

WATER COMMITTEE
JULY 24, 2019
MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Pete Frisina, Chairman
Frank Destadio, Vice Chairman
Russell Ray, Acting Water System Director
Charles Oddo, Commissioner
Jimmy Preau
Bill Holland

ABSENT: Steve Rapson, County Administrator
Jason Bodwell, Jacobs

NON-VOTING MEMBERS: Dennis Davenport, County Attorney

GUEST: Tony Parrott

STAFF PRESENT: Natasha Duggan, Purchasing

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

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING ON JULY 10, 2019.

Jimmy Preau made the motion and Vice Chairman Frank Destadio seconded, to approve the minutes from the meeting on July 10, 2019. The motion passed unanimously.

II. WATER SELECTOR UPDATE.

Russell Ray reported in order to get the SCADA set up so we can see the Water Selector information up at the water plant, we had to install some equipment. That equipment, the conduit and the control communications have been installed. IXOM will now come back and complete their connections and set up the lap top.

Vice Chairman Frank Destadio asked if we are still getting the high manganese. Mr. Ray said the manganese is under control at this time. Last week we had a day at the first of the week where we had to run the Crosstown plant around 10 MGD production. We were doing fine using the water from Lake McIntosh and they wanted to run the plant at a slightly higher production rate, so we did take water from Lake Peachtree. We had not done that but on one other occasion back in May when we had the real hot dry couple of weeks. We learned from that, even Lake Peachtree has had some high manganese. There was a lot of vegetation in the lake back when they were building the dam and spillway. The manganese has been relatively high in Lake Peachtree. We brought in two million gallons a day from Lake Peachtree. He said other than in May and again last week, we have not used Lake Peachtree in several years. The operators will get used to that again, and it

will work well. He said the raw water numbers were workable and they were able to handle treating the manganese.

Vice Chairman Destadio asked if there was any way to determine, either from the State or from EPA, how many individuals could be allowed to swim in Lake Peachtree without having issues with the water quality. If you go down to Battery Way, especially during this past hot week, we do not have a small amount of people swimming in Lake Peachtree. We also have a pretty significant number of people swimming in Lake Kedron. He said he recently was down at Lake Kedron and people were swimming off the boat docks.

Vice Chairman Destadio said he told them they needed to be getting out and pointed out the swimming prohibited sign and the rules posted at the dock. He said he got lots of push back from the people that were there saying they can swim at Lake Peachtree, why can't they swim here. He said his question is, and he brought this up at the public comment period once before, since there are more than a significant number in Lake Peachtree and we are pumping water from that lake as needed and now individuals are swimming in Lake Kedron, what is a safe level? This swimming may not be a problem but without at least knowing what the State Dept. of Natural Resources, or EPA feel could be allowed in a drinking Water Reservoir we could have an issue and not know it. He does not know but no one seems to know either. He does not want to start an issue with the City of Peachtree City, but it would be good to know what these safe levels are especially since individuals are now swimming in both lakes.

Mr. Ray said we can certainly revisit that. We can look at the Reservoir Management Plan. Vice Chairman Destadio said the one Steve sent to all of us, does not really put any levels on it. He does not know what is bad, but it is not ten people swimming there. It is a pretty good number. He said he would guess the last time he went by there were 15 to 20 people, and there were 15 to 20 people in Kedron. When you go by Battery way, there was probably 30 people. That did not count the lady that was out in the boat swimming alongside her boat; a little paddleboat. He said he certainly does not want to cause a war with Peachtree City.

Mr. Ray commented that Lake Kedron is under the plan not for swimming. We know that. Vice Chairman Destadio said especially babies with diapers on. Which is why he asked her to get out.

Jimmy Preau asked Mr. Ray about the possible leak at the lower gates that might have been affecting the readings of the Water Selector. He asked if that has been looked into. Mr. Ray said we have not resolved that. The only way he knows to resolve it at this time is to put a diver in the wet well. We will have to make arrangements for a diver.

Mr. Preau said he thought it was impacting the readings on the Water Selector. Mr. Ray said water is coming in from the low levels and the lower level water had low

DO and a higher manganese and iron. That is where we are actually pulling the water from. Even if you have good water coming in from the middle gate from the Water Selector, it is not enough to impact what we are doing, but we do need to resolve it. He said we have not used any carbon.

