

UPPER OCONEE BASIN WATER AUTHORITY  
E.H. CULPEPPER CONFERENCE ROOM  
NEGRC HEADQUARTERS  
MARCH 28, 2012  
9:30 A.M.

MINUTES

Members Present:

Melvin Davis, Chairman  
Elton Collins  
Bob Snipes  
Nancy Denson  
Chris Thomas  
Myron Garrett  
Danny Yearwood  
Amrey Harden

Alternates Present:

Gary Duck  
Harry Sims  
Jim Luke

Others Present:

Jim Dove, NEGRC Executive Director  
Mott Beck, NEGRC Executive Assistant  
Evans Brinson, NEGRC Comptroller  
Chris Edwards, Clifton, Lipford, Hardison & Parker  
Chris Atkinson, Atkinson & Cullen  
Chip Ferguson, Atkinson & Cullen  
Hill Baughman, Jacobs  
Ken Moore, Jacobs  
Jimmy Cofer, Jacobs  
Chris Butts, Georgia Green Industry Association  
Leanne Akin, Barrow News  
Mark Beardsley, Mainstreet News  
Blake Aued, Athens Banner Herald

CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF JANUARY 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 January meeting. Such a motion was made by Mr. Elton Collins and seconded by Commissioner Harry Sims. The motion passed unanimously.

PRESENTATION OF FY2011 AUDIT

At this time, Mr. Collins introduced Chris Edwards of Clifton, Lipford, Hardison & Parker who presented the FY2011 Audit. Mr. Edwards advised that the Authority

received a good, clean audit, with no findings or issues. He commended the staff for being well prepared and cooperative. There were good results on specific testing of internal controls and compliance, and no adjustments were made due to error. The Audit received an Unqualified Opinion, which is the highest mark given by an Auditor. One typographical error was noted in the Audit report. A motion to accept the Audit with that correction was made by Mr. Collins and seconded by Mr. Chris Thomas. The motion passed unanimously.

After presentation of the Audit, discussion was held on several issues. They are as follows:

1. Multi-year comparisons on financials – begin next Fiscal Year.
2. Review and possible revision to Cost Methodology.
3. Capital Reserve and Replacement Account – Should look at every year to determine if Counties should begin to contribute to the account. Ensure that there is enough in the account for life cycle replacements.

Chairman Davis asked that the Finance Committee begin addressing these issues, and all Committee Chairmen be involved in these discussions.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

At this time, NEGRC Comptroller Evans Brinson gave the financial report. The total liabilities and fund balance for the month ending February 29<sup>th</sup> were \$62,068,181. A motion to approve the financial report as presented was made by Mr. Collins and seconded by Mr. Bob Snipes. The motion passed unanimously.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Operations:** The Operations Committee received and discussed four special permit requests. The description of the request, recommendations of Committee, and Authority action are as follows:

### **Requests from Mr. Eddie Deaton**

1. Place posted signs in buffer zone on property at 164 Old Savage Road; one sign every 50 ft.; neighbor is cutting trees in buffer zone on property owned by Mr. Deaton. After discussion, it was the consensus of members that Mr. Deaton did not require quantity of signs requested. ***The Committee recommends Mr. Deaton be allowed to place two signs on the property line between him and the neighbors; not the shoreline; that this will comply with Jackson County Ordinance; and that it be granted upon payment of permit fee. A motion to accept this recommendation was made by Mr. Amrey Harden and seconded by Mr. Snipes. The motion passed unanimously.***

2. Replant native trees to help wildlife habitats. Mr. Deaton did not provide information as to type of tree, number to be planted, location, etc. **The Committee recommends that this request be denied until additional information is provided. A motion to accept this recommendation was made by Mr. Chris Thomas and seconded by Mr. Harden. The motion passed unanimously.** Staff will provide Mr. Deaton with information he needs to submit a plan that is in compliance with Authority rules and regulations regarding his request.
3. Construct a walkway to reservoir for canoe and jon boat, using a hand dolly. This request was also incomplete. Information such as length, location, topography, how will erosion be prevented, design, etc. was not included. **The Committee recommends that the permit be denied until additional information is provided. A motion to accept this recommendation was made by Mr. Thomas and seconded by Mr. Harden. The motion passed unanimously.**

#### **Request from Mr. William Hill**

4. Installation of a floating dock. **The Committee recommends that this request be denied, and a motion to accept this request was made by Mr. Thomas and seconded by Mr. Collins. The motion passed unanimously.**

