

**UPPER OCONEE BASIN WATER AUTHORITY
MEETING
NEGRC HEADQUARTERS
E.H. CULPEPPER CONFERENCE ROOM
NOVEMBER 16, 2016
9:30 A.M.**

MINUTES

Members Present:

Melvin Davis
Elton Collins
Eric Klerk
Wayne Haynie
Joe Goodman
Pat Graham
Amrey Harden

Alternates Present:

Glenn Coleman*
Mike Renshaw
Joey Leslie
Harry Sims**

*Representing Frank Stephens
**Representing Nancy Denson

Others Present:

Jim Dove, NEGRC Executive Director
Mott Beck, NEGRC Executive Assistant
Evans Brinson, NEGRC Comptroller
Alicia Page, NEGRC Comptroller
Bob Snipes, Owner's Representative
Chip Ferguson, Atkinson Ferguson
John Daniell, Oconee County Chairman Elect
Nathan Hester, Jackson County Water & Sewerage Authority
Brad Lanning, Jacobs
Diana Jackson, Jacobs
Chris Adams, Jacobs
Jim Millar, Property Owner
Ron Bridgeman, **Mainstreet News**
Jim Thompson, **Athens Banner Herald**

CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Melvin Davis called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. He asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the September meeting. **Such a motion was made by Mr. Elton Collins and seconded by Mr. Amrey Harden. The motion passed unanimously.**

FINANCIAL REPORT

At this time, NEGRC Comptroller Evans Brinson introduced Alicia Page, who will be replacing Mr. Brinson as Comptroller of the Regional Commission upon his retirement in January. He presented the financial report for the period ending September 30, 2016. Liabilities and net position totaled \$52,162,969. **A motion to accept the financial report as presented was made by Mr. Collins and seconded by Commissioner Harry Sims. The motion passed unanimously.**

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Joint Engineering/Operations Committee: The Joint Committee met on November 8th and reviewed the latest update to the Water Supply Model and water levels due to lack of precipitation. It was felt that the Joint Committee might consider meeting more frequently to monitor the drought conditions. Mr. Snipes will discuss this in depth during his report. The Joint Committee also discussed future water needs among members and how counties could join together in the future for water needs. This will be discussed further at future meetings.

Finance Committee: The Committee met during the month of August to review and discuss the Revised FY16 Budget and the Proposed FY17 Budget. The Authority approved both budgets for dissemination to participating counties and the Resource Management Commission for review and comment. No comments were received, and **a motion to approve both the Revised FY16 Budget and the Proposed FY17 Budget was made by Mr. Collins and seconded by Commissioner Pat Graham. The motion passed unanimously.**

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR FY17

As provided for in the Bylaws; the UOBWA, at the last regular scheduled meeting of the calendar year, shall adopt a schedule of meeting dates for the next year. Such a schedule was forwarded to Authority members prior to the meeting. **A motion to adopt the schedule of meetings as presented was made by Commissioner Harry Sims and seconded by Mr. Collins. The motion passed unanimously.**

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES FOR FY2017

At this time, Chairman Davis presented a list of Committees for FY17. **A motion to approve the list as presented was made by Mr. Harden and seconded by Commissioner Sims. The motions passed unanimously.** The adopted list will now be forwarded to UOBWA members.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO LOCAL LEGISLATION REGARDING RMC

Legal Counsel discussed a proposed amendment to the UOBWA's local enabling legislation which would dissolve the Resource Management Commission (RMC). Background information regarding the RMC and its inclusion in the UOBWA' enabling legislation was provided. The Executive Committee met previously to discuss whether the RMC was actually necessary to the overall mission of the Authority at this juncture. Mr. Ferguson explained the process of amending the legislation to dissolve the RMC should that be the desire of the Authority. **Upon a motion by Mr. Collins and a second by Mr. Eric Klerk, there was a unanimous vote to pursue through the Member Counties' legislative delegation an amendment to UOBWA's local legislation that would dissolve the RMC.**

PROPOSED RENEWAL OF CONTRACT WITH BOB SNIPES FOR 2017

Section #3 of the current Professional Services Contract between the Owner's Representative and the Authority calls for the contractor to notify the Authority of their interest in renewing the contract no less than 60 days (November 1, 2016) prior to the end of the current contract term (December 31, 2016). Chairman Davis received correspondence from Owner's Representative Bob Snipes expressing his desire to renew the subject contract. The current contract also calls for the Authority to notify the contractor no less than 30 days (December 1, 2016) prior to the end of the current contract (December 31, 2016) of its intent to renew or not renew the professional services contract. The Authority is to consider renewal during the last meeting of the year (Wednesday, November 16, 2016). **A motion to renew the Professional Services Contract for 2017 between Mr. Bob Snipes and the Authority was made by Commissioner Sims and seconded by Commissioner Pat Graham. The motion passed unanimously.** Everyone agreed that Mr. Snipes' leadership and support to the Authority has been outstanding. There will be no change from the current contract.

