

**WATER COMMITTEE**  
**NOVEMBER 13, 2019**  
**MINUTES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Pete Frisina, Chairman  
Steve Rapson, County Administrator  
Vanessa Tigert, Water System Director  
Charles Oddo, Commissioner  
Jimmy Preau  
Bill Holland

**ABSENT:** Frank Destadio, Vice Chairman

**NON-VOTING MEMBERS:** Dennis Davenport, County Attorney  
Jason Bodwell, CH2M/Jacobs

**GUEST:** Ryan Taylor – Big Red

**STAFF PRESENT:** Chief Harold Myers, Anita Godbee  
Casey Williamson, Natasha Duggan  
Russell Ray, John Caldwell  
Lisa Speegle, Water Committee Clerk

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

**I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING ON OCTOBER 9, 2019.**

Bill Holland made the motion and Jimmy Preau seconded, to approve the minutes from the meeting on October 9, 2019. The motion passed unanimously.

**II. UPDATE ON ROWING CLUB AT LAKE MCINTOSH.**

Anita Godbee reported the Rowing Club is still going at Lake McIntosh; they average about 60 participants in the season. They practice both before and after the park closes; the ordinance says the park closes at 6:00 p.m. Practices are Monday through Friday from 4:45 to 6:45; she said that does not mean they are on the water during that time frame; they get off the water at sunset and then they go inside the tent that is set up inside their fence. They use some of the rowing machines inside to do training inside. They are in the park after hours. She said the gates will be reset to Monday through Friday until 7:00 p.m.; the Rowing Club will put up a sign stating only people allowed in the park are those participants that are a part of the Rowing Club. Mrs. Godbee added on Saturday and Sunday the park closes at normal time, which is 6:00 p.m. She said this is through December, she has not received their January schedule yet; but it will probably be about the same time frame.

Mr. Rapson commented we have one of the Association Agreements with them; that is why we allow someone to be in our park after hours. Mrs. Godbee agreed. Mr.

Rapson added that scholarships are available for college through this program. Mrs. Godbee mentioned they have followed this schedule the past two years.

### **III. STARR'S MILL FILM REQUEST.**

Mr. Ryan Taylor introduced himself, he said he is with one of the Marvel Shows – Big Red out of Pinewood. He said they are requesting to do some filming at Starr's Mill Park the first week of December. He said it will be a split day, they have some day filming and some evening filming; a 2:00 p.m. call until approximately 2:30 in the morning. It was a much bigger scene design for two days, but they have scaled it down for cost purposes to one day.

He explained the scene to be filmed at the Starr's Mill site with the Mill and Dam as the backdrop. He stated it is pretty straight forward, they are not messing with anything around the water, and they are not messing with any of the vegetation around the water. He said they may set up a camera and a condor (he pointed out the area on the drawing) and do a shot across the dam. That would be the extent of how fancy they get; he also pointed out where some lights would be via a condor; and then their working trucks in another area along the road.

He said they have been working with Fayette County, with Tameca on this since September 30, primarily because originally it was so big. Mr. Rapson said Tameca has coordinated with all the staff on this. He said what we need to do for this particular shoot is close the park the 6<sup>th</sup> and the 7<sup>th</sup>. He said that agenda item is on the Commissioners agenda Thursday, but we wanted the Water Committee to approve closing the park those two days. Since they are shooting all over the park, it doesn't make sense to leave the park open those couple of days, but they won't be staging. One question Tameca asked him to ask about is base camp. The base camp is actually on church property and they have been dealing with the church. Mr. Taylor agreed. Mr. Rapson said everything has been coordinated with staff and Public Safety. Mr. Taylor said if it rains, they would have to permit another date.

Mr. Rapson made a motion to recommend to the Board of Commissioners to close Starr's Mill Park on December 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> for this shoot. Vanessa Tigert seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

### **IV. DROUGHT UPDATE.**

Ms. Tigert introduced the new Project Engineer, John Caldwell; she said he came on board last week. She welcomed him to our staff and said we are excited to have him. He will be taking some pressure off of Russell and he will be working on a lot of our extensions.

Ms. Tigert explained the slide showing our precipitation during the past week, overall we have gotten a little over an inch, starting on November 7. The next slide showed the current lake level at Lake Horton, which is hovering around 774 ½. It has changed from the last meeting a month ago, it was right at 775. We have come

down about half a foot. Full pool is 780. Ms. Tigert discussed the next slide which was the map from the Georgia Drought Monitor; Fayette County is still in D2, which is severe drought. This map was released on November 7. She said these maps are updated every two weeks. She said every month they forecast six months out, the good news is the end of January looks a lot better than the end of December. The drought will remain, but improve.

