



GreenvilleWater

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC WORKS
Greenville Water
407 W. Broad Street, Level 2,
Greenville, South Carolina
March 5, 2024
8:15 a.m.**

Commissioners of Public Works in attendance:

Chairman Phillip A. Kilgore, Vice-Chairman James W. Bannister, and Debra M. Sofield.

Absent: Mayor Knox H. White and Wil Brasington. A quorum was present.

Greenville Water Senior Staff in attendance:

Chief Executive Officer Jeff Boss, Chief Administrative Officer Dr. Bob Schmidt, Chief Operations Officer Jeff Phillips, Chief Technology Officer Kenneth Frazier, Director of Operational Technical Services Dr. Jane Arrington, Director of Field Operations and Facility Maintenance Mark Hattendorf, Director of Information Technology Brad Treas, Director of Water Resources Elizabeth Pierczynski, Director of Business Services Steve Miller, Assistant Director of Facilities Maintenance Allen White, Controller Brian Bearfield, Internal Auditor Jacob Polson, and Attorney Adam Bach.

The Regular Meeting of the Commissioners of Public Works of the City of Greenville, SC was called to order at 8:15 a.m. by Chairman Kilgore.

1. WELCOME

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments were presented.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Kilgore asked for questions pertaining to the consent agenda items. There being none, he called for approval of the items of the Consent Agenda which were the meeting minutes of the Regular Commission Meetings February 6, 2024, the Water Resources Report, New Development, and New Annexations. Vice-Chairman Bannister moved, seconded by Commissioner Sofield, to approve the items of the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

4. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Chairman Kilgore called on Legislative Liaison Bob Knight for a legislative update. Mr. Knight wished everyone a happy belated Water Professionals Day. The General Assembly of the State of South Carolina has officially declared the first Monday in March of each year as "Water Professionals Day," beginning with the first observance on Monday, March 4, 2024.

The Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee met to discuss the surface water act and studies in South Carolina. Director of Environmental Affairs for SC DHEC Myra Reece spoke at the meeting. Mr. Knight shared it appears there will be a permanent standing sub-committee under Senate Agriculture for surface water. This is an unusual occurrence

as there are no standing subcommittees in the Senate. This could be attributed to Senator Wes Climer due to his experience in Rock Hill, South Carolina.

The Department of Health and Environmental Control was restructured in 2023. Environmental Services was split from the Department of Health. A bill is being developed to merge all the health departments together. The bill is currently hung up in legislation.

5. FLEET DEPARTMENT DASHBOARD

Chairman Kilgore called on Chief Administrative Officer Robert Schmidt who introduced Fleet Services Supervisor Nick Faltynski to present the Fleet Department Dashboard. Mr. Faltynski introduced himself to the Commission.

Greenville Water was recently introduced to GEOTAB through Enterprise Fleet Services which has taken over light duty and medium duty vehicles for Greenville Water. GEOTAB is an in-vehicle monitoring system which feeds into an analytic platform. The monitoring system works by connecting to the on-board diagnostics circuit to monitor vehicle status. The service is then used to improve areas of high cost. Examples of data included:

- Average MPG+ use per day
- Total fleet miles
- Seatbelt and speeding violations, aggressive driving
- Idle time & cost
- Real time data for each department by the minute

Mr. Faltynski explained that GEOTAB would help Greenville Water in three key areas:

- Optimization and productivity
 - Active engine faults will be addressed in a more timely manner as the faults will appear on the dashboard notifying Fleet Services.
 - By providing average fuel economy information to help Greenville Water look at ways to save money.
 - Utilize assets as a whole.
- Safety
 - Each vehicle will receive a driver safety scorecard.
 - Driver training will be provided based on this information.
- Compliance
 - Electronic logging devices will provide statistics and diagnostics for malfunctions.
 - Hours of service can be reviewed for each vehicle.

Mr. Faltynski showed examples of information found on the dashboard that can be seen by department heads as well as fleet services. GEOTAB is not currently installed in equipment as they do not specialize in equipment. The previous service is still active for all equipment.