DISCUSSION REGARDING UTILITIES SERVICES CONTRACT AND FUTURE DIRECTION

At this time, Mr. Snipes led a discussion regarding the Utilities Services Contract between Jacobs and the Authority. The current contract has been in force since September 2012 and has been renewed annually since that time. There are several options that could be considered including 1) Extend the contract for another period of time and negotiate; 2) Assign to the Joint Engineering/Operations Committee; or 3) Prepare an RFP for dissemination to various engineering firms. After a lengthy discussion, it was the consensus of members to assign this matter to the Joint Engineering/Operations Committee. The Committee will make a recommendation regarding this matter at the January 27th meeting of the Authority.

OWNER'S REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Mr. Snipes advised that on September 23rd Jim and Bridget Millar submitted applications for two special permits. One is for removal of several fallen and dead trees and one tree that will be impacted by construction of the septic tank drainage field. Also requested was the construction of an unpaved footpath from the residence to the reservoir. The other permit was a shoreline area use permit for periodic maintenance of the unpaved footpath and minor pruning of trees and maintenance of underbrush. The permits were reviewed by the Joint Engineering/Operations Committee on October 12th and recommended for approval with certain conditions. The Jackson County Code Enforcement Office is withholding approval Land Disturbance Permit for this project until the Authority has approved the Specific Act Permit, since the contractor for the owner has removed the tree impacted by the septic tank prior to approval. All work under the Specific Act Permit must be completed within 120 days from date of approval, the footpath cannot be of an impervious surface, and all limitation on activities noted within Section 9.04 of the Reservoir Management Plan, other than those specifically authorized by this permit, continue to apply. **Based on the recommendation of the Joint Engineering/Operations Committee and a second by Commissioner Sims, the two permits were unanimously approved by the Authority.** The two permits were executed by the Chairman following the meeting.

The proposed revisions to the Drought Management Policy/Contingency Plan were on page #3 and were for clarification purposes only. The Joint Engineering/Operations Committee met on November 8th and reviewed the revised document, and recommends that the revised Plan be approved. **Based on the recommendation of the Joint Committee and a second by Mr. Collins, the Revised Drought Management Policy/Contingency Plan was unanimously adopted by the Authority.**

Mr. Snipes advised that the state is expected to declare a Level II drought response soon, and this action would reduce the current water usage by 5%. The Bear Creek Reservoir is currently 79% full, and there is no reason to reduce water usage at this time. It is anticipated that the operating cost for the treatment plant will increase as the reservoir level decreases, and Jacobs is tracking this information. November projected use is about 27% higher than the monthly uses anticipated by member utilities in March. The environmental measures within the Drought Management Policy indicate that the Northeast Georgia area is in a Stage C3 drought, the level just before the most extreme stage in the Plan. **Based on a recommendation by the Joint Engineering/Operations Committee from the November 8th meeting and a second by Mr. Collins, the Authority unanimously agreed to declare a Stage C drought classification.**

Also discussed in the November 8th meeting was future sources of treatment plant capacity for Oconee County. This issue warrants further discussion in the future.

Staff continues to obtain quotes for revisions to the Lagoon Discharge System. This was approved at a cost not to exceed of \$8,500.

OPERATIONS AND MANAGEMENT

Operations are normal and in compliance with EPD rules and regulations. The reservoir is at 688 ft.; 7 feet below full pool. Staff pumped an average of 11.8 MGD of treated water, compared to 7 MGD last year. There have been neither major maintenance issues nor construction projects.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no Executive Session.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Amrey Harden, Nominating Committee Chairman, reported that he, Mr. Collins, and Commissioner Sims met to nominate a slate of officers for the coming year. They are: Chair - Pat Graham; Vice Chair – Nancy Denson; and Secretary – Mott Beck. **A motion to accept the slate of officers was made by Mr. Harden and seconded by Mr. Collins. The motion passed unanimously.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no requests for public comments.

OTHER BUSINESS

The next meeting will be held on January 25th.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Martha "Mott" Beck
UOBWA Secretary