III. WATER TANK MAINTENANCE UPDATE.

Mr. Ray reported at 9:30 this morning there will be a telephone meeting with the contractor, Southeastern, Jason, himself and James Munster, our Distribution Manager; to go over preparing for the fall. Right now we are going to talk about the order we want to go in for the tank maintenance. He said they will talk about logos, he showed the logos to the Committee for the tank in Peachtree City. That tank will have the County logo as well as the Peachtree City logo on it. The black and white version of the Peachtree City logo without the 60th anniversary will be used.

Mr. Ray said they will work up a mock up and then bring it back to the Committee for review. He said we will then talk about how they will fit on the Peachtree City tank. Both logos will be on there, and we will have to determine whether we can actually put both logos on there twice, or simply have one on one side and one on the other, the best positioning for viewing. He went on to say he is considering the order to be Ellis Road tank first. We can bypass the tank and still pump from the South Fayette plant and keep this side of the county supplied with the water. With the Crabapple tank still in service, if we need to bring more water over to Hwy 92 it will be in service and we will be good.

Mr. Ray went on to say we will delay the Peachtree City tank at least to the second position and we will work out the detail whether we wait on it. Then do the Crabapple tank last. Highway 92 is done and is in service.

Mr. Ray said during the conference call they will talk about when the contractor wants to get started, we want to get started around September 1. Vice Chairman Destadio asked if it will be the interior maintenance. Mr. Ray said that is right, we will start with Ellis; there is the interior, we definitely know we are going to repaint, drain the tank, evaluate and do spot repairs; we already decided the roof has to be repainted completely, after the evaluation of what we found at Hwy 92. Then whatever exterior touch ups need to be made.

IV. WATER PLANT UPDATE.

Mr. Ray gave a quick update on the chlorine dioxide system that we want to get out for bids. Jason with Jacobs has provided a task order for their part of the work, and once that is approved, then we will get back in touch with Purchasing to put that out for bid. We need that in place so we will have the administrative side of CH ready to go for evaluation of the contracts. That will also include construction inspection and other activities during the project.

Vice Chairman Destadio asked about the comments Jason had referred to at the last meeting. Mr. Ray asked Natasha Duggan if Jason had sent the latest version to her. She replied she sent him the changes in June and she hasn't received them back. She said she followed up with Jason, maybe two weeks ago and he had forwarded them to someone else in his organization and he was waiting to hear back from.

SOLIDS HANDLING PROJECT

Mr. Ray presented a table with information on the different technologies in solids handling; he said what has been done so far is CH has made arrangements for samples to be taken. He said we sent the samples off to a couple of vendors. He pointed out the manufacturers on the table he presented. Andritz makes several different types of de-watering equipment. PW Tech is another company we are looking at. The different technologies that have been reviewed are screw press, plate and frame presses, centrifuge, belt press and ceramic filtration. Some of these technologies have been around for many years. Some of them are automated somewhat, biological solids are different than alum sludge. The last time we cleaned out the lagoons at Crosstown a contractor came in with belt filter presses on a tractor trailer rig and they set up where they could pull the material out of the lagoons and took it right to the presses. That worked well in that application, we are not looking at belt filter presses. He pointed out the percent solids cake achieved; we want a product that is as dry as it can be in order to handle it and that will be acceptable to the landfill. The screw press had 22%, plate and frame had 22.8, and centrifuge is varied between the low end of 18 and 23, up to 25 and 30. Two columns are shown because samples were collected at South Fayette and Crosstown. The belt filter press in this application did not give high results compared to the others. The ceramic technology did not work in this application.

Mr. Ray commented there is cost involved with running this equipment; typically it takes a polymer. One of the problems with a plate and frame press, is you can end up using a lot of lime; we would rather not do that at all. He said he does not think we will go that direction. CH will give us a report, they are going to evaluate the cost and we will review that at a future meeting. The centrifuges can cost more, they will give you a dryer cake, but you have to weigh that between other technologies. There is a lot of interest in the screw presses and their ease of operation.

