

**WATER COMMITTEE**  
**AUGUST 9, 2006**  
**MINUTES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Chuck Watkins, Chairman  
Dr. George Patton, Vice Chairman  
Tony Parrott  
Chris Venice

**NON-VOTING MEMBERS:**

David Jaeger

**ABSENT:**

Bill McNally, Pete Frisina

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Dennis Davenport, Russell Ray

**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 JULY 26, 2006.**

Tony Parrott made the motion and Chairman Chuck Watkins seconded, to approve the minutes from the meeting on July 26, 2006. There was no opposition.

**II. SANITARY SEWER DISCUSSION.**

Mr. Parrott discussed replacement area for land application. The subcommittee discussed what percentage replacement area should be. Mr. Jaeger has suggested 100%. Mr. Jaeger commented that the State does not require replacement area, as long as the application rate is below their approved maximum rate. If you prove that you can apply wastewater at a higher rate, then they require 100% reserve area.

Mr. Parrott expressed concern that if the site is not established when the subdivision is built, it will not be available at a later date. There would be no adjoining parcel that could be used. Chairman Watkins suggested that the reserve area be tested to the satisfaction of Fayette County. Someone with the County should check to be sure it can handle the load. Mr. Jaeger commented that the requirement by the State is that the engineering report evaluate the drain field area. What he thinks would be the right thing to do is to have the County requirement say that the engineering report also has to address the reserve area. This would make the developer responsible for having his engineer do the testing and calculation necessary to prove that not only the primary, but the reserve area will be suitable. If the application rate needs to be different then the size may need to be different. 100% would be 100% capacity, not area. If you have the requirement to put it in at a lesser rate of reserve area, you need more space to have capacity.

Mr. Parrott stated this replacement area might not be adjoining. It could actually be two different sites in the subdivision. There might be a need for easements to get the piping over to the reserve area.

**Chairman Watkins stated that someone with the County should review these sites to be sure that we are comfortable with what the engineer that works for the developer has said. Be sure the backup is a good piece of land for a leach field.**

**Mr. Parrott commented that the subdivision ordinance needs to be updated to include mandatory connection to the sewer/septic system. With the configuration of some of the lots, some of them will be big enough to have their own septic tank. We would not want the lot owner to have the option of having his own private waste disposal system on his own property without connecting to the community system.**

**Mr. Parrott stated the price of service needs to be determined. If you have 100 customers in a subdivision, this would be approximately 800,000 gallons a month. This works out to be about \$3500.00 income. This should cover cost of maintenance. Starting off, it will run in the red until you get a large enough customer base to support itself. If we use \$4.38 per thousand or something in this range, he thinks we would be able to operate the system and maintain enough coverage for the maintenance and operation.**

**Chairman Watkins stated he does not think the rate should be based on water usage. He would like to see a rate based on average usage. When water use is high, you know all of that is not going into the sewer. He asked that Mr. Parrott explore a more fair way to charge for summer months. Mr. Parrott stated that the Metropolitan North Georgia Planning District encourage, as part of water conservation, basing rates on water use. Chairman Watkins commented that if the water is going into the ground, it is not going into the sewer system. The sewer system does not have to treat it.**

**Mr. Parrott commented that those who cap the usage at 10,000 gallons have a higher rate because you still have to generate a certain amount of revenue to run the system. No matter how you bill the customers, if you need a million dollars to run the system, you have to come up with a million dollars whether charging by the thousand gallons or split it up and divide it by the amount of customers as a flat rate.**

#### **COMMITTEE UPDATE – LAKE BUFFERS**

**Mr. Parrott commented that Peachtree City had a meeting about the buffers around Lake Kedron and Lake Peachtree. 50% of the homeowners around Lake Kedron are violating the buffer in some way. They are cutting trees and grass, putting in walkways, playground equipment, one man had a tree house built in the buffer. The City is going to determine how to compile the State/County/City regulations in the buffers so they can enforce the buffer ordinance around the two lakes. They will be working on this in the next few weeks.**

### **BOIL WATER ADVISORY**

Mr. Parrott referenced a news article about College Park and DeKalb County having to do boil water notices because of main breaks. Some of the new rules and regulations of DNR require that if you have a main break and the water pressure drops below 20psi, you have no way of knowing whether there might have been a backflow or anything else in the system. You have to issue a boil water notice, take a bacteria sample and then tell people when it is all clear after the bacteria sample is clear. This means, in the future, with some of the main breaks we have, we will be doing the same thing. We will need to do some public education to let them know the reason. We will need to work with 911, with their one call system so they can target a certain area to let them know they have a boil water advisory. Criteria for a boil water advisory is determined on a case by case basis, depending on the situation. At times, the number of customers will be so small that staff will go door to door to notify them.

### **RECORD WATER USE IN JULY**

Mr. Parrott reported that we had record water usage last month. The new record was 423,000,000 gallons of water for the month. City of Fayetteville is not pumping out of Whitewater at this time. They are still running the wells, and we are providing them a million plus per day. Having the two million gallon tank feeding their million gallon tank works very well, and Fayetteville is in daily contact with our water plant as to what they expect their daily use to be.

There being no further business, Chairman Chuck Watkins adjourned the meeting at 8:40 A.M.

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Chuck Watkins

The foregoing minutes were approved at the regular Water Committee meeting on the 23rd day of August, 2006.

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Lisa McElwaney