

**WATER COMMITTEE**  
**DECEMBER 13, 2006**  
**MINUTES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**                   Chuck Watkins, Chairman  
  Dr. George Patton, Vice Chairman  
  Tony Parrott  
  Pete Frisina

**NON-VOTING MEMBERS:**           Bill McNally  
  David Jaeger

**ABSENT:**                               Chris Venice  
**STAFF PRESENT:**                   Russell Ray

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

**I.     APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING ON NOVEMBER 15, 2006.**

Vice Chairman Dr. George Patton made the motion and Tony Parrott seconded, to approve the minutes from the meeting on November 15, 2006. There was no opposition.

**II.    DISCUSSION OF OLD ROAD WATERLINE EXTENSION.**

Mr. Parrott reported that the County plans to improve Old Road. He distributed a map of the area. Old Road is between State Route 85 and State Route 279. The entire Kenwood Business Park has just one water feed for the entire area. We need to plan to tie the waterline into 279 with the future road work. The County plan is for the County Road Department to do the grading. Once it is graded we need to plan on installing the waterline to tie this in. He commented that we need to get Board approval to add this to the yearly contract.

Mr. Parrott made a motion to recommend to the Board of Commissioners to extend the waterline from Etowah Trace to Highway 279 as part of the annual waterline extension contract. Vice Chairman Dr. George Patton seconded and there was no opposition.

**III.   UPDATE ON HOLDING POND AT CROSSTOWN WATER TREATMENT PLANT.**

Mr. Jaeger stated that the issue of groundwater on the Falcon Field property west of the Crosstown Plant was presented to the committee at the last meeting. The possibility of the raw water holding lagoon influencing that groundwater and creating some wet areas on the airport property was discussed. The committee asked that a discussion be held with the Airport Authority about the opportunity for

sharing the cost, or the responsibility for the cost of the study, to install some monitoring wells. He contacted John Crosby, the Manager of the Airport and briefed him on that. Mr. Crosby asked him to forward to him the proposal that Piedmont Geotechnical had provided to us for the monitoring wells as well as some older engineering data, which he had in the file from the Water Plant project which showed monitoring wells on the property performed back in 1990 and 1984. He also asked that after his engineers review the information, that the Water System make some type of presentation to the Airport Authority. They meet once a month. The Airport Authority can then be updated on the problem and make a decision on their ability to assume responsibility for the cost, if the monitoring wells show that the County is not responsible or not impacting the groundwater situation.

Mr. Jaeger stated that he has prepared the documents, but he has not sent them to Mr. Crosby. He and Tony felt they should come back to the Water Committee prior to sending the documents to Mr. Crosby.

Mr. Parrott stated that we have to get Board approval to do the project, either way, and we have not done that yet. We can provide the information for the review of the Airport Authority.

Mr. Parrott commented that last week when he was at the water plant, they were bush hogging and the wet area appeared to be smaller than it was in the past. He does not know what monitoring wells might show, but visually there appears to be less water holding down there than there has ever been. They put in a pipe on their end, but he does not know how much water is going through.

The committee agreed on a meeting with the Airport Authority. After the meeting Mr. Parrott will update the committee with the information from the meeting.

#### **IV. REPORT ON NEW GROUND WATER RULES.**

Russell Ray updated the committee on new Ground Water rules from EPA. He presented a summary from EPA to the group. EPA published the rule on November 8 in the Federal Register. The purpose of this new rule is to provide for increased protection against microbial pathogens in public water systems that use ground water sources. EPA is particularly concerned about ground water systems that are susceptible to fecal contamination, since disease causing pathogens may be found in fecal contamination. The Centers for Disease Control Prevention reported that between 1991 and 2000, ground water systems were associated with 68 outbreaks that caused over 10,000 illnesses. Contaminated source water was the cause of 79% of the outbreaks in ground water systems.

Mr. Ray went on to say that the Ground Water Rule will apply to public water systems that serve ground water. The rule also applies to any system that mixes surface or ground water, if the ground water is added directly to the distribution system and provided to consumers without treatment. There are a number of

systems that pump the water out of the well and then it goes directly into their system without treatment. An evaluation of the data on outbreaks and occurrences of waterborne bacterial pathogens indicates there is a subset of ground water systems that are susceptible to fecal contamination. That is, EPA understands that not all ground water systems have problems. There is a significant number, in their eyes, to go ahead and promulgate this rule. In 1996 Congress amended the Safe Drinking Water Act to require that EPA take a targeted risk base approach to require ground water systems that are identified as being at the greatest risk of contamination to take action to protect public health.

Periodic Sanitary Surveys will be required, as well as source water monitoring to identify these sources that are contaminated. There are a number of corrective actions that some system will have to take if the contamination is found. There are 147,000 public water systems that use ground water.

Mr. Ray went on to say that Fayette County does not have any contaminated wells. We may be affected indirectly by some of the monitoring that they want to require.

Mr. Parrott stated that the Wellhead Protection Plan that they require us to have on file is 2,500 feet around every well. We are chlorinating the wells, we check them every day. We are in compliance with these rules as they are right now. The problem is, with our Lake Horton well system, it is a non community transit system which is an odd system in their view. We are going to take this out once we get the water line down Antioch Road and get it tied in. We will then be able to close these wells.

#### **REPORT ON SCOPING MEETING:**

Mr. Parrott reported that he attended a Corp of Engineers Scoping Meeting in LaGrange; this meeting was for the Corp to get public input in the environmental impact statement that they are preparing about the contracts with ARC, Gwinnett County and the City of Gainesville about using part of Lake Lanier as storage for drinking water. In contracting with the ARC to use Lake Lanier for storage, it means they won't be able to provide as much water to the Southeastern Federal Power customers for hydropower. The Corp will have to issue credits back to the Federal Power customers. In doing this, some of the water from City of Atlanta could soon have an additional surcharge added to the bill. They would have water storage to use in the summer time, but when they needed it, they would have to pay, so that the Federal Electric Corp can buy power from Georgia Power and resell it to EMC's. It will cost a few cents more per thousand gallons. Since we are not using as much water from City of Atlanta as we have in the past, Mr. Parrott stated he does not feel this will be an economic burden on our system. At least it will make the Atlanta system weather resistant in the summer time.

Mr. Parrott went on to say that the biggest complaint he heard from those south of Atlanta is that they don't like the fact that the region uses septic tanks. They feel

**the water should be put back into the river, so they can use it downstream. They think all the counties around Atlanta ought to have sewer systems and discharge back to the stream, so they can get the water downstream.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**Tony Parrott made a motion and Pete Frisina 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. No action was taken.**

**There being no further business, Chairman Chuck Watkins adjourned the meeting at 9:10 A.M.**

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**Chuck Watkins**

**The foregoing minutes were approved at the regular Water Committee meeting on the 10th day of January, 2007.**

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**Lisa McElwaney**