Vice Chairman Destadio commented these are all not on site. Mr. Ray said one was done on site; he was talking to the rep yesterday, and he is going to send the report from the on-site work. He said he was out last summer when they came in and did this. One technology is based on taking our sludge going back to Andritz and them doing it in their facility. The Andritz equipment, i.e. the centrifuge and the belt filter press have not been on site. The ceramic filter system and the screw press has been on site. We did have a plate and frame by Fournier on site.

Vice Chairman Destadio commented not the last time Lake Peachtree was dredged, but the time before that, it was pumped out and put on Drake Field and de-watered by just letting it sit there, get dry and then scraped up. Certainly we might have pumped out of Lake Peachtree more dredging material than would be coming out of the plant, he guessed. It did not cost anything to let it de-water sitting there on the field. If you are going to be transporting, isn't there some area that we might be able to just lay it down and let it de-water itself before it is scraped up? Why would we want to spend money on it if we can let it naturally dry out?

Mr. Ray stated we do have drying beds at this time at the plants and that is how we do it now. The drying beds work better certain times of the year than other times of the year. When it is hot and dry, you can turn it into dust if you leave it there long enough. At times we have had to move it out when it is still rather wet. It is inconsistent, but it is a good basic method of doing it. When you do it that way, you do have to handle it; once it is pumped to the drying beds, and once it is dry enough to handle, then, you have use a piece of equipment.

Vice Chairman Destadio asked why you have to pump it to the drying beds. Why can't you let these people pump it to some open field? Mr. Ray asked if he means for leaving it permanently in that situation. Vice Chairman Destadio said or scraping it up, permanently would be great, but scraping it up; they put it on Drake Field and then they scraped it up and hauled it away.

Mr. Ray explained it comes out of the sedimentation basins and then goes to the sludge thickener and then we pump out of the sludge thickener to the drying beds. He said he does not know where else we would pump it to if that is what he is suggesting. Vice Chairman Destadio said if we can pump it into these guys' trucks and they hauled it off to their company to go through their process and then they are going to bring it back. If we can pump it into a truck to take it to a company, why can't we pump it into a truck to take it to a field?

Mr. Ray explained for the testing phase, these were small containers of the sludge and we shipped it. If you start shipping the wet product, then you are shipping all that water. Vice Chairman Destadio asked what is the plan, are you going to do something with the sludge and then one of the things you were talking to Vanessa about was putting it in our landfill.

Mr. Ray said right now we have the dried product from the drying beds, it is put in a roll off container and the contractor takes it to a commercial landfill. The other thought was that the county owns a landfill and we can possibly take it to that location. We have not done that. It is not taken back to the plant.

Mr. Ray explained we need to dry it on site. We don't want to haul a liquid product to some other site. He said he does not know anybody that is going to take it wet, right out of the sludge thickener.

Vice Chairman Destadio asked if any of these companies that you ultimately select is going to dry that on site. Mr. Ray said yes. He clarified that we are looking at procuring and installing a system on site. This is not for hauling the waste away and them doing it at their location.

Mr. Ray said this evaluation is looking at the solids handling for the plant from sedimentation basins through the thickener, to the dewatering process and how we would then dispose of it. CH will look at the different processes, the capital cost to install it on site, the operational cost, and the chemical cost. As you look at increasing the production of Crosstown, for example, do you need a larger thickener? They will also be looking at that. The whole solids handling process is being evaluated.

HIGHWAY 92 ROUNDABOUT

Mr. Ray report the Highway 92 Roundabout project is getting closer to start. He said we got a letter this week for a pre-construction meeting. That will occur on July 31. He showed this area on the screen and pointed out the streets involved. He said Matt put this together and it shows there will be two roundabouts. One at Highway 92 and Seay Road and Harp Road, all this will tie in together. The other roundabout will be at Lockwood and Antioch Road. All the water main work, repositioning, changes within the work zone of the DOT project; the county has an agreement for their contractor to do that work. That work is approximately \$600,000.00. They will come back to the county soon, and ask for the money to be transferred to them for that work.