Other issues discussed by the Committee, their recommendations, and action taken by the Authority follows:

Legal Counsel advised that action had not been taken on two permits that were submitted for permission to hold fishing tournaments in May and June. The request for a tournament in March was denied at last month's meeting. The Committee had requested that the applicant provide additional information, which he declined to provide. **The Committee recommends that the two requests for fishing tournaments in May and June be denied. A motion to accept this recommendation was made by Mr. Thomas and seconded by Mr. Snipes. The motion passed unanimously.**

The Committee reviewed applicable drought indicators and recommends that the Authority remains in the Level II drought status. **A motion to accept this recommendation was made by Mr. Thomas and seconded by Commissioner Harry Sims. The motion passed unanimously.** Staff will continue to track trends and data relative to this matter.

Mr. Eric Klerk advised that EPD indicated it did not have any concerns with installation of a 4" water line to residents along the reservoir as proposed by the Jackson County Water and Sewerage Authority. Mr. Klerk has not gotten a response from the Corps of Engineers regarding same. Legal Counsel reported that he had spoken with EPD regarding this matter and also consulted the Reservoir Management Plan. He feels that there would not be any reason to

deny this request. **The Committee recommends that the Authority give Jackson County consent at the appropriate time to install the aforementioned line. A motion to accept the Committee's recommendation was made by Mr. Thomas and seconded by Mr. Snipes. The motion passed unanimously.** Legal Counsel will forward a letter to Jackson County advising them of the Authority's decision pertaining to this matter.

**Finance/Recreation:** The Committees met with Jackson County Recreation Director Ricky Sanders to determine if there were ways that the boat ramp and fishing operations could be restructured in order to be more financially efficient and help decrease the yearly deficit. In line with this discussion, Chairman Collins advised that State Representative Tommy Benton received an e-mail from a disabled veteran who was concerned that he had to pay to fish at Bear Creek. After discussing this matter, the Committee recommended the following:

**"That the boat ramp and fishing facility be closed each December, January, and February, to raise the annual pass fee to \$50.00 per person, and to exempt disabled veterans from paying fees. These new rules will begin April 1, 2012." A motion to accept this recommendation was made by Mr. Collins and seconded by Commissioner Harry Sims. The motion passed unanimously.**

Discussion was held regarding fishing tournaments. Mr. Sanders advised that fishing tournaments could be a source of income. However, members of both Committees had some concerns as to whether these tournaments would have an adverse effect on public fishing. After discussion the Committee recommended the following:

**"That the Authority allow fishing tournaments on days that the reservoir is closed for boating and fishing to the public; to charge a permit fee of \$300 per tournament, and to amend the Reservoir Management and Policies and Procedures for fishing, to reflect amendments upon adoption." A motion to accept this recommendation was made by Mr. Collins and seconded by Commissioner Sims. The motion passed unanimously.**

At this time, Mr. Collins advised that the two Committees were asked to discuss the Operations and Management contract with Jacobs, which will expire on May 1<sup>st</sup>. However, it was the consensus of both Committees to refer the matter to the full Authority for consideration. Chairman Davis charged the Finance Committee, along with the Chairs of the Engineering and Operations Committees and Legal Counsel to meet and review the existing Jacobs contract and recommend future direction.

Chairman Danny Yearwood inquired as to the status of the boat ramp extension as discussed late last year. Commissioner Jim Luke, Chairman of the Recreation

Committee, indicated that he was awaiting a report on underwater obstacles that might pose a safety concern.

**OPERATIONS AND MANAGEMENT**

Staff advised that operations of the facility are normal in compliance with EPD rules and regulations. The reservoir is at full pool, and treated water flow is 5.2 MGD, with a peak of 7.7 MGD. The sluice gate repairs have been completed, and staff advised that there should never be any other problems at the site. Engineers have been exploring options for the leak in the chlorine lines. This will probably be included in next year's Capital Budget. The De-chlorination System Plan was forwarded to EPD, but staff has not received comments. The Reservoir and Treatment Plant Facility received the Platinum Award for Plant of the Year for the third consecutive year. And, George Calhoun received the Operator of the Year award. Mr. Baughman provided members a copy of the Annual Report.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing ongoing litigation was made by Commissioner Yearwood and seconded by Mr. Collins. The motion passed unanimously.

There was no action taken in Executive Session.

A motion to resume Open Session was made by Mr. Collins and seconded by Mr. Garrett. The motion passed unanimously.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

The next meeting will be held on May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Martha "Mott" Beck  
UOBWA Secretary