Ms. Tigert explained EPD has gone to a Drought Level 1, which is promoting Water Conservation. It is a voluntary effort that EPD asks the citizens to engage in. What we have done, since we are in the Flash Drought area, is work with Jacobs to apply for a variance to the Drought Level I, which is Drought Level II; mandatory odd/even watering and mandatory conservation. We already practice outreach and water conservation. She said it has been a great exercise, we have had to pull a lot of data together and we are still working with Jacobs. They came back and asked more questions and we have submitted that data. She said she expects to get a decision on the variance from EPD this week. The City of Griffin and Coweta County both have received variances for Drought Level II.

Ms. Tigert said we have the best data at Lake Horton that gives us a reference for our drought of record which was in 2010. In 2016 we did not have the measurements from Lake McIntosh. As we go further and Lake McIntosh ages we will have more data. One of the things that is great about our USGS gauges at Lake Horton is we have a reservoir level that we get from USGS. We don't have that to date for Lake McIntosh, but we have reworked that contract with USGS and now we are going to have a gauge that officially measures the height at Lake McIntosh which will help us when we have to do this again. We will have the official data, EPD likes it to be official.

Russell Ray reported he talked to USGS about bringing the lake levels into our SCADA system, so we are going to look into that. We will still have the web site and all the data from USGS, but it would be good for the operators to see those lake levels at the plant. Ms. Tigert stated we talked about 50 million gallons from the Flint River to date into Lake Horton. Mr. Ray said with the rain events we have been able to take advantage of that and pump from the Flint.

Mr. Rapson said we are currently working on the contract associated with Interoperability, all that will go back to capacity, all that will go back to how much usage we have, even though we are three and a half feet short currently on Lake Horton, that means we only have about 3 billion gallons in it. We need to make sure when we are talking about droughts that we are talking about Level 1 and Level II, we are doing that to try to mitigate what the stream banks look like. We are not anywhere near where we have capacity issues, issues with treating water or actually getting water. There is a lot of activity that goes into managing all those particular lakes. He said we need to keep this in perspective. When we start talking about capacity we have and how much we need, are we going to sell water to Coweta

County through interoperability and all those things; we need to keep in mind that we still have extreme capacity type related access to those waterways.

**V. WATER PLANT UPDATE.**

Mr. Ray reported good news on the Water Selector at Lake McIntosh. At the last meeting he mentioned IXOM was coming back with the divers and they did that a few weeks ago. They went in and did confirm there was a seal that was not holding down at the bottom of the water selector. They came back in with a thick piece of rubber and a bracket, put it against the concrete wall on the interior at the bottom of the water selector; it goes all the way across the bottom. With that done, the IXOM personnel came in and took the submersible san device which measures the different parameters. Dissolved oxygen was consistent within the barrier. Turbidity was also consistently the same inside the barrier.

Mr. Ray then showed a chart where we collected additional data. When we started this part of the process in September the last sample we took with the middle sluice gate open, running it as designed with the barrier, we had high iron and high manganese in the wet well compared to the water selector. He then showed the different scenarios that were run with the barrier seal repaired and the middle sluice gate open back the way we want to operate. We now have iron that is very low and manganese is very good, and it is consistent across, as shown in the graph. He said hopefully that chapter is closed and we are back to where we want to be.

Mr. Rapson said there were a couple of things we did. First of all the IXOM folks were great to work with, we asked them to do a bunch of stuff and they did exactly what we asked them to do. We released the final check for this water selector; they are in the process of manufacturing the other one. The whole purpose of doing this is to make sure that we ratified or fixed all problems associated with this one before we put the new one in place. He said he thinks we now have a plan to fix everything prior to; we should not have any of these issues with the next gate once it is installed.

Mr. Bodwell asked if they are manufacturing the second one differently because of what we have learned here. Mr. Rapson said they will be manufacturing the second one with that bracket. They are learning as well.

Mr. Bodwell said we have hired Monumental to replace the valves at South Fayette. Natasha Duncan commented they have been given the notice to proceed. Mr. Bodwell said we will get those replaced, probably in the next few weeks or months. Mr. Ray said he has not heard from them, but once they get started it should go quick. Mrs. Duncan asked about the lead time on the valves. Mr. Ray said they are available in the warehouse. They said they would be able to get the valves fairly quickly.

Mr. Rapson asked if we have the media purchased and ready to go, too. Mr. Bodwell said fortunately, the company that had quoted the media a year ago had

said yes they still have the band width and they still want to do it. Of course, since their price is a year old, they are going to go up on their price which is completely understandable. They gave him a quote, going up about \$3,000.00. It was about \$4,000.00, now it is about \$4,300.00, not a tremendous increase. He said he talked to Russell, CH did the study on the media coming up two and a half years ago. We want to make sure that we check the media levels and determine if we need to add a little bit more media. He said they determined the quantity of the media that needed to be added two and a half years ago, and media just naturally disintegrates and you lose it over time. Before we have this company order some and come out and do this, Russell was going to check with Chet and his staff to determine if we just add a little bit more to it, maybe increasing the price a little bit. He said he would hate to add media and then all of sudden realize we didn't add enough. The good news is they are ready to do this work, we just have to determine if we need to add a little bit more volume. That will come after the valves, probably the beginning of the year. There is a little bit of lead time for the media.

