



## Henry County Water Authority

### MINUTES

#### BOARD MEETING

January 11, 2024 – 8:30 a.m.

A meeting of the Henry County Water Authority Board, duly advertised, was held on Thursday, January 11, 2024, at the Authority's Administrative offices (Engineering Building) located at 100 Westridge Industrial Blvd., McDonough, GA. The following Board members were present: Jimmy Carter, Chair; Sandra Rozier, Vice Chair; Myra Lott, Secretary/Treasurer; Bruce B. Holmes (via teleconference), Member; Warren Holder, Member; Fred Mays, Member-At-Large

HCWA Attendance: Administration - Tony V. Carnell, General Manager; Karen Lake-Thompson, Clerk; Dave Peterson, CFO. Directors: Tamara Woodie, Human Resources, Dan Newcombe, IT, Tara Brown, Strategic Planning. Division Managers: Pat Hembree, Scott Sage, Allen Rape. Staff: Travis Jackson and Lindsey Sanders.

Counsel: Andrew Welch, III (Smith, Welch, Webb & White, LLC)

Public Relations: Chris Wood, PhD, JWA

Visitors: Mr. & Mrs. Ogungbamila and Don Veum

- **CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME VISITORS**

Mr. Carter called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM and welcomed all in attendance.

- **INVOCATION**

Mr. Mays gave the invocation.

- **ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA**

Mr. Welch stated Resolution 2023-23: Authorizing HCWA to Accept the Proposal from J.C. Carter Family Farm, LLC for Purchase of HCWA Surplus Property will be removed from the agenda due to the postponement of the Henry County Board of Ethics (HCBOE) meeting due to recent inclement weather conditions. Mr. Welch anticipates this resolution to be back on the agenda at the February 8 meeting, after the HCBOE review and recommendation in the coming weeks. Motion to accept the agenda as noted was made by Mrs. Lott and seconded by Mr. Holmes. The motion carried (6/0).

- **PUBLIC COMMENT** None

- **SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

Lindsey Sanders introduced Ms. Teniola Ogungbamila the Metro District Middle School Essay Contest Winner (Henry County), who read her winning essay titled "Water Matters!" to the Board. Mr. Carter congratulated Ms. Ogungbamila on a job well done and being a young steward of water resources.

- **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Mr. Welch explained the process of nominating candidates and facilitated the election of Chairman, Vice-Chair and Secretary/Treasurer for 2024:

Mr. Carter nominated Mr. Holder to serve as the Authority's Chairman. Mr. Holmes nominated Mrs. Rozier to serve as Vice-Chair and Mrs. Rozier nominated Mrs. Lott to serve as Secretary/Treasurer. Motion to accept nominations as presented was made by Mrs. Rozier and seconded by Mr. Mays. The motion carried (6/0). Mr. Holder thanked Mr. Carter for his faithful servitude as Board Chair. Mr. Carnell thanked Mr. Carter for his service as well and stated he's looking forward to working with Mr. Holder in his new capacity as Chairman. Mr. Holder took immediate lead as Chair and conducted the meeting.

Mrs. Rozier nominated Karen Lake-Thompson to serve as Clerk and it was seconded by Mrs. Lott. The motion carried (6/0). Mr. Welch stated that the Clerk appointment is not required during election of officers, because the Clerk is an employee of the Authority.

*Mrs. Rozier left the meeting at 8:43AM.*

- **REPORT OF ATTORNEY** None
  
- **REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER**

Bid Results & Award Recommendations: EXT2893A Upper Birch Creek SS Extension & EXT3741 Western Parallel Connector SS Extension

Mr. Sage showed map locations and referenced the bid results and award recommendation letters for EXT2893A and EXT3741. He stated the recommendation of staff for EXT2893A was Mid-South Builders, Inc., being the lowest bidder. Staff recommendation for EXT3741 was Coggins Construction Company, LLC being the lowest bidder and most qualified, based on their expertise in boring and positive work history with HCWA. Mr. Sage noted that both projects had three (3) bidders each. Mr. Holder asked about the extension length of the projects, Mr. Sage replied each project is little than two (2) miles.

There being no further discussion, motion to approve EXT2893A Upper Birch Creek SS Extension and EXT3741 Western Parallel Connector SS Extension contracts as presented was made by Mr. Carter and seconded by Mr. Mays. The motion carried (5/0/1).

Inclement Weather – System Update

Mr. Hembree reported on the challenges of recent inclement weather on January 9<sup>th</sup>, where 9 inches of rain fell within a 24-hour period and its impacts to the Walnut Creek system and Big Cotton Indian Creek (BCIC) pump station. He showed a photo of the flooding that occurred at the BCIC pump station, where water levels had risen to the second level of the station, beyond the normal wet well level. The BCIC pump station handles all of the sewer collection north of Jodeco Road. The cause of the flooding was due to water infiltration and the excess water was pumped to the Walnut Creek Water Reclamation Facility. The BCIC pump station is currently being cleaned from the surge.

While showing a prior aerial photo of the Walnut Creek Water Reclamation Facility and identifying the holding ponds, Mr. Hembree explained that, while the plant is permitted for 8 MGD, there was 22 MGD of influent in one day. That effluent was sent to the holding pond and then applied via land application. Although the influent exceeded the facility's 8 MGD permit, there is an understanding during such events with EPD and the land application permit was not exceeded. Finally, Mr. Hembree stated there is a need to identify where the infiltration is coming from.

Mr. Carnell added that climate change is real, and it is a concern being addressed by the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District with other experts. Climatologists have shared data at MNGWPD meetings that the intensity and frequency of storms and droughts have increased. Future considerations such as constructing lift stations higher and raising manholes higher will be components of the new 30-year CIP/Master Plan. Mr. Carnell recognized the excellent work of staff preparing for these unexpected irregular operations caused by natural occurrences. Mr. Holder inquired if the Indian Creek facility was impacted. Mr. Hembree replied, it was not.

### JWA Public Relations Report

Dr. Wood presented a media relations report concerning newsworthy events and activities. He reported on the recent news release on HCWA's industry awards received at the GAWP Fall conference. Dr. Wood also shared the latest HCWA Currents year-end newsletter highlighting HCWA Cares and Charitable Assistance Program (CAP) contributions by employees and customers. In addition, winterization tips and the Georgia Model Water Tower Competition were also featured in the newsletter, all of which received positive feedback. Looking ahead to 2024, he's working on feature articles covering the Metro District Middle School Essay Contest Winner, Hunting Season statistics, and the HCWA Leadership Academy graduates.

### Announcement

Mr. Carnell shared the upcoming Henry County Chamber of Commerce 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet being held on February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024 with the Board. He requested that Board Members confirm their attendance by January 19<sup>th</sup>.

### • PROJECTS and ADJUSