

WATER COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 15, 2006
MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chuck Watkins, Chairman
Dr. George Patton, Vice Chairman
Tony Parrott
Chris Venice
Pete Frisina
Bill McNally
David Jaeger

NON-VOTING MEMBERS:

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

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING ON OCTOBER 25, 2006.

Vice Chairman Dr. George Patton made the motion and Tony Parrott seconded, to approve the minutes from the meeting on October 25, 2006. There was no opposition.

II. DISCUSSION STANDBY POWER AT MCDONOUGH ROAD.

Mr. Parrott explained that standby power for the Water System is important for the computers and the phone system for all the buildings on McDonough Road, not only the Water System, but Building & Grounds, Public Works and even ties back into the 911 building. In doing standby power, just for the computer and communication room, it would benefit us have standby power to the entire building. It would give the Water System another location for access to customer service. As it is now, if the power is out here, the customer can contact one of the plants, but it would not work nearly as smooth. We have had power out for as long as a day and a half at a time and it has been rather difficult, because when the power goes out, it is usually bad weather. When we have bad weather, we have more customer problems. It would really benefit us to look at making the whole building as stand alone with backup power. With backup power we would also be able to access our distribution valves and tanks as long as we still have power.

Mr. Jaeger stated that at Mr. Parrott's request he has a proposal to do an assessment of the power and electrical system in the building. This includes the size of the generator. He has put together a bid package to be able to bid this out.

Mr. Parrott stated the backup power would be in this building and this covers the phone and computer for the other buildings on McDonough Road. The generator would sit behind this building. This will greatly enhance our ability to give better customer service, especially in bad weather.

Tony Parrott made a motion to recommend to the Board of Commissioners installing standby power at the Water System building on McDonough Road. Vice Chairman Dr. Patton seconded and there was no opposition

III. DISCUSS HOLDING POND AT CROSSTOWN WATER TREATMENT PLANT.

Mr. Parrott reported that we have a holding pond at the Crosstown Water Treatment Plant. This holding pond is adjacent to the runway at Falcon Field. Years ago, we had a water problem with the holding pond in relation to Falcon Field. We made some modifications to solve the problem. Chris Venice and Lee Hearn talked with John Crosby, and Mr. Crosby says we still have a problem.

Mr. Jaeger explained that the Crosstown Plant was built in two phases. The original construction was done back in the early to mid 80's. At that time, we had soil borings done and geotechnical evaluation. We had some borings along the area that showed that there was groundwater there prior to the plant being constructed. In the early 90's we expanded the plant, and this is when the raw water storage lagoon was built. We did some subsequent borings at that time and constructed the storage reservoir. During that period the airport extended their runway and now they are planning to extend it again. During the expansion of the water plant, when we built the raw water lagoon, after it was built and had water in it, there started to show some seepage along the downstream slope of this levy on both ends of the job. This is before the construction was actually finished. We had the contractor come in and with the advice of the geotechnical engineer, we had the contractor add some French drains in these areas where it was showing seepage. Areas of concern right now are the wet areas. They are more or less in the way of where the airport wants to extend their runways. The airport has put in some storm drain in the past, which collects the swell area and pipes it off. The airport is saying they have water out there. They think it is coming from the lagoon.

Mr. Jaeger stated that the soil reports from the original construction showed that there was groundwater at a fairly high level along the area. The gray area is, we know there was groundwater there, does the lagoon make the situation any worse? The way to find this out is to go out and put in some monitoring wells along the area between the wet area and the lagoon. Then, over time, adjust the level of the water in the lagoon and measure and see if the monitoring well levels react. If the level of the groundwater seems to be influenced by the lagoon, then you can say that, even though there was groundwater there, it appears that the water in the lagoon and whatever seepage is continuing to penetrate this western boundary, then does it contribute to the wet areas. He stated he has a proposal from Piedmont Geotechnical to install the monitoring wells, and to do a series of evaluations and monitor those wells over time.

Mr. Jaeger commented that Mr. Parrott has agreed that the level of the water in the raw water storage lagoon could be raised and lowered as much as five feet or so to judge whether there is an impact directly to the level of water in the monitoring

wells.

Mr. Parrott commented that he prefers we do the monitoring wells between now and the spring. He does not want to have the lagoon low during the summer months, when water usage is at its peak. Mr. Jaeger stated that he has investigated the cost of a liner, and the cost for this type project is substantial, in the neighborhood of \$250,000 to \$300,000. The lagoon would have to be drained, cleaned of any organic matter that has accumulated. Then, come back in and put in a synthetic liner.

The committee discussed at length the possibility of draining the lagoon versus installing monitoring wells, who should be responsible for paying for a study of the currently wet areas, should the cost be shared, and whether we are making the natural wetness of the area worse by having the holding pond there.

The Committee agreed for Attorney McNally, Mr. Parrott and Mr. Jaeger to meet with the Airport Authority to explain what we know to date, the cost, and the proposal; and then report back to the Water Committee.

Mr. Parrott stated that he is not comfortable with a six month evaluation time period being during the months of June, July and August. It is not practical at that time of year for the lagoon to be five feet low during those months. It puts the Water System at risk, because the holding pond is there to give us three days water use, on average, in case we have a problem. He does not want to take a third of this away to check monitoring wells. We could do monitoring wells next fall.

Mr. Parrott mentioned a public meeting being held by the Corp of Engineers about water storage in Lake Lanier, and effects downstream. He stated he will be attending the meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Tony Parrott made a motion and Vice Chairman Dr. Patton seconded to adjourn to executive session for discussion of one legal item. The Committee adjourned to executive session and Attorney McNally advised the group on this one item.

There being no further business, Chairman Chuck Watkins adjourned the meeting at 8:50 A.M.

Chuck Watkins

The foregoing minutes were approved at the regular Water Committee meeting on the 13th day of December, 2006.

Lisa McElwaney