

Middle Chattahoochee Regional Water And Sewer Authority Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 11th, 2023
Palmetto- City Hall
509 Toombs St., Palmetto, GA 30268

- I. Chairman J. Clark Boddie called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.
- II. Roll Call was taken by Secretary Jessica Davis with the following board members present:

The Honorable Chairman Mayor J. Clark Boddie
The Honorable Vice-Chair Sonja Fillingame The Honorable Councilwoman Tara Miller
The Honorable Mayor Vince Williams The Honorable Councilman Brian Jones
The Honorable Mayor Mario Avery The Honorable City Manager Tony Phillips

The attendance of the board constituted a quorum and the meeting proceeded.

III. **Approval of Water Authority Minutes:**

The motion to approve the March 14th 2023 MCRW&SA Meeting Minutes was made by Mayor Williams and seconded by Councilman Jones **Vote: 7-0; Motion Carried**

IV. **New Business:**

V. **Discussion and Approval:**

VI. **Reports:**

A. **Water Authority Attorney-**

Attorney Allison Cox did not have a report from the attorney's office.

B. **Financial Report-**

Attorney Cox presented requisition #245 for \$16,120.75.

Motion to approve Req #245 in the amount of \$16,120.75 was made by City Manager Phillips and seconded by Mayor Avery. **Vote: 7-0; Motion Carried**

C. **Project Managers-**

- ❖ **Water Withdrawal Permit-** The authority currently has one permit and three permittees on the permit. The Permit is good for 10 years and will expire on July 27, 2030.
- ❖ **Annual Requirements-** The annual requirements for the Water Loss Program Progress Report are due in July. The Project Managers will contact the city managers to retrieve the information.

- ❖ **USGS Gage-** The annual payment for the USGS Gage that was installed at the Chattahoochee River at Bear Creek is due in July. It is \$15,400.00 per year. The gage level is read daily, and the variations fluctuate.

Project Manager Benz contacted Gresham Smith for information completed during the summer. The project managers retrieved the usage projection details but not the updated population projection. The project managers updated the City of Atlanta staff with their discoveries and provided them with maps. Commissioner Brownie acknowledged receipt and will review the items and follow up with the project managers.

Mayor Boddie inquired about the population projection, and Project Manager Benz informed him that task order 1.6 references "looking at the work that was previously done to make sure that the phased approach and the amount that was proposed in the PER would be appropriate."

Project Manager Gray stated that she had difficulties receiving the certification through EPD. As a result, they are cautious with what numbers are being put out to the public and might get circulated back to EPD. Project Manager Benz reminded the board that each city signed a letter acknowledging that they are taking more of the lion's share of what Fulton County is projecting and understands the implications of "We will be growing in this area". At the beginning of the 2021 census data, the authority projected there will be 55,668 people in the three cities, and the authority cities were at 49,000 in 2021. The numbers are based on Mr. Mark Howard's report from the University of Georgia. He is the population specialist who prepared our projections.

- ❖ **Funding-** The Project Managers reviewed ten different funding options that they received from EPA during the meeting with Senator Ossoff's office. The project managers reached out to Amanda Carol with GEFA. Ms. Carol informed the project managers that it's becoming very competitive for funds and they're looking at the entire project instead of a phase. She is willing to host a meeting with all the various components of people that give funding and ask how they can fund the project once all three cities have retrieved the required information. Every week, EPA comes out with funding options. They have a technical program that opens in June. There's a lot of money on cloaking in climate, resilience, climate, replacing out-of-date pipes, and water quality improvement.

Chairman Boddie's staff are working with Ms. Rebecca Lindsey on funding. Ms. Lindsey informed the board that EPA established the "Lead and Copper Rule Revisions" (LCRR) rule. The rule is under revision. It has two parts. The first part is the inventory stage, which we know will not change. It is due in October 2024. The next part is the replacement. It applies to those utility departments that service 3300 people or more in the community with water systems. The utility department must develop a program to replace the lead pipes from the main tap to the meter and past the meter. Because of the states, most states have not established primacy that they would be the regulator of that rule. Georgia is not in favor of that rule. Ms. Lindsey also informed the board that there's a GEFA application due Friday, April 14, 2023, that provides funding for economically disadvantaged areas, allowing the opportunity to get grant funding for the inventory work and loan assistance for the replacement work.

- ❖ **Mitigation-** The site the authority did not sell now has an easement. The project managers are researching the program and other alternatives to see if there are ways to market the site to receive revenue.


- ❖ **PFAS/PFOA-** The March comments are through May 30th. They will start regulating the contaminants. They are *forever chemicals*. What gets regulated and how it moves forward will be changing those regulations proposed last year and given to the scientific community for comments. If they happen to finalize it, they will look for water providers to monitor and regulate. If one exceeds that standard, they will treat the water to meet those requirements. It's four parts per trillion.

Project Manager Gray stated that the chemicals produced in the 1940s are just now getting highlights of causing cancer, such as Teflon pans.

Mr. Tom Owens introduced Mr. Lindy Farmer who was general manager at the Henry County Water Authority for 40 years.

- VII.** The motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 pm was made by Vice-Chair Fillingame and seconded by Mayor Williams.

Vote: 7-0; Motion Carried



Mayor J. Clark Boddie, Chair



Jessica Davis, Secretary