.

Mr. Rapson commented that Commissioner Rousseau has asked the Water Committee to ponder the possibility of having a meeting at a different time. He said he thinks Commissioner Rousseau's concern was they have changed four meetings for the Commissioners to be earlier in the day. He said some folks have a hard time getting here in the morning; some people like to come at night. Mr. Rapson said he told Commissioner Rousseau he would broach that subject with the committee for the group to ponder and talk about later. He told Commissioner Rousseau we have moved to different locations. What he thinks he is looking for is maybe having a meeting in the morning and maybe having a meeting in the evening, at least do a couple of those during the course of the year. Commissioner Brown commented, not the entire schedule, maybe two or three meetings throughout the year.

Mr. Pope commented that if we have a morning meeting this week and then we have an afternoon meeting, but we have the Newton Plantation discussion at one of the morning meetings, those people may be the ones that prefer it in the afternoon. How are we going to decide which meetings to have?

Mr. Davenport suggested going to the calendar and selecting two meetings and changing them to afternoon meetings. Do that now, months ahead of time. Mr. Rapson said the Board had two of the meetings conflicted with a Thursday because of training. They had to move it to Tuesday; so they were already doing something different. They just moved that meeting to earlier in the day as opposed to keeping it at 6:30. They ended up doing four meetings. Mr. Pope said he understood that. He watched the Board go through that process, he is good with it and he does not mind doing it. His problem is that it will not be the four meetings that we discuss something that people can't make our meeting time. That will not resolve the problem.

Commissioner Brown commented that he thinks he is just talking about exposure. People who would want to come; there is a lot of our population that could never make this meeting because they are on I-85 heading toward Atlanta. If we had a couple in the evening, if they ever wanted to come and chances are it would be the same attendance rate that it is today, but at least you say you are doing it. You are giving the public an opportunity to make a meeting that they otherwise would not be able to make. Mr. Pope said he is open to that.

Mrs. Speegle agreed to send the schedule out to the Committee for their review. This item will be discussed at the next meeting.

WSB TV WATERSHED AND RESERVOIR MANAGEMENT STORY

Mr. Pope explained that currently we are working with the Metropolitan Planning District right now for modeling the Horton Reservoir. We are the only ones they are doing that for. Eventually they are going to model all the reservoirs within the District. He said we are doing a forecast model, just like they do with the weather. That is the simplest way to explain it; so we can make sure we are managing that reservoir to the best of our abilities. Droughts typically don't just hit or miss every year, they are every other year, sometimes they are every three years, so we are trying to get a pattern, or history utilizing our USGS stream gages and the reservoirs themselves.

Mr. Pope said WSB did an article on Friday, January 5. He showed the recording of the article by Channel 2 Katie Walls. Other states like California are using Fayette County's model to help in times of water shortage. The video showed photos of the spillway at Lake Kedron and the water being released. It also showed Mr. Pope at Starr's Mill.

Mr. Pope went on to say they have asked us to do a draft of what we are doing for management of our reservoir for the International Smart Water Conference. That will be something he has to get a draft turned in to them by this Friday. The Smart Water Conference has also asked us to do a paper and for him to speak to them about the Zero2Waste process that we installed on the filter backwash process at the Crosstown Water Plant. He said we will be getting those drafts out to them and

hopefully get some more exposure to the things we are doing here to be more efficient.

Mr. Rapson said that article represented us well. Mr. Pope commented the rainfall for 2017 was up a couple of inches for the year.

Commissioner Brown commented that he would like for us to look at some sort of enforcement for those irrigation systems. Mr. Rapson said that he has Mr. Pope working on a policy that includes this. Mr. Pope said that the District requires us to draft a Water Waste Ordinance and he will have to do that to comply. We have until the end of next year (December 2018) to get the toilet rebates going.

Commissioner Brown asked with Water Waste is that enforcement under the county's jurisdiction. We would have to get the cities to enact the same thing? Mr. Pope said, absolutely. Commissioner Brown said that would probably be a project that we would want to invite the cities to participate in. Mr. Pope said as members of the District they will have to comply with this. They will have to adopt it. Commissioner Brown suggested working with their representative as we are doing this, then we just sweep it all at one time; everybody does it the same time and everybody is on board.

IX. ADJOURNMENT.

Commissioner Brown made a motion to adjourn the Water Committee January 10, 2018 meeting. Vice Chairman Jimmy Preau seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, Chairman Pete Frisina adjourned the meeting at 8:27A.M.

Peter A. Frisina

The foregoing minutes were approved at the regular Water Committee meeting on the 24th day of January, 2018.

Lisa Speegle