

**Heard County Water Authority
Board Meeting Minutes
August 28, 2017**

The Heard County Water Authority Board met in regular session on Monday August 28, 2017 at 5:00p.m. The following members were present: James Ray Gosdin, Sr., Carrie Rutledge, Loy Howard, Alvin Ginn and Tommie McKeever.

Chairman Gosdin called the meeting to order. Tommie McKeever gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Recognition of Guests – Lawrence Lipford, Matt Smith and Chad Sipe with Carter & Sloope.

Approve Agenda – On motion and second (Howard, Rutledge) a unanimous vote was made to approve the agenda after modifying to discuss item 2 first under New Business.

Approve Minutes: On motion and second (Ginn, McKeever) a unanimous vote was made to approve the minutes for July 31, 2017.

New Business:

Director Laurie Cook discussed the permit to withdraw water from the Centralhatchee Creek. Bryant Snyder started the process two years ago but has yet to hear back from the EPD. Carter & Sloope Engineering became involved because there are some engineering aspects that need to be addressed. Chad Sipe discussed the Centralhatchee Permit, which is in renewal status, and the Hillabahatchee Permit, which is in expired status since 2008. The HCWA also has a withdrawal permit for the Chattahoochee River for industrial purposes that do not expire until 2019. The EPD has presented some questions to the HCWA about emergency water supply. One of the questions submitted was asking what the HCWA is doing with the Hillabahatchee.

Under Special Condition #7 from the EPD, it reads “The Heard County Water Authority must solve the problem of lack of storage to supply the system during times of drought..... The Authority will submit to EPD by October 1, 2008 a report that provides a safe, dependable yield analysis and daily stream flows through the proposed 270 million gallon reservoir. The analysis should confirm the pump storage reservoir will protect the current water supply and can meet the water demands of the system for the next 50 years. Also, the analysis should maximize the pump storage site and all stream site withdrawals to provide the ultimate yield available to the water system.” It also states the permit would be issued for a period of one year, at which time the reissuance of the permit would be largely dependent on whether the Authority has met the conditions listed above.

Chad Sipe proposed to make EPD aware of the 60 million gallon rock quarry we have to address some of those conditions and to renew the Hillabahatchee permit to address needs in cases of drought or contamination.

Renewal of All Permits: On motion and second (Ginn, McKeever) a unanimous vote was made to move forward with renewing and obtaining permits for surface water withdrawal from Centralhatchee and Hillabahatchee Creeks, and to engage Carter & Sloope to assist with obtaining the renewals.

Director Cook discussed the SPLOST V funding and the most immediate needs for the Heard County Water Authority. A spreadsheet was provided to show current, present and future projects and costs. The proposals from the County need to be submitted by September 29, 2017. Board member Howard

and Chairman Gosdin agreed to meet with Chariman Lee Boone to request SPLOST V funding. Director Cook agreed to coordinate a meeting in the immediate future.

Old Business:

Chad Sipe updated the Board on the status of GEFA Loan/Grant for the Water Plant and the CDBG grant application for the sewer system upgrade. Sipe advised we should hear back on the CDBG grant of \$750,000.00 on September 1, 2017. Carter & Sloope presented a preliminary concept on the Water Plant Upgrade and a summary was provided for the Board. Director Cook shared that it will take a couple of months for an actual construction plan to be developed, and encouraged the Board to begin moving forward to prepare for the Water Treatment Plant project while funding is being secured. The Board requested Sipe to return with a proposal of the cost to draw up the plans, and asked him to present the proposal at the next meeting. Director Cook thanked Carter & Sloope for their time and fairness with consultation fees.

Director Cook gave an update on the vehicle purchases. The vehicles have been ordered and Director Cook corrected the amount of the bid by \$1,261.00 after bidder sent email with correction to her.

Reports:

1.) Administration- Michelle reviewed the financial statement.

*SPLOST III is \$456,988.49

*Reserve for Capital Projects Funds is same as the Renewal & Extension Fund, and Director Cook plans to transfer \$9500.00 monthly.

*Working with Geer & Associates to schedule audit

2.) Distribution- Director Cook, in Edward Ponder's absence, reported for Distribution:

Services: 0

Leaks: 24

Locates: 52

Work Orders: 76

Turn Offs: 62

DOT Permits: 0

A general safety meeting was held for Distribution Department.

3.) WTP- Bryant Snyder reported normal operations and no violations for July. A general safety meeting was held for his department.

4.) WWTP- Darrell Brice reported normal operations and no violations for July.

Executive Session- On motion and second (McKeever, Rutledge) a unanimous vote was made to enter Executive Session to discuss possible litigation.

On motion and second (McKeever, Ginn) a unanimous vote was made to come out of Executive Session.

Water Contract with City of LaGrange: On Motion (Ginn, Rutledge) a unanimous vote was made to offer the City a contract at the rate of \$5.00 per 1,000 gallons, with agreement that LaGrange still owes payment for outstanding bills. Also to offer an alternative agreement for HCWA to acquire the City's current customers served by the Authority, with the understanding that the Authority Board must approve new customers to the water line.

Motion to Adjourn: On motion (Rutledge, McKeever) a unanimous vote was made to adjourn at 6:47 pm.

James R. Gosdin Sr.
James Ray Gosdin, Sr., Chairman

9-25-17
Date