

**WATER COMMITTEE**  
**SEPTEMBER 13, 2006**  
**MINUTES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

**NON-VOTING MEMBERS:**

David Jaeger

**ABSENT:**

Bill McNally

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Dennis Davenport

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

**I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING ON AUGUST 23, 2006.**

Vice Chairman Dr. George Patton made the motion and Tony Parrott seconded, to approve the minutes from the meeting on August 23, 2006. There was no opposition.

**II. REQUEST FOR BACKUP WATER FOR NEWTON PLANTATION WATER SYSTEM.**

Mr. Parrott requested that this item be tabled until the next meeting.

**III. SANITARY SEWER DISCUSSION.**

Mr. Parrott stated that the recommendation for sanitary sewer, septic systems, and land application was presented to the Board at their last meeting. They would like some additional information. He stated he will be getting the additional information for them. It was fairly well received by the majority of the Board. They understood that it is coming, and a decision will have to be made.

Mr. Parrott went on to say that the Board is asking for additional information on the different types of mechanical systems for land application. There was a question about the rates. Without having a system operating, it is hard to come up with something on what it is going to cost.

Mr. Davenport commented that one of the things they wanted to know about is something the subcommittee discussed. They asked about performance of particular systems. They wanted to make sure that whatever is approved, at least have some track record of good performance.

Chairman Watkins asked if every system, no matter what the cost is to run it, will we still charge the same rate? If one has a higher electric bill, would we want to have a higher rate for that one?

Further discussion pertained to how to set rates. Rates could be adjusted later on.

#### **IV. WATER CONSERVATION.**

Mr. Parrott explained that we will have to comply with the North Georgia Metropolitan Water Planning District requirement of a 12% decrease in water usage over a 20 year period. Fayette County was already conserving because we had odd/even water restrictions. We started off with a lower number due to already having water restrictions in place. If we don't comply with this program, our permits will not be renewed. We have permit renewals coming up the 1<sup>st</sup> of the year. We are making an effort to do some of the things they are recommending. In the beginning, Mr. Parrott stated that he believed these things were optional. Once the Department of Natural Resources finished with it, it became mandatory. District wide we had to adopt water conservation, and adopt an individual meter installation for every apartment or duplex.

Mr. Parrott commented that one proposed program is replacement of the pre-rinse spray valve in restaurants. The good thing about this program is that Atlanta Gas Light will make the purchases of the pre-rinse spray valve replacements. Then the water utility will handle the installation. Most utilities have a FOG (fats, oils and grease) program. Fayette County does not have sewer, so we don't have anybody going around to restaurants to check on them. We also don't have very many restaurants. Depending on what happens, Mr. Parrott stated that he will be coming back to the committee with a proposal for our participation.

Another program is changing out inefficient toilets. According to the census report, before 1950, when toilets used 7 gallons, Fayette County had 434 houses. Pre-1960 was still a little over 1,000 houses. If we recommend a toilet replacement program, this is not a very large group. If you start looking at pre-1990, the group is much larger, around 11,000. The original proposal stated that prior to selling a house you had to upgrade your fixtures. You had to have something saying you had updated your toilets, your shower and your sinks to low flow fixtures at closing. It appeared that the realtors did not like having something else to be responsible for at closing time. After they lobbied the legislature the decision was made not to do it this way. From the water utility side, it was great. If we didn't do it, it was taken care of at closing. Mr. Parrott referenced a package of water conservation materials that we could make available to the public. Some systems have made new toilets available to the public. The building code now requires low flow fixtures be installed when a new house is built.

Education in the schools is another choice for water conservation. Materials can be purchased and given out. We have brochures available. We sent letters to everyone

on the Water System that had an irrigation meter, telling them to put a rain sensor on their sprinkler system. Anything we do, there will be a cost involved. The money can come from the conservation rate of \$1.00 per thousand that we collect for over 20,000 gallons usage. In July we collected, \$83,502.21 from 4,193 customers. In June we collected 68,231.15 from 3,986 customers and in May we collected \$17,398.26 from 1,347 customers. In three months, we have taken in over \$168,000.00 from the water conservation rate alone.

Further discussion pertained to some systems having an employee dedicated to the education program for water conservation. They go to the schools and make presentations. Here, in Fayette County, it might be possible to work with the County Extension office. The Water System could provide some of the materials that are given out to the public. The spray valve replacement program requires that the old valve be collected at the time the new one is installed.

#### **LAKE HORTON PARK**

Mr. Parrott mentioned a letter from a citizen about wharf rats at Lake Horton Park. A company has been contracted to take care of this problem.

#### **LOGHOUSE WELL USAGE**

The City of Peachtree City owns Loghouse Well and we use it as a water source. We allow them 15% of the water from that well to be credited to their water usage. 15% of the well usage last year was 4,638,180. The City used 11,841,182 and saved nearly \$13,000.00 by letting us use the well. This shows DNR that we are using alternate water sources and are not solely relying on the streams for water.

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

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Chuck Watkins

The foregoing minutes were approved at the regular Water Committee meeting on the 27th day of October, 2006.

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Lisa McElwaney