



## GreenvilleWater

### MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC WORKS

407 West Broad Street  
Commission Room, Level Two  
Greenville, South Carolina

April 2, 2019

8:15 a.m.

Commissioners of Public Works in attendance:

Chairman Phillip A. Kilgore, Vice-Chairman James W. Bannister, and George Fletcher.

Absent: Mayor Knox H. White and Debra M. Sofield. A quorum was present.

Greenville Water Staff in attendance:

Chief Executive Officer David H. Bereskin, Chief Financial Officer Phil Robey, Controller Jondia Berry, Director of I.T. Joe Beineke, Water Resources Director Rick Pfeiderer, Assistant Director of Water Resources Jeff Phillips, Director of Strategic Initiatives Jane Arrington, Human Resources Director Richard Posey, Director of Engineering Mark Hattendorf, Business Services Director Gary VerDouw, Manager of Field Operations Wayne Benson, Watersheds Manager Henry Poole, Facilities Maintenance/Fleet Manager Allen White, Business Process Analyst Heather Nix, Public Relations Specialist Emerald Clark, and Commission Attorney David Ward.

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

#### **1. WELCOME**

Chief Executive Officer David Bereskin recognized Adkins Water Treatment Plant Superintendent John Ross for receiving the 2019 Meritorious Operator Service Award at this year's South Carolina Environmental Conference. This award is given to a Water Treatment Operator who has demonstrated outstanding performance based on health department standards and excellence in operation and maintenance. Mr. Ross began his career 24 years ago with Greenville Water as a Filter Plant Operator trainee at the Adkins Water Treatment Plant. Mr. Bereskin added John's outstanding contributions assured that health and safety standards mandated by regulatory requirements were not only met but were exceeded. We are proud to have dedicated employees like John, and we congratulate him on this prestigious recognition. Chairman Kilgore thanked Mr. Ross for his contribution in making Greenville Water a great organization.

#### **2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No comments were presented at this time.

#### **3. CONSENT AGENDA**

Chairman Kilgore listed the items of the Consent Agenda which were the meeting minutes of the Regular Commission Meeting March 5, 2019, the Water Resources Report, the Financial Update, New Development, and New Annexation Covenants. The items were unanimously approved.

#### **4. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Legislative Liaison Bob Knight was unable to attend the meeting. The Legislative Update was given by Mr. Bereskin. Mr. Bereskin provided updates on the Senate Bill 401 – Utility Relocation, the Procurement Bill (S530), the large retirement bill written by Representative Bennett, the small retirement bill sponsored by Senator Turner and Representative Bannister, the SC dams bill (S.107), and the water planning bill (H.4011).

#### **5. 2018 YEAR-END AUDIT**

Chairman Kilgore welcomed Larry Finney of Greene Finney, LLP to provide an overview of Greenville Water's Audited Financial Statements for 2018. Mr. Finney introduced Keith Campbell with Greene Finney, LLP. Mr. Campbell was the Senior Manager on Greenville Water's audit. Mr. Finney reviewed Greenville Water's responsibility and Greene Finney, LLP's responsibility in an annual financial audit. The end result of the audit is the opinion provided by Greene Finney, LLP. The opinion is to provide reasonable assurance that the financial statements are materially correct. The audit resulted in an unmodified opinion, the best opinion to be received. Mr. Finney congratulated Controller Jondia Berry and her staff on a job well done.

