

**WATER COMMITTEE**  
**OCTOBER 24, 2007**  
**MINUTES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**            Tony Parrott  
   Jack Krakeel  
   Pete Frisina  
   James K. “Chip” Conner  
   Chris Clark

**NON-VOTING MEMBERS:**        David Jaeger  
**STAFF PRESENT:**                Russell Ray

The meeting was called to order by Water System Director Tony Parrott at 8:00 A.M.

**I.        APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 26, 2007.**

Pete Frisina made the motion and Chip Conner seconded, to approve the minutes from the meeting on September 26, 2007. There was no opposition.

**II.       LAKE MCINTOSH UPDATE.**

David Jaeger reported that there are multiple things going on with the lake project. The geotechnical guides have finished the first phase of their sub surface investigation work; they have done borings in the dam area, they are in the process of compiling that data and then will assemble a report. They have more work to do, and will be doing additional borings for a borrow study for materials to build the dam. This is phase 1 of their work, but they have completed it and they have demobilized for the time being. A survey crew is staking the timbering limits for the reservoir. They are marking the 780 contour which is the normal pool elevation line around the lake. He commented that they are between half and two thirds of the way through with that operation. They are also locating the bore holes that the geotechnical guides have done so that we have an exact location of those. Tomorrow nights agenda for the Board of Commissioners has the timbering contract on it. The bid opening was a few weeks ago. If the Board awards that, then we will have the ability to issue a contract for timbering. Again, that is just for the marketable timber; we are not doing a full clearing and grubbing of the reservoir at this time. That will be done at the end of the dam construction, just before we start impoundment.

He went on to say that we are not currently able to issue the notice to proceed on the timbering work because we are waiting on the release of the stream channel credits from the mitigation bank. The latest word that he has is that it is possible those could be released next month. There is some approval that needs to be done through the Corp of Engineers from the mitigation bank, but he believes that the work has been done to establish the restoration or the conservation of these stream channel credits so we are into

the paperwork phase now. As soon as that is released, then we can issue notice to proceed. The bid documents require that the timbering contractor hold his price for 120 days. Mr. Jaeger stated that he thinks we have a wide enough window that we will be able to accommodate the release of the credits and then the notice to proceed for the timbering. We have submitted to the State of Georgia a stream buffer variance application which is required for the project. The State law is that we will maintain a 25 foot buffer, undisturbed on each side of all the streams and state waters within the project. This is the type of project that obviously, those buffers are going to be destroyed, so we have to apply for a variance for that requirement. That has been submitted to EPD, approximately a week ago.

Mr. Parrott stated that the Board approved the two stream monitoring gauges, one on Line Creek on the Southern Conservation Trust site and the one that is going to be on Shoal Creek on Hwy 54 in Coweta County. We have submitted these to the USGS and they will send us confirmation when they will install it. He went on to say that he has a call in to talk to them about the down stream gauge we need which includes flow, temperature, ph and two or three other variables. It may be possible for us to have USGS do all three gauges, which takes care of the maintenance, verification, and calibration under one body. That should make it a little easier to work with Fish and Wildlife and the Corp of Engineers since they are all Federal agencies.

Mr. Jaeger commented that the other thing we have in the works is the final phase of the Cultural Resources archaeological work. There is one site that has a recovery phase that has to be done. The environmental consultant has submitted their plan to the Corp for review. Upon Corp review, it then goes to the State Historic Preservation Office for their review. He is anticipating a possible start date of December or January, depending on how long it takes to get it through the approval process. That area would not be timbered until that work is done.

Jack Krakeel asked about the mussel monitoring station. Mr. Jaeger stated they are still working on trying to locate exactly where it is. The location of those mussels, that study was not performed by our project. It was an outside project that identified those, and then it was referenced in the 404 permit as something we needed to monitor. He stated that they are working on determining the exact location and then they will have to go in and set up the station. It is his belief that Hal Bryant would need to be utilized for some of that work.

