

**WATER COMMITTEE**  
**May 12, 2004**  
**MINUTES**

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

**NON-VOTING MEMBERS:**              Bill McNally  
**ABSENT:**                                      Jim Mallett  
**STAFF PRESENT:**                      David Jaeger  
**GUEST:**                                      Larry Turner, PTCWASA

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

**I.        APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING ON APRIL 28, 2004.**

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

**II.       DISCUSSION OF WATER CONSERVATION PLAN.**

Tony Parrott made a motion to forward the Water Conservation Plan on to the Board of Commissioners for approval. Chris Venice seconded and there was no opposition.

**III.      DISCUSSION OF DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN.**

Tony Parrott made a motion to forward the Drought Contingency Plan on to the Board of Commissioners for approval. Vice Chairman Dr. George Patton seconded and there was no opposition.

**IV.      DISCUSSION OF RESERVOIR MANAGEMENT PLAN.**

Mr. Parrott explained that during discussions of the Watershed Protection Ordinance the buffers around the lake and how they should be maintained have come up. The Water System has no enforcement powers. Phil in Engineering is looking at this. Mr. Parrott commented that he needs Engineering to work with the property owners. We could send a letter explaining the ordinance. He distributed copies of a letter that was sent to the property owners when the lake was first built in 1997. The letter explained the regulations and included a plat showing the hundred foot buffer, the hundred year flood easement and the property line. On the property that is being subdivided, each plat has the same information. We need to make sure they understand they cannot clear cut the buffer and plant grass all the way down to the shore. Two weeks ago the Water System Inspector did a video tour of Lake Horton. There were some boats being parked in the lake. The Marshal's took care of this. He commented there is a swing in a tree that goes out over

the water. During the last three weeks the water level has fluctuated two feet.

Attorney McNally added a point of clarification. Periodically he hears from the land owners. He has always told them that if they had something like a jon boat, or a canoe that they pick up and carry into the water they could access the lake from their property. Rather than put something that small on a truck and drive around to the boat ramp. But, they could not back any trailer into the water, and they could not leave a boat sitting on the shoreline. He asked the committee if they feel that is reasonable. Do they feel this is a good policy? He has always said they could clear underbrush, but they could not plow, tear up or pull out trees by the roots. He commented he thinks we have to be reasonable with the folks who live on the water. He wants to be sure he is fair and reasonable with them. He also wants to tell them what the committee wants as a policy. The committee agreed that this is reasonable.

There was a lengthy discussion about boats in the buffer, access to the property, State regulations, undisturbed buffer, rules on the lakes and enforcement.

Mr. Jaeger stated that he thinks the intent of the buffer is to protect the water quality. There are two factors, run off creating erosion issues and then things like fertilizer that would be running off from lawns. Clearing underbrush, as long as you don't disturb the ground to the point that you develop erosion problems, really does not affect the lake a lot, as long as you can enforce a way to prevent people from fertilizing near the lake. He commented that clearing underbrush, leaving trees, and moving boats in and out as described by Attorney McNally in the previous discussion, does not affect the water quality of the lake in a major way. Once you take away a hard line of saying undisturbed, then you have gray areas. It becomes difficult to enforce. A decision needs to be made that would protect the quality of the water, be reasonable to the homeowners, and be enforceable.

The committee further discussed the size trees that could be cut, whether grass holds the ground better than a tree or underbrush, the size of developments that will be built in the future, amending the ordinance, notifying future property owners before they purchase the lot, eliminating the use of mechanical equipment for clearing, and hours of operation at the lakes. The consensus of the committee was for Attorney McNally, Mr. Parrott and Mrs. Venice to meet and bring back information to the committee.

## **V. BOAT LAUNCH AND ENTRANCE FEES FOR LAKE HORTON.**

Mr. Parrott stated that the Marshal's checked the number of people using Lake Horton. They found that 68% of the individuals who launch boats are from outside of Fayette County.

Chris Cofty explained information regarding a ticket machine, such as the ones that are used at the Corp of Engineer lakes. You hang a tag on your rearview mirror and it shows what day you are fishing. We are doing a lot of improvements at Lake Horton and we are getting a lot of activity at this location. Probably 70% of the people fishing are out of county residents. He went on to say this might be a way to recover a little bit of the cost of the improvements and protect the fish for some of the county residents to be able to fish. In addition, at the next meeting the Board will be discussing the size limits and having a creel survey done.

Attorney McNally commented that when he has been at the lake 2/3 to 75% of the people are from other counties. He suggested that in line with this permit, if anyone is caught violating any of the rules of the park, the permit be taken.

The committee discussed selling annual permits, County Marshals are certified game wardens, and enforcement of the fee payment.

#### **VI. HIGHWAY 54 PEACHTREE CITY - WATER LINE RELOCATION.**

Mr. Parrott explained that DOT finally has the right-of-way for the relocation. They have sent us our permit number. We provided the information to them over two years ago. The permit states that this is our notification to proceed with immediate relocation of the facilities. He went on to say that we have a contract with Shockley Plumbing on a yearly contract. The relocation of the waterline is from the bridge down to Wynnmeade and a small section close to Highway 74. The entire existing 8" line has to be moved. The plan is to install a 12" line and tie everything into it. We have an alternate feed coming in to the back of McDuff Parkway coming through Cedar Croft. It appears that we won't have too much trouble maintaining water service to the customers during this process. There will be some times that the water will be off for four hours at a time. There is a hotel, Walmart, Office Depot and an apartment complex. We will affect several customers. Shockley Plumbing will be able to temporarily maintain water service and we will pay them under their contract.

Chris Cofty asked if the 12" line will help the problem on Huddleston Drive? Mr. Parrott replied that this will tie back into Huddleston Drive and help with that problem. Last year the Board of Commissioners approved the DOT contractor to do the water line on the bridge. There is no way to work on a bridge with a bridge contractor other than letting them handle it. There is no way to coordinate the work.

Mr. Cofty asked how long this project will take? Mr. Jaeger replied that it would probably take two or three months. Mr. Cofty asked about notifying the customers. Mr. Parrott replied that we will give the customers a couple of days notice each time the water is scheduled to be cut off. Mr Parrott went on to say that everybody will be moving their utilities. They will cut us, and we will occasionally cut them during this construction. He

will need to ask the Board for a budget adjustment once the cost estimate is completed. This job was not anticipated at the beginning of the year and this may exceed the contract.

**PEACHTREE CITY WATER AND SEWERAGE AUTHORITY.**

Larry Turner informed the committee that the septage rate has been adopted. They had a meeting and invited the haulers. Only one attended. They sent out applications and have not received any back yet. Only two people have requested the application forms. The rate that was adopted last Monday night was a two part fixed fee, a \$25.00 Fayette County Capital Recovery fee. This fee was agreed in the contract that they would collect and rebate to the county for the capital investment. They are charging a \$25.00 administrative fee because they will always have an operator there to take a sample. Then, it will cost six cents per gallon. Right now they are paying ten cents a gallon at Clayton County. For 2,000 gallons, they are paying \$200.00, plus \$25.00 out of county fee. They are paying \$225.00. 2,000 gallons for Peachtree City would cost \$170.00. Peachtree City will be a little less than what they have been paying in Clayton County. They probably will start taking some septage in the next ten days or two weeks. Mr. Turner commented he sent the County the bill for the \$148,000.00 investment.

**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.

There being no further business, Chairman Chuck Watkins adjourned the meeting at 9:15 A.M.

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Chuck Watkins

The foregoing minutes were approved at the regular Water Committee meeting on the 26th day of May, 2004.

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Lisa McElwaney