

WATER COMMITTEE
APRIL 14, 2004
MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: **Chuck Watkins, Chairman**
 Dr. George Patton, Vice Chairman
 Chris Cofty
 Tony Parrott
 Chris Venice

NON-VOTING MEMBERS: **Bill McNally**

STAFF PRESENT: **David Jaeger**
 Russell Ray

ABSENT: **Jim Mallett**

GUESTS: **John Munford, Fayette Citizen**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Chuck Watkins at 8:00 A.M.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING ON

Vice Chairman Dr. George Patton made the motion and Tony Parrott seconded, to approve the minutes from the meeting on March 24, 2004. There was no opposition.

II. DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN.

Mr. Parrott explained that the Drought Contingency Plan begins on page 8 of the Water Conservation Plan. We have to update these plans for the current reservoir that we are requesting. There have been no changes to the plan since Lake Horton was built. Every time a change is made in a permit the Department of Natural Resources requires the plans to be updated.

He went on to explain the basic changes in the Drought Contingency Plan. On page 9, the stream flow levels are listed. The Flint was changed between permits. It was raised to 30 cfs (cubic feet per second) year before last. The raw storage and withdrawal on page 10 shows the request at 8 million for Lake McIntosh. Raw water capacity at Lake Horton is 3 billion gallons and 1 billion at Lake Kedron. Starr's Mill and Line Creek are the most susceptible to drought conditions. Six months out of the year we cannot pump out of Line Creek with the upstream withdrawals and the downstream release that is required. We have added an additional water plant and additional storage.

Beginning on page 12 and continuing on, the plan provides places for emergency facilities to get water, the fire stations to get water, and rationing. Several years ago, the Water

System, in conjunction with Emergency Services, got an army surplus water tank that we can fill up at the plant and take to different sites. Instead of having to deal with bottles, we can get several hundred gallons in this tank.

Chairman Watkins asked how we keep the tank clean while it is not being used. Mr. Parrott responded we would have to chlorinate at the time of use. Use a chlorine solution that would take about an hour and a half to disinfect the tank. We also have to dispose of the water that we use to chlorinate with. There are regulations for this disposal. It has to be de-chlorinated when it is drained out.

Mr. Parrott went on to discuss the current water restrictions located at the end of the Drought Contingency Plan. Our water restrictions are different from most others in the State. Our odd/even watering and then reductions in water usage are based on how much water we have. We have the ability to produce a certain amount of water. If it is above 7 mgd, we have the odd/even watering restrictions. Then, when it goes to 13 mgd we cut back to no watering between 4:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. daily. Then we have a total water ban at 15 mgd. The two water plants together will produce 19 mgd. This gives us a certain amount of time between implementing the no watering ban and notifying the public. We have had these basic water restrictions since 1986.

Chris Cofty asked if the EPD implements the new watering ban, will we have to make the same changes in this ordinance. Mr. Parrott responded that we have to have water restrictions as stringent as what they have. Currently they have not decided to go to the 3 days and 3 days, yet. He referenced a copy of the Cobb County water bill where Cobb County is asking people to follow this plan voluntarily. Three years ago the State required us to change our water restrictions when they implemented the water ban.

Chairman Watkins asked for information pertaining to residential and commercial customers when we adopted the current policy, and the current customers we now have. He also asked for average water use in the winter time and the average in the summer time. He guessed that we used more water four years ago than we do now.

II. DISCUSSION OF RESERVOIR MANAGEMENT PLAN.

Mr. Parrott commented that the Reservoir Management Plan, especially with adding Lake McIntosh to it, is going to be a little different than some of the other plans. The Watershed Protection Ordinance for Lake McIntosh is Peachtree City, Tyrone, and Coweta County, there is very little of Fayette County in the drainage basin north of the intake. None of the unincorporated Fayette County surrounds the lake and the only portions of the unincorporated County in the drainage basin is in the West Village in the area on the west side of Tyrone. We have very little control over that watershed. That is going to make this a little different. Our rules and regulations for Lake Horton, Lake Kedron and Lake McIntosh are all the same for fishing and boats. The plan is to put in

boat ramps and a park area at the dam at Lake McIntosh. There is approximately five acres for a park. No additional property was purchased.