Mr. Krakeel commented that he had a conversation with Tommy Craig's office last week. The Board had asked his office for a scope of work statement. It came in the mail yesterday. When he spoke to Laura Benz, she indicated that they will also be forwarding the contract for Hal Bryant shortly.

Mr. Parrott stated a new subdivision is being built on Helmer Road. We have a mitigation site next to it. They are about to put in phase 2 of the subdivision next to our mitigation site. He went on to say that traditionally we have fenced our mitigation sites. He stated he would like to go ahead and have Mallet Consulting do a bid for that, and go ahead and

fence this site before these lots are developed. This way when people buy these lots, they will see the fence and the sign and will know we are about to make this “pasture area” into something less than what it is now. Our easement goes through their amenity area to get to the site. They have to move where our current easement is to the back of their amenities site. They are going to stake it and give us another deed and swap. It was creating a snag in the process. We will do a road through their amenity site that is twenty foot wide gravel. Then we will fence the site. This will be one of our high profile sites. It is close to the Corp office, and we will get more company visiting the site. It is just like our Henry County site gets more visits. The fence will be a standard hog wire fence, four foot high. Mr. Parrott commented that funds are available in the Lake McIntosh project, so that we can go ahead and do this.

Pete Frisina made a motion to recommend to the Board of Commissioners to install a fence at the Helmer Road mitigation site. Funds are available in the Lake McIntosh project fund. Chris Clark seconded and there was no opposition.

### **III. RESERVOIR MANAGEMENT PLAN DISCUSSION.**

Mr. Parrott explained that Mr. Frisina and Mrs. Quick have made the requested changes. The most recent watershed ordinances for the County, Tyrone, Peachtree City, and Coweta County are attached. Discussion followed about when the Board of Commissioners would need to adopt the plan. It will need to go to the DNR Drinking Water Program and then go to the Board for adoption. Mr. Parrott will send it to the State and then submit it to the Board once returned. He asked that the committee review it. There are no new proposals; it is just putting what the Board has adopted at different times together in the package. The Fayetteville watershed ordinance does not affect any of our reservoirs. They are seven miles upstream from Starr’s Mill. The next time this item will come up will be when Mr. Jaeger submits the dam design to Safe Dams. This item was tabled until the next meeting.

### **IV. DISCUSSION OF LEVEL FOUR DROUGHT RESTRICTIONS.**

Mr. Parrott commented on the newspaper headlines for 10% reduction in water use. He explained that the 10% is December, January, February and March this past year. Back in December and February, we had some all time low water uses. We are under 7 million, our average day is 7.3. We average in December, 6.9 and then in February we averaged 6.7 mgd. Depending on what the 10% means, he roughed out some numbers this morning, the average for those four months was just a little over 7 mgd, which means that we would have to reduce to 6.3 mgd. The average sold to the City of Fayetteville for those four months was 46,000 gallons. Currently, we are selling the City of Fayetteville over 800,000 gallons a day. With the wholesale figures, at our average for the seven months at 7 mgd, with the water we are selling the City of Fayetteville, you could assume that would be 7.8 mgd or you could assume that you take that out of the equation all together and the City has to do something with theirs. Mr. Parrott estimated a 30% reduction from our average day will be required. The change will be effective November 1. The Customer

Service staff has been calling customers with irrigation meters to go ahead and terminate their service, since they cannot use it and they won't have to pay a minimum bill. We will not charge them to restart the service, whenever they are able to start the service again. Economically it means that we don't have to worry about sprinklers coming on when they are not supposed to. Minimum bills will be about \$60,000.00 worth of revenue the Water System will lose over the next few months.

Chris Clark asked who our largest users are. Mr. Parrott replied the Wyndham Hotel, Hoshizaki, Shiloh Mobile Home Park, the school system. Photocircuits was two of our top ten, because they had two different places, but they have gone away. Apartment complexes use less per unit than individuals. Since we have been on Level 4 we have dropped between 26 and 27 percent. The Marshals office has backed up their shifts so that they can catch some of the early morning watering.