Mr. Bodwell reported on the Chlorine Dioxide, fortunately the company that was the low bidder, Lakeshore, is holding their prices. Mrs. Duggan stated they agreed to hold it until the December Board of Commissioners meeting which is December 12. Mr. Bodwell said he assumes Vanessa will be presenting the Lakeshore contract and the task order as well. Mr. Rapson said they will both be done at the same time. Ms. Tigert said she is doing the agenda request for both, and it is due today for the meeting on December 12.

Mr. Bodwell said they have connected with Lakeshore and they have given a general time frame. You probably won't see Lakeshore do much for the first couple of months; they will be ordering equipment and ordering materials. They said they probably would not be on site doing work until a few months in. They don't have their definitive schedule, we will get to that once the contract is approved. He said in looking at it, they told them that was generally their plan. That helped Jacobs with the price of their task order.

Mr. Bodwell said they have talked about high rating Crosstown a few times in conjunction with the water study with the long term goal of potentially selling water to others. He said they have looked at that, they have not spent a lot of time on it, but they have looked at that and determined there are some physical things that need to take place. He said he, Vanessa, John and Russell will get together and talk about some of the potential physical projects that will need to take place to have that happen. There are a few things that he understands Fayette County can do in house, maybe there are a few things they can help with, but they will talk about that.

## **VI. TANK MAINTENANCE UPDATE.**

Mr. Bodwell reported they are complete with the Ellis Road tank, they finished it last week. He said he imagines it is all filled. Mr. Ray said it is. Mr. Bodwell said they have moved on to the Peachtree City tank. The major focus on

the Peachtree City tank is the logos. He said we all know that the logos are challenging and we have had some communications back and forth with Jon Rorie at Peachtree City. They are very proud of their new logo and as they should be. Unfortunately, their logo, the way it is structured does not really work well with the Peachtree City tank. The tank in Peachtree City is not like the one on Ellis Road, it has a very short sidewall, the sidewall being perpendicular to the ground and very short. Unfortunately, the Peachtree City logo is not really going to work well on the sidewall because it is a circular logo. In order to make it big enough to see it from the ground or any distance it would have to go over that sidewall and it would start to curve and not look good. There has been communication back and forth with Jon Rorie and he finally said don't put their logo on it. That makes it easier for the Peachtree City tank, we will put the same Fayette County Water System logo on the side of the tank. It will look great, obviously it will look a little smaller than the other tank logos, but it will provide some consistency for all four tanks in the system. The logo will go on in about a month. They are making a template because they can't use the same template for the other tanks.

Mr. Rapson mentioned the tank we took down had Peachtree City on it, the other tank had never had Peachtree City on it. Mr. Ray explained how the logos will be placed, the same as it is placed now. Mr. Bodwell said they should finish the Peachtree City tank toward the end of this month and then they will move on to Crabapple.

#### **VII. APPROVAL OF 2020 WATER COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE.**

Mr. Rapson commented this schedule does not take into consideration what we did last year; we haven't changed any of the times, nor have we changed the locations. He added that we have one meeting in November and one meeting in December. They are all at 8:00 and all at the 245 McDonough Road location. Mr. Davenport noticed the November meeting date needed to be changed from November 13 to November 12, which will be a Thursday meeting due to the Veterans Day holiday being on Wednesday.

Mr. Rapson made a motion to approve this schedule as presented with one change making November 13 the 12<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Tigert seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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

There was no public comment.

Mr. Rapson noted we are updating the signage at all the reservoirs. A copy of what they will look like is provided to the Committee. We are embracing the majority of those changes and will be putting those signs in place in the approximately 60 days.

**Mr. Davenport asked if the issue with Peachtree City on the pedestrian bridge on 54 and the waterline was resolved. He asked if this is still ongoing. They were going to put ten feet of cover on top of our waterline and we told them not to. He said that was the last he heard of it. Mr. Ray commented it is moving. Mr. Rapson said they are not going to be putting all that dirt on top of our waterline. Mr. Davenport said that was our conclusion, but have they taken us seriously and decided to do something about it? Mr. Rapson said Jon did not embrace that design and told them to change it. He said he thinks they are shifting the project so that they are not over that waterline.**

**Mr. Ray added they finally submitted an updated drawing to Matt so he could send it to DOT; if there was a need for a permit from DOT. Mr. Rapson said to have Matt check that; our concern was we did not want to have one of our major waterlines being under twenty feet of dirt.**

**IX. ADJOURNMENT.**

**Bill Holland made a motion to adjourn the Water Committee November 13, 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.**

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**Peter A. Frisina**

**The foregoing minutes were approved at the regular Water Committee meeting on the 11th day of December, 2019.**

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**Lisa Speegle**

**Next Scheduled Meeting Date: December 11, 2019**