Mr. Parrott commented that adding Lake McIntosh to the Reservoir Management Plant, on the Peachtree City side, as far as he can tell, is completely developed. With the golf course and residential, the only undeveloped property adjoining the lake itself is in Coweta County. The RMP lists all the rules for the public access areas to all three lakes. On page 4, it says at Starr's Mill fishing is allowed, the public is not allowed to put boats in the millpond. Mr. Parrott stated he has had requests that the County make the millpond accessible to boats. He asked the committee to consider this change. The committee discussed access points, the size of the pond, and adjoining property owners having access.

Page 5, paragraph 8 refers to hazardous trees. Any removal of trees and vegetation on County property or easements is by written permission of the Board of Commissioners. At different times, trees have fallen from our easement toward the adjacent homeowners property. It is our tree, but it is laying on his property. Sometimes it is a cleanup problem. If the tree falls into the lake, it is left there.

Page 7 discusses islands in each of the reservoirs. The island in Lake Peachtree was built out of dredging material. Peachtree City handles policing of the island. It is eight acres, and kids occasionally go out there. There is nothing for them to tear up. The island in Lake Kedron is mostly rock. A Boy Scout did an Eagle Scout project by planting the island with native plants. Lake McIntosh will also have an island.

The committee agreed to have any revisions to Mr. Parrott by the next meeting.

III. DISCUSSION OF WATER CONSERVATION PLAN.

Mr. Parrott explained that last years unaccounted for water was higher than normal because we had two of the largest main breaks in the same month, last March, that we have ever had. If you look over a four year period we are right at 10%, which is where they figure any system should be. On page 3, the connections we have with City of Atlanta, Clayton County Water Authority and City of Fayetteville are listed. An average of how much water on a regular basis is taken from two locations. We have two other locations with the City of Fayetteville that we recently have worked on discontinuing. We have tied those two locations into the Loop Line. Our pressure was higher than the City and those two locations did not serve as well. The only location, that on a regular basis, we get water from the City of Fayetteville is Drennan Lake. We have 26 customers that we serve through the City system.

He went on to say that page 4 of the Water Conservation Plan talks about how water rates are made and our rates have been the same since 1991. Part of their concern is flat rate billing for different industries. We have never had any of that. For example, the Board of

Education pays the same price for water as anybody else. We don't subsidize any organization through the Water System.

Referring to page 5, Mr. Parrott commented that the Water System has very little control over the Georgia State Plumbing Code, and the enforcement of converting fixtures to low flow (showers, sinks and toilets). The County has always converted to low flow every time they have done any retrofits, but there is no requirement for a permit when a homeowner changes out a fixture in their house. There is no monitoring on how the low flow retrofit is going. At some point in time, they will want the Building Department to do that.

Mr. Parrott went on to say that because the Water System sells water and does not take any back we don't have much in the recycle/reuse mode. We don't have any wastewater. On page 7 the average residential use for the year 2003, was 8.5 mgd. Our total wholesale has dropped down to 37,000 gallons per day. The City of Fayetteville has increased production. At one time they were getting a million gallons a day from us. With the water treatment plant and their wells, they no longer do that on a regular basis. The peak day last year was 12 million gallons. Our highest peak day ever was 17 million. This gives you an idea of the volume used. This happened about four years ago, one of those days that the City of Fayetteville was taking water, citizens were using water and we had a main break. One thing we are required to do when we apply for a permit to be modified is provide water use data and monitoring reports. We have to submit some reports yearly and some are every five years. We have done well in conserving water over the years.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Tony Parrott made a motion and Vice Chairman Dr. George Patton seconded to adjourn to executive session for discussion of two items of real estate acquisition. Attorney McNally briefed the committee on two items of real estate acquisition. No action was taken on the first item.

Vice Chairman Dr. George Patton made a motion to recommend to the Board of Commissioners that Attorney McNally investigate the possibility of purchasing a particular piece of real estate. Tony Parrott second and there was no opposition.

There being no further business, Chairman Chuck Watkins adjourned the meeting at 9:10 A.M.

Chuck Watkins

The foregoing minutes were approved at the regular Water Committee meeting on the 28th day of April, 2004.

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Lisa McElwaney