Mr. Ray pointed out that there is a section of 8" main on Harp Road and a 12" main on the opposite side of the road that runs all the way from Highway 85 up to this location on Highway 92. When this work gets started, there is going to be a disconnection on this older poly vinyl chloride pipe on the 8" pipe. When that happens, this line will no longer be in service. There is some work outside the DOT project area that we are going to handle in house. We are going to basically abandon the 8" on Harp Road from the terminal location up to Seay Road. We will then do a bore under the road, put it in a new line and connect Dawn Drive, which will be placed on the 12". This work is going to be done by our in house people with the help of our annual contract contractor. He will come in and do the bore. He can do the wet tap that we need for this location on the 12" main.

Mr. Ray stated there are sixteen services along Harp Road and we are going to move those services over to the 12" line. Our in house staff will do this. The only interruption of service will be for part of a day to get the Dawn Drive tie in complete. We want to get this work started soon, he has talked with Matt and James and they will meet internally and get our contractor lined up to do what needs to be done. We will get this work done so that when they get started and cut the line they will be able to go about what they need to do.

Vice Chairman Destadio asked if there will be any disruption when they do the roundabout. Mr. Ray said the DOT contractor will be doing the work within the DOT work zone. He said he would have to get more information on what water interruptions might occur. We would not have them without water for an extended amount of time. That would be worked out. He said he would get more details and report back to the Committee.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT.

Tony Parrott said he wants the Committee to look at the withdrawal permit. The past director had an idea that you didn't need all the water. He said you need every drop of water that you have in the permit, and you really ought to review them. He said that would also answer Frank's questions about swimming because it is actually in the permit. It is on what is allowed and not allowed. The Reservoir Management Plan is supposed to cover all that, but the final rule on what is allowed and not allowed in the reservoir is in the permit.

Mr. Parrott referred to the columns on the sludge, and said there ought to be a column on what you are actually achieving from the current method of dewatering the sludge. It may not be economical to just change. You might get 25% with a new method, but you also might be getting 18 to 20 with the old method. Are you going to spend a million dollars to get 5%? He said it is something you ought to consider when you are reviewing.

Vice Chairman Destadio said he would hope that is what CH's overall review is going to do. Mr. Parrott said there was not a column for existing. Vice Chairman Destadio said, good point, where do we get the permit, if that is something they could see.

Mr. Ray said, sure, we have the permits. They are coming up for review next year. We have been notified by EPD that our permits are coming due for review. Chairman Frisina asked if this basically covers all our intakes. Mr. Ray said yes.

Mr. Parrott stated Lee was wanting to let more water go downstream just to be friendly, he said he has never viewed letting water go downstream as being friendly. All your withdrawal permits are not exactly equal, they are weather related. If you look at the overall numbers, it says 32 million a day is available. It is some days, and then when you look at it, some days it is not there.

Chairman Frisina commented the weather is related to the Flint River that is the one that really is weather related? Mr. Parrott said yes, also when you look at the Flint River, you also have to look at what you can get out of Lake Horton. If you get it full, it is good for so long, if you don't get it full, it is less. He went on to say, as a Water Committee you ought to look at it and be knowledgeable of it.

Vice Chairman Destadio said that is interesting, he appreciates that; he would be more interested or as interested about the conditions not only the water, but the county, the new Director and the staff position. Since we have been bringing up here the amount of people swimming, he would be interested in seeing what the conditions are in the permit. He said he assumes the permit is with the State? Mr. Ray said yes, the permits are issued by the State, it is considered waters of the state and they allow us to withdraw water based on their review.

REPLACEMENT OF WATER SYSTEM DIRECTOR:

Bill Holland asked for a status on the replacement for Lee Pope. There was no status update for his request. He requested that the sign be taken down that says Lee Pope on the door. Mr. Ray said that can be taken care of. Vice Chairman Destadio said that he is sure the interviewers, the nominating committee would make recommendation to the County Manager who would make a recommendation to the Commissioners, who would make a final selection. Until that is all done, no one is going to be talking about anything.

V. ADJOURNMENT.

Bill Holland made a motion to adjourn the Water Committee July 24, 2019 meeting. Jimmy Preau seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, Chairman Pete Frisina adjourned the meeting at 8:40 A.M.

Peter A. Frisina

The foregoing minutes were approved at the regular Water Committee meeting on the 14th day of August, 2019.

Lisa Speegle

Next Scheduled Meeting Date: August 14, 2019