

WATER COMMITTEE
MAY 11, 2005
MINUTES

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

NON-VOTING MEMBERS: **Bill McNally**

STAFF PRESENT: **David Jaeger**
 Russell Ray

ABSENT: **Jim Mallett**

GUEST: **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 APRIL 27, 2005.

Vice Chairman Dr. George Patton made the motion and Tony Parrott seconded, to approve the minutes from the meeting on April 27, 2005. There was no opposition.

II. RECREATION CONSTRUCTION SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT.

Mr. Parrott presented the subcommittee discussion report. The pavilions at Lake Horton will no longer be reserved, but first come first serve. This will make a difference on the usage. Crowds were getting huge. Crowds for the pavilions have been blocking all the other activities and causing parking problems. They have been more than what the design for this park was intended. The amount of people that can use a pavilion is more than the amount of parking at either site. The pavilions could have been smaller or the parking area larger. A larger parking area could be a problem.

Chairman Watkins questioned requiring large gasoline engines be removed from the boats. The committee discussed problems with leaking gas and oil in some instances.

Mr. Parrott reported the threadfin shad and the grass carp have been stocked in Lake Horton. Further discussion pertained to the size of crowds using the pavilions, adequate parking and whether people reserving the pavilions are out of the county. Mr. Parrott agreed to get this information for the next meeting.

III. CUT - OFF POLICY.

Mr. Parrott explained that he would like to get the cut-off policy to be less cumbersome. He presented a revised policy for the Board to review. The example shown is: first bill goes out March 4, the due date is March 22, a letter will be sent out April 1 stating the original bill has not been paid. On the 5th of April the second bill would go out that would also have a cut off notice. Customers would be given two notices, one with the bill and one with the letter. The cut off date for the original bill would be April 11. We do not cut off on Mondays because of processing the mail. We don't want to take a chance on a payment being in the weekend mail. Cut off days are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. This schedule is basically the same that we have had for years. The letter was an addition by the Board as a courtesy to the customers. We used to not send a letter, and the Board requested we send one. Before that the notice was on the second bill and that was all the customers received. Now they are notified twice that cut off is coming up.

Chairman Watkins asked what the first letter says? Mr. Parrott responded that it says they have not paid the bill they received on the 4 day of March (as an example). It gives the date of April 11 they will be cut off. They are given 10 days. They are charged ten percent as late payment.

Chairman Watkins stated his only comment is to consider making the penalty stiffer. Not paying a \$25.00 bill would only cost \$2.50 to be late.

Attorney McNally asked about the cost of cut offs to the Water System. Is the \$25.00 reconnect fee reasonable. Vice Chairman Dr. Patton stated he had to pay \$65.00 for someone to come look at his garage door opener. He suggested considering the salary of an employee, as well as truck and gas cost. Mr. Parrott replied that since there are so many done in a day, and the cycles are organized to be the same area, the cost is sufficient. The truck stays in the area all day, and is contacted by radio.

Tony Parrott made a motion to recommend to the Board of Commissioners the Revised Cut - Off Policy as presented. Chris Venice seconded and there was no opposition.

IV. WATER CONSERVATION PRICING.

The Water System has not gone up on water rates since 1991. Mr. Parrott commented he has had some questions from the public about size of household since this was in the newspaper. One gentleman with six children called to ask if he will get penalized every month. He does not water his grass, but his girls take showers.

Attorney McNally commented that the penalty was set for usage above 20,000 gallons a month. The Department of Natural Resources wants customers to conserve water.

Mr. Parrott stated the penalty that is on the books is not being enforced at this time. The Board is not enforcing the current 20,000 gallons. This is what we have used in the past during a drought when we had trouble getting water to our customers. He pointed out this is steeper than anything used right now.

Attorney McNally questioned how many people use this much. Mr. Parrot replied we had 2200 customers last August that used over 20,000 gallons. This is about ten percent of our customers. These customers are residential with 3/4 inch and 1 inch meters.

Mr. Parrott explained that we have to have this done by December. He is not asking for a decision today, and will bring some more information back to the committee. When our next withdrawal permit comes up the Department of Natural Resources will expect it to have been done.

V. PEACHTREE CITY WATER AND SEWERAGE AUTHORITY ANTENNA.

This item was tabled until the next meeting.

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT.

Mr. Parrott commented the Consumer Confidence Report is included in the committee package. It will be mailed and hand delivered to all Water System customers to meet DNR's requirement.

There being no further business, Chairman Chuck Watkins adjourned the meeting at 8:25 A.M.

Chuck Watkins

The foregoing minutes were approved at the regular Water Committee meeting on the 25th day of May, 2005.

Lisa McElwaney