



## GreenvilleWater

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC WORKS  
407 West Broad Street  
Commission Room, Level Two  
Greenville, South Carolina  
May 7, 2019  
8:15 a.m.**

Commissioners of Public Works in attendance:

Vice-Chairman James W. Bannister, Debra M. Sofield, Mayor Knox H. White, and George Fletcher. Absent: Chairman Phillip A. Kilgore. 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, Acting Director of Water Resources Jeff Phillips, Director of Strategic Initiatives Jane Arrington, Human Resources Director Richard Posey, Watersheds Manager Henry Poole, 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 Vice-Chairman Bannister.

### **1. WELCOME**

### **2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No comments were presented at this time.

### **3. CONSENT AGENDA**

Vice-Chairman Bannister listed the items of the Consent Agenda which were the meeting minutes of the Regular Commission Meeting April 2, 2019, the Water Resources Report, the Financial Update, New Development, New Annexation Covenants and the 2019 Strategic Plan Overview & First Quarter Progress. The Strategic Plan Overview & First Quarter Progress was added to the standard agenda as Item 5. The other items of the consent agenda were unanimously approved.

### **4. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Vice-Chairman Bannister invited Legislative Liaison Bob Knight to update the Commission on the latest activities in Columbia. Mr. Knight brought four things to their attention, also mentioning this was the last week of regular session. The items of interest were the Spartanburg Water issue regarding legislation to place new members on any municipal water system board; the retirement bill to allow employers to make an additional contribution to the State Retirement Benefit on behalf of employees to lower the percentage required by employees; S401 Relocation Bill allowing utilities to be reimbursed for a portion of relocation costs by SCDOT; and Water Planning.

## **5. 2019 STRATEGIC PLAN OVERVIEW & FIRST QUARTER PROGRESS**

Director of Strategic Initiatives Dr. Jane Arrington reviewed the 2019 Strategic Plan for Greenville Water explaining the three pillars of operational excellence, long-term viability and corporate social responsibility are still being utilized to build upon the foundational principles in support of the overall vision towards quality water and a sustainable future. Dr. Arrington briefly overviewed how the presentation was organized to help understand how reporting has been updated. Multi-year goals have been chosen throughout the organization and were featured at the top of each slide. The foundational block was provided at the bottom, with the departments responsible for the goals at the top of each pillar and the box in red indicated the department employee incentive strategic plan goal. Dr. Arrington provided updates on the following strategic goals:

- Utilize asset and document management technology and business processes to promote organizational efficiency
- Utilize asset management technology and business processes to promote organizational efficiency
- Provide and maintain high quality customer service, resilient infrastructure and efficient operations
- Customers value the high quality water and reliable, accurate service provided by Greenville Water
- Maintain financial stability by efficiently recovering costs due to operating, maintaining, improving, and expanding the water system
- Adapt rapidly to change and carry on the mission of providing water despite the presence of operational stress and disruption
- Create a high-performing workforce focused on customer and community-centered outcomes by promoting professional development and employee engagement
- Achieve consistent high quality, plentiful drinking water that is in full compliance with all regulations and meets or exceeds customer expectations
- Ensure long-term sustainability of the work force and water supplies to meet current and future needs as our community continues to grow.

Chief Executive Officer David Bereskin announced several of the Managers/Directors missing from this meeting were attending an Advoco National Training Seminar being held in Downtown Greenville. Various utilities across the Country were represented at the seminar.

## **6. WATERSHED UPDATE**

Vice-Chairman Bannister welcomed Business Process Analyst Heather Nix and Watersheds Manager Henry Poole to provide an update on watershed activities. Ms. Nix reviewed a list of strategic goals adopted by the Commission in 2014 that relate to the North Saluda and Table Rock reservoirs. The list provided a status for each of the goals such as completed, in process, ongoing and future. Many of the goals are focused around the roads within the watersheds. Passable roads are a critical part of infrastructure. If the roads are not passable access to different points within the sheds will be impossible and impeded safety and productivity. Mr. Poole reviewed goals and progress of road improvements at North Saluda and Table Rock.

Greenville Water partnered with Furman University to complete an Ecosystem Fire Regime Departure Analysis. The analysis reviews how frequently the watersheds have seen natural fire, the last time they burned and how far away they are from the natural cycle. A map was provided showing prioritized areas for controlled burns. Mr. Poole provided details of controlled burns completed in 2018 and thus far in 2019.

Ongoing research in the watersheds includes the salamander survey, peregrine falcon study and bat monitoring. The North Saluda Ecological Departure Analysis was recently completed. Looking forward, upcoming considerations are the hemlock woolly adelgid and a fisheries plan. Several years ago select hemlock trees were treated for woolly adelgid and the time for re-evaluation is near. A fisheries plan is needed to figure out where it would be feasible to introduce the native brook trout, found in the Table Rock watershed, in other streams of the watersheds sometime in the future.

## **7. CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT**

Mr. Bereskin presented the option of holding the July 2019 Commission meeting on Tuesday, July 2<sup>nd</sup> as scheduled or move it to Tuesday, July 9<sup>th</sup> with the possibility to cancel due to the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday falling on Thursday. Vice-Chairman Bannister recommended moving the meeting to Tuesday, July 9<sup>th</sup>. After a brief discussion, the meeting was moved to July 9<sup>th</sup>.

Greenville Water is moving forward with billing for Metropolitan Sewer Subdistrict (MetroConnects). This will involve billing for around 70,000 more wastewater customers throughout the community. This will begin July 1, 2019.

Greenville Water's annual company picnic is being planned for June 22<sup>nd</sup> or August 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Stovall Treatment Plant from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Acting Director of Water Resources Jeff Phillips was notified by the National and State Weather Service that Greenville Water is a cooperative site for rain gauges at North Saluda and Table Rock. State Climatologist Hope Mizzell has been invited to present to the Commission on Climate Change.

The Lake Keowee Source Water Protection Team held its annual officer elections at the last meeting. Ms. Heather Nix of Greenville Water is the new President, Ms. Scottie Ferguson of Pickens County was elected Secretary and Mr. Robert Faires of Seneca Light and Water remained as Treasurer. The Team is looking at how to move the group forward and determining tasks ahead. The Department of Health and Environmental Control awarded the group a grant earlier this year to create a watershed based plan for nearly the entire watershed that drains into Lake Keowee. The Team is excited to see the actionable items that will come from this plan.

Greenville Water is focusing on two major sponsorship projects in the coming years. The first is Unity Park in the City of Greenville. Greenville Water is a major sponsor of the water feature which will be both interactive and educational. The City has broken ground for Unity Park. The second project is with Roper Mountain Science Center's Environmental Education

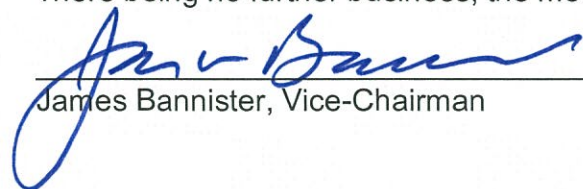
and Sustainability Building. The ground floor of the new facility will include a 2,000 square foot exhibit, titled “Water Story”, that highlights the processes of the water cycle and the importance of the Greenville Watershed. Other types of sponsorships include interactive engagement with Towns/Cities in the County on water features within the community, such as the Fountain Inn splash pad.

#### **8. COMMISSION COMMENTS**

Commissioner Sofield thanked Ms. Nix and Public Relations Specialist Emerald Clark for their assistance with the Greenville Arboretum.

#### **9. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:38 a.m.

  
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James Bannister, Vice-Chairman

  
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Kimberly J. Haulter, Executive Assistant