Mr. Clark asked about being able to break out car washes and laundromat uses. Mr. Parrott replied that our commercial base is very low. Most of the water use is due to outside watering. A couple of the industries from Peachtree City called because they were worried that they will be required to reduce. One of them was concerned, that since they are foreign owned, if they lost a day of production, they would not be as economically viable to the organization.

The committee discussed at length having to reduce the average production 10% lower than December, 2006 through March 2007, if targeted goals are not met fines will be imposed, outside water use is the easiest thing to police.

Mr. Krakeel asked what options do we have available to us to further reduce water consumption by 30% over our average daily production today. Mr. Parrott responded that we have to get customers to use less in their house. Mr. Krakeel commented that these are conservation measures and what if these conservation measures do not achieve a stated goal of 30%.

Mr. Clark explained that there is a four member panel that is in charge of the drought for the governor. The group consists of the head of GEMA, the head of EPD, the head of Health and Human Services and himself (head of GEFA). Athens is talking about rationing; they are talking about limiting the use of certain hours a day. Cobb and Gwinnett are waiting to see which industries are using the most water. A couple of communities have already said they are going to shut down all their car washes, the ones at the gas stations, and others are talking about going into the schools to see if they can cut off or how they can limit water in their school systems and trying to prioritize that way. Cobb (which is a lot bigger system with a lot more money) is doing rebates for people that put low flow toilets in their homes. They are doing rebates to home builders that are doing those types of things. Cobb and Athens, right now, have been the most aggressive. Gwinnett is pretty close behind them. Mr. Clark went on to say that he believes the oddity with the numbers is something we could talk to EPD about. We have to have an action plan.

**Mr. Parrott stated the schools have shut down all outside watering at all their facilities, including the football fields. Mr. Krakeel mentioned that they should be invited to the meeting scheduled for tomorrow to discuss the water restrictions. Mr. Krakeel explained the meeting is scheduled with all the municipalities to talk about Level 4 drought and the potential for further restrictions and to begin the dialogue with our municipalities. They are partners in this process with us. We need to be concerned about their role in this issue as well. What we are trying to do is come up with a uniformed strategy throughout the county. Granted, we provide water to the majority of the county, but the City of Fayetteville is involved, Peachtree City and Tyrone are involved. Whatever we do, whether it is from an enforcement perspective, compliance or conservation measure that we can have a uniform approach, countywide, to this entire issue. If we are going to do something at the County level with respect to further restrictions, then we would want the municipal leaders on board with that issue as well, so that similar types of initiatives can be undertaken within the municipalities throughout the county.**

**Mr. Clark asked about our water levels. Mr. Ray commented that Lake Kedron is about 10 feet low. Lake Horton is in better shape, it is 9 feet low, and that puts us just below the 50% mark. Depending on how much we use from the reservoirs we have over 200 days. The paper reported 200 days this week, but we believe that we are probably more in the 250 range.**

**Mr. Clark commented that he thinks that as we go forward with State action, those numbers are going to be very important to have; if we continue to have across the board cuts, everybody at Level 4 or if it comes by county at some point, because of the levels. Mr. Parrott commented that we cannot use the Flint River because of the flow, even Whitewater Creek, which is 2 mgd, the flow is such that we are only doing a little over a million. We have 2 mgd withdrawal from Line Creek, the flow there is a little over a million gallons a day. We have cut back on Kedron, so that we are not doing 4 out of Kedron, we have cut it back to about 2. We are talking about 2 out to Lake Peachtree, which is what we are doing there. We have balanced everything as tight as we can to hold what we have in the reservoirs and get what we can out of the withdrawal permits.**

**Mr. Krakeel asked about withdrawing out of Lake Peachtree. Mr. Parrott said it is almost at full pool and we can draw out of it. Mr. Ray stated that permit is 1/2 mgd.**