#### **6. WRITE-OFF UPDATE**

Chairman Kilgore welcomed Chief Financial Officer Phil Robey to present an update on the 2018 write-off of uncollectible accounts and the Government Enterprise Accounts Receivable (GEAR) setoff debt collection program for the year that just concluded. Mr. Robey reviewed what constitutes an uncollectible account and collection tools used. The five year write-off trend has been consistent in terms of the amounts of write-offs as a percent of water sales. Write-offs as a percentage of water sales are about a half a percent a year, which is fairly low. Mr. Robey explained the biggest change recently in bad debt collection is that instead of participating in the Municipal Association's Setoff Debt collection program, going forward Greenville Water participates in the Department of Revenue (DOR) Government Enterprise Accounts Receivable (GEAR) program. Greenville Water initiated participation in GEAR for 2019 setoffs. As part of the setoff process, letters are sent out in early October to residential accounts with a final bill that is 30 days or more past due. The letter explained the outstanding balance will be submitted to the Setoff Debt Collection program if the balance is not paid and also describes applicable fees if the collection continues and is received through the setoff process. Unpaid claims are uploaded to DOR in December. Individual State income tax refunds are setoff (reduced) for the outstanding balance owed and the money is sent to Greenville Water. Claims are removed from the Setoff program if there has been no collection activity after three years.

Mr. Robey reviewed a chart of submissions into to the program and moneys received by Greenville Water. Collections for 2018 were substantially lower than historical collections. This is attributable to a software issue. The DOR updated software for the program and the Municipal Association, which administered Greenville Water's 2018 setoffs, did not do the update. As a result it did not start setting off debts submitted until February 23, 2018. The claims that were not setoff were resubmitted for this year. Beginning with 2018 data and going

forward Greenville Water will be submitting directly to DOR through the GEAR program, instead of going through the Municipal Association. The GEAR program offers a series of collection measures including: setoff of state taxes, wage garnishments, tax liens, bank account levies, and revocation of business licenses. It is Greenville Water's decision to only participate in the setoff program.

## **7. PFOS/PFAS**

Chairman Kilgore invited Assistant Water Resources Director Jeff Phillips to present on Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in drinking water. Mr. Phillips explained these substances had been in the news a lot recently and shared the headings from some of the articles. These articles had appeared online since March 20<sup>th</sup>. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is considering these as emerging contaminants. Greenville Water decided to take a look at these substances. PFAS includes PFOA, PFOS and GenX. These substances are found in industrialized waters. Greenville Water's water sources are not industrialized, which is a distinct advantage for raw water quality. Mr. Phillips explained these substances are everywhere: Consumer products such as Teflon, Scotchgard, Stainmaster, Gore-Tex; polymers for aircraft and electronics; paper packaging and wrappers for food (e.g. microwave popcorn bags); and firefighting foams. EPA regularly mandates looking at new contaminants. In 2014 the EPA tested the finished water at Stovall and Adkins Water Treatment Plants for six total contaminants resulting in no detections. Greenville Water followed up in March 2019 testing the raw water sources from North Saluda Reservoir, Table Rock Reservoir and Lake Keowee for not just the six contaminants the EPA tested for but 39 total contaminants, which resulted in no detections. It is also important to note the detection limit is ten times more stringent than three years ago. Commissioner Fletcher recently sat through a webinar that spoke about an entire laboratory that has been set up to test these substances. Mr. Bereskin added these substances are more of an issue in the Northeast and around any Airforce base near rivers or streams due to the use of firefighting foam.

## **8. WATERSHED UPDATE**

Chairman Kilgore welcomed Watersheds Manager Henry Poole to provide an update on the watersheds. Mr. Poole reviewed completed projects at Table Rock including a new shed replacing the one collapsed under heavy snow, new railing to the boat ramp, and tree removal on the dam. Upcoming projects included pavement improvement, goat fencing and replacement of split railing.

Projects completed at North Saluda watershed include work at the Apple Orchard, improved goat fencing, prescribed fires, and road improvement to the spillway. Future projects include retaining wall and walkway work at the boat house and possible dock relocation. Mr. Poole is currently mapping out right-of-way critical areas and monitoring erosion control. Ongoing projects include: salamander plots, feral hog removal, improvement of stream crossings, improvement of roads, USGS stream monitoring, and the water model.

