

WATER COMMITTEE
APRIL 28, 2004
MINUTES

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

NON-VOTING MEMBERS: **Bill McNally**
 Jim Mallett

STAFF PRESENT: **Russell Ray**

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

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING ON APRIL 14, 2004.

Vice Chairman Dr. George Patton made the motion and Chris Venice seconded, to approve the minutes from the meeting on April 14, 2004. There was no opposition.

II. DISCUSSION OF DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN.

Mr. Parrott commented that the Drought Contingency Plan is part of the Water Conservation Plan beginning on page 8. It mostly refers to stream and reservoir levels. Mrs. Venice asked about the designated Emergency Shelters on page 12. We have McIntosh and Sandy Creek, both are in the northern portion of the County. She asked if we want to add Starr's Mill for the Southern end. Mr. Parrott replied this was where most of the water customers were at the time the plan was written. He stated he would check with Pete Nelms to see if they have expanded the centers that Emergency Services are handling.

Mrs. Venice also pointed out, in a drought, if the reservoirs are down, individual wells will go dry as well. The question is, what concern do we have over well users as well as county customers. Bored wells go dry quickly. Mr. Parrott commented that if they are not a customer of the Water System it ends up under the Health and Safety clause that the County has to worry about. He went on to say that we would not ask for identification if we establish a place where there will be water. Emergency Services have the capability of having bottled water delivered by the pallet. The difficulty is not only drinking water, but water for sanitation, which is more than two or three gallons per person.

III. DISCUSSION OF RESERVOIR MANAGEMENT PLAN.

Mr. Parrott explained that Lake McIntosh has been added. The rules for Lake McIntosh will be the same as Lake Horton. The area we have to put a boat ramp in at the park will be about five acres. He does not know how it could be developed. Filming the shoreline was changed from twice a year to once a year. Harry Busby filmed the shoreline yesterday. At Lake Kedron there are about thirty boats laying in the twenty five foot buffer around the lake. The rules are they can only access the lake through the boat ramp. It is an enforcement

problem. The twenty five foot buffer is to be enforced by Peachtree City. The committee discussed enforcement of the rules.

Mr. Parrott mentioned the request to improve boat access to Starr's Mill. Mrs. Venice commented that having boats in Starr's Mill pond means trailers, parking, maneuverability, and where we would put them. Unless we are ready to pave those areas then it is more runoff and erosion into the pond.

Attorney McNally commented that he thinks that area is too small. There are boat areas to go into at Lake Horton and Lake Kedron, we should not encourage boats in Starr's Mill with the way the dam is situated.

Chairman Watkins asked about doing a fish survey? Chris Cofty asked if we could limit the size? Chairman Watkins replied that we could have a slot like West Point has. If people keep pulling out the same size fish, it will affect up the fish population. Chris Cofty suggested charging a boat launch fee. Most boats are not from Fayette County. The committee discussed building a lodge, and including an apartment for a full time caretaker on the site.

Attorney McNally commented that when we built the reservoir it was on the basis of passive recreation.

Chairman Chuck Watkins made a motion to recommend to the Board of Commissioners to do a Request for Proposal under the Reservoir Management Plan to perform a creel survey at Lake Horton to identify the types and quantities of fish and see if we need to put any regulations on size and slot limits. This would be a professional service expenditure. Vice Chairman Dr. George Patton seconded for discussion.

The Committee discussed limits already set by the State, but someone has to check when people bring the fish out. Vice Chairman Dr. George Patton stated he has heard blue gill and shell cracker are being pulled out of the lake by the hundreds. Eventually that will ruin the lake. Chairman Watkins commented we depend on the Marshal's to enforce the regulations.

Chairman Watkins called the question and there was no opposition to recommending this motion to the Board of Commissioners.

IV. WATER CONSERVATION PLAN.

Mr. Parrott stated we have interconnections with Brooks, Clayton County, and Fayetteville. We provided the Town of Brooks with water over the past weekend when they had a small problem. He referenced a spread sheet showing the past four years water usage. The average monthly water usage per year has decreased every year for the last four years. Even though we have added almost 4,000 customers in the four years, the average usage is less. The Water System has a total of 24,808 customers as of the end of March this year. The number of customers bounces around each month due to the people moving in and out. We have over 200 changes every month. The minimum water bill is \$16.00 for 2,000 gallons. Then

2.80 per thousand.

Chairman Watkins commented that looking at the data each month, the usage is going down. Mr. Parrott stated they are using the water wisely when they are irrigating. The most recent development in Tyrone, every house has an in ground system. Chairman Watkins stated that some people don't like irrigation systems, but it is better than dragging a hose, as far as conservation. If someone waters properly, they put out the right amount and turn it off. They don't leave it running for two hours in one spot, and then move it and leave it for three more hours.

The committee discussed at length the percentage of water that is available, odd/even watering system, the clocks on irrigation systems and people not watering on Sunday. The Department of Natural Resources is having a public hearing on May 17 at 10:00 A.M. Each County will be responsible for enforcing the regulations. Adoption of the rules will be May 30, 2004. Mr. Parrott commented that we could keep the odd/even if we come up with a way to be more restrictive than the States rules.

Chairman Watkins asked about the 14% water loss. Mr. Parrott responded that this was the worst year we have had. We had two major main breaks in the same month. It was an unusual year in that the breaks did not affect customer water pressure enough for them to notice until it completely broke loose.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Vice Chairman Dr. George Patton made a motion and Chris Venice seconded to adjourn to executive session for discussion of three items of real estate acquisition.

Attorney McNally briefed the committee on three items of real estate acquisition. No action was taken.

There being no further business, Chairman Chuck Watkins adjourned the meeting at 9:00 A.M.

Chuck Watkins

The foregoing minutes were approved at the regular Water Committee meeting on the 12th day of May, 2004.

Lisa McElwaney