6. WATERSHED FISH STUDIES SUMMARY

Chairman Kilgore called on Dr. Schmidt who introduced Conservation Technician Austin Williams to provide an update on the watershed fish studies. Mr. Williams shared that the Watersheds have five ongoing fish related projects currently. The projects are:

- Brook trout distribution and habitat
- Hatchery
- Bass parasite study
- Table Rock smallmouth bass
- Species inventory

Brook trout are one of the most beloved game fish in the southeast. One of only four populations of the Southern Appalachian pure strain is found in the watershed. A major decline in population has occurred due to fragmented habitat. The watershed is a perfect place to try to repopulate the brook trout because of the controlled environment. Mr. Williams provided maps of sample sites. The goal is to eventually put brook trout back into both watersheds. Another map provided showed stretches where different habitat measurements were taken such as different types of water flows, substrate types, canopy cover, and water temperatures. Water temperature is a main driver of whether trout in general can persist, but especially brook trout.

The populations of brook trout have been victim to genetic drift with the population bottle necking. The habitat has shrunk with other fish joining the habitat and the fish then inbreed. Inbreeding then causes the populations to die out. Ways to introduce more of the genetic material into the remaining population is relocating fish into other streams or with a hatchery. Mr. Williams provided examples of an indoor hatchery set-up and Greenville Water's plans.

The smallmouth bass are another genetically pure strain of fish which is rare in the southeast now. The spotted bass has mixed with the smallmouth bass, so populations are hard to find. Greenville Water would like to protect these fish. Solitude Lake Management has been contracted to look at the smallmouth bass in the watershed. The study will be done in the month of April.

A species inventory will be conducted as part of the Watershed capital improvement program to get a baseline of what critters can be found in the watersheds overall. The inventory will detect mammals, amphibians, reptiles, freshwater mussels, fish, et cetera. The process will be conducted through water samples. Any genetic material filtered from the water will be sent to the Tangled Bank Lab in Asheville. MetabarCoding will be used to process the genetic material.

7. HIRING CAMPAIGN

Chairman Kilgore welcomed Director of Human Resources Lisa Bryant to speak about Greenville Water's new hiring campaign. Mrs. Bryant explained the new hiring campaign will be aimed at the Hispanic job market. Around 10% of the population of Greenville County is Hispanic, with around 5% of the City of Greenville's population being Hispanic. Of Greenville

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Water's 250 employees only about 10 identify as Hispanic. This is a market that has not been tapped into.

Mrs. Bryant shared an example of a proposed billboard and four locations. Other venues include bus interiors, bus stop shelters, job boards, Greenville Water social media, radio public service announcements and several print options. The print materials will include a QR code that will take people to the Greenville Water website where open positions are posted. The campaign was a collaborative effort between Human Resources and Public Relations.

8. CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT

Chief Executive Officer Jeff Boss asked Chief Operations Officer Jeff Phillips to conduct a water taste test for the sample to be presented for the South Carolina Environmental Conference (SCEC) water taste test. Mr. Phillips pointed out the four drinking water samples in front of the Commissioners were samples from areas within the Greenville Water distribution system. Commissioners shared their preference and the sample with the most votes was to be taken to SCEC. Greenville Water will have a tapping team and a hydrant hysteria team participating in competitions at SCEC. Mr. Boss hopes to have a meter team and a lab team next year.

Mr. Boss drew attention back to Mr. Faltynski's Fleet presentation regarding track vehicles and heavy equipment, sharing that since Mr. Faltynski started with Greenville Water thousands of dollars had been saved because of his knowledge/experience with dump truck repairs. Mr. Faltynski has been a great addition to the Greenville Water team.

The 60-inch right-of-way between the Adkins Water Treatment Plant and Cedar Rock is now being cleared. Pipe should be on the ground in April.

The bathymetric study was completed at Table Rock and North Saluda. A report should be available in April. More samples will be taken of the sediment.

A successful prescribed fire was held at Trammell Gap at the North Saluda watershed.

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Vice-Chairman Bannister moved, seconded by Commissioner Sofield, to enter executive session to discuss legal matters. The motion passed unanimously.

(Executive Session)

Commissioner Sofield moved, seconded by Vice-Chairman Bannister, to go out of Executive Session. The motion passed unanimously. No action was taken.

10. COMMISSION COMMENTS

No comments were presented.

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11. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned 9:19 a.m.



Phillip A. Kilgore, Chairman



Kimberly Hauke, Executive Assistant