Mr. Poole turned the presentation over to Business Process Analyst Heather Nix to present on protecting Greenville Water's third source water, Lake Keowee. In 2011-2013, Greenville Water participated in Duke Energy's Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC)

Relicensing. In the relicensing Duke Energy agreed to fund \$1 million to invest in the creation of the Lake Keowee Source Water Protection program. Seneca Light and Water, Friends of Lake Keowee Society (FOLKS) and Greenville Water were the three main stakeholders in the relicensing agreement who advocated for the source water protection fund. The formation of a non-profit was required in order to receive the money. The Lake Keowee Source Water Protection Team (LKSAPT) was formed in 2017. In 2018, the three main stakeholders chose four additional organizations to expand the Board of Directors of the LKSAPT. Currently, the seven groups are Seneca Light & Water, FOLKS, Greenville Water, Oconee County, Advocates for Quality Development, Upstate Forever and Pickens County.

As the funding came out of the FERC Relicensing Agreement, there were requirements and recommendations for how to spend the dollars from Duke Energy. The main requirements are:

- Water Quality Models to allow more detailed, state-of-the-art assessment of potential impacts
- “Find and Fix Failed Septic Systems” program
- Educational outreach on water quality topics
- Collaboration with local governments on planning for effectively controlling non-point source pollution

One of the first tasks the LKSAPT took on was to look at water modeling. The team contracted with Clemson University's Engineering Department to develop a surface water modeling system utilizing two models commonly used together, Soil and Water Assessment Tool (SWAT) and the EFDC model. The SWAT model provides land specific information to input in the EFDC model. The EFDC model looks at the water quality and processes within the lake itself, the combination of what is expected to come into the lake along with what is expected to happen once it is in the lake. The results from this project should help the LKSAPT to know the most strategic watersheds and locations to start looking at best management practices.

The LKSAPT just received grant funding from South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) to create another plan. This plan will focus on the broader watershed to include the Little River and Keowee River watersheds. Also, the plan will look at prioritizing specific parcels. The analysis will use GIS to analyze all of the parcels within each basin for a variety of different activities. The end product will be a prioritized list of different best management practices.

## **9. APPROVAL TO EXECUTE WATER CAPACITY AGREEMENT**

Chairman Kilgore welcomed Mr. Robey to present the request for approval to execute a water capacity agreement with Powdersville Water District. Mr. Robey explained Greenville Water had been working with Powdersville Water for the past several months to develop an agreement to purchase an allocation of capacity in Greenville Water's system. After reviewing the details of the discussions and resulting agreement, Mr. Robey requested the Commission authorize Chief Executive Officer David Bereskin to execute the agreement.

Mr. Bereskin explained the agreement is a continuation of the 2011-2012 outreach program to allow our wholesale water companies an opportunity to purchase “ownership” into the treatment facilities. Laurens County Water and Sewer Commission was the first provider to come on board. The Town of Pelzer and the Town of West Pelzer have also come on board. Powdersville Water District’s General Manager Dyke Spencer has been studiously researching the best water source for Powdersville’s future.

Commissioner Fletcher moved, seconded by Vice-Chairman Bannister, to approve Greenville Water’s Chief Executive Officer David Bereskin to execute the water capacity agreement with Powdersville Water District. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Kilgore stated the Commission is looking forward to proceeding with this new agreement with Powdersville Water District, a longtime partner of Greenville Water and congratulated all involved.

#### **10. CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT**

Mr. Bereskin announced the ninth meeting of the State Water Planning Process Advisory Committee (PPAC) would take place on Thursday, April 4, 2019. Heather Nix and Mr. Bereskin will be attending the meeting.

The Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies’ Water Policy Conference is April 7-10, 2019 in Washington, DC. The new Environmental Protection Agency Regulators will be in attendance.

#### **11. COMMISSION COMMENTS**

Commissioner Fletcher announced Conestee will be announcing the results of the study on the Lake Conestee dam located on the Reedy River just south of the City of Greenville.

The Commission and Staff congratulated Commissioner Sofield as she will be running unopposed in the November 2019 election.

#### **12. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 a.m.

  
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Phillip A. Kilgore, Chairman

  
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Kimberly J. Haulter, Executive Assistant