**Further discussion pertained to Alabama and Florida restrictions. Alabama has filed another law suit and does not have the same type restrictions as imposed in Georgia.**

**Mr. Clark asked if Fayette County has been contacted by GEMA. Mr. Krakeel replied yes, and yesterday Mr. Frisina forwarded to GEMA an initial cost identification of the impact of the drought here in Fayette County. Mr. Clark asked if they have asked for the Emergency Water Plan and Mr. Krakeel replied no. Mr. Clark then asked when the last time the Emergency Water Plan had been updated. Mr. Parrott stated he would need to look. Mr. Clark stated that this will be requested and we will need to submit it. Mr.**

**Krakeel asked that Mr. Parrott provide a copy of the plan.**

**Mr. Krakeel questioned if the Stafford Act will be addressed from an Emergency Management perspective, from a disaster recovery perspective about accessing other water sources even if they are on private property. Mr. Clark replied, yes. He went on to say they met yesterday and discussed how to get alternative water sources in and cost estimates. There are a couple of communities already pretty much out in North Georgia. They are doing estimates now to run irrigation pipes from private ponds and lakes. That is why they decided to ask for updates on all the Emergency Water Plans. This plan will need to be updated in the event the States requests a copy of it.**

**Further discussion pertained to analyzing our current watershed for volume of water available, available ponds or private wells, and connections to other entities for water sources. We have three connections to Atlanta, and one connection to get water from Clayton County and another to sell water to Clayton County.**

**The committee talked about the average daily production, how to determine use, how to get customers to conserve, production data, data collection, available consumption data, rationing, conservation pricing lower than the 20,000 gallons now used, average household usage without irrigation, getting residential use to go down and educating users at home how to drop their use by 10%, and beginning an aggressive public education campaign. Adding more information to the web site and inserting information in the water bills was suggested. Mr. Krakeel suggested a letter signed by the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners be mailed to the customers.**

**The need for the City of Fayetteville to purchase from the County was discussed. At this time they are averaging over 800,000 gallons a day. The question came up whether they are able to withdraw water from their wells at this time.**

**A lengthy discussion ensued about what we would need to do to let the customers know what their target usage should be. Average usage for a family of four is in the 8,000 to 10,000 gallon range. Domestic water use is where we will need to reduce at this point. Imposing a total outdoor burn ban would minimize the potential for brush fires and having to use water for that situation. To be able to give information to the individual customers of what their historic individual water use is will need a computer program to be written. The Water System will need to make a request to Munis to retrieve the data for a comparative analysis to tell a customer what their average daily usage last year was on a bill by bill basis. Fines could be charged for those people who go over the average usage. Some of the other counties are shutting water off and charging a \$1,000.00 fine to get the water back on, if people don't follow the outdoor restrictions. The hospital and the schools are some of Fayette County's highest users.**

**Mr. Krakeel stated that he thinks that it is critical that we get the Public Education piece ready to go. Secondly, in addition to the meeting of the municipalities, we need to invite the school system, the hospital, representatives of our ten largest users, and let them know**

what the numbers are and where we are headed. Then, beyond that, we need to get the Chamber involved, to educate the business community about measures that can be taken immediately for the businesses to assist in reaching our target goal. He went on to say that Mr. Parrott will need to make a report to the Board of the impact of this recent decision on the community at Thursdays Commission meeting. Then develop the action plan over the course of the last two days, if we were to implement, with respect to the governor's order. The Emergency Water Plan needs to be updated, and conduct a watershed analysis to determine what additional water we can drain into our reservoirs from existing surface bodies. The watershed for Lake Horton is 17 squares miles and the Flat Creek basin is about the same size.

**ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN**

Mr. Parrott stated that at the next meeting the election of the Chairman and Vice Chairman will need to take place.

There being no further business, Water System Director Tony Parrott adjourned the meeting at 9:20 A.M.

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Tony Parrott

The foregoing minutes were approved at the regular Water Committee meeting on the 14th day of November, 2007.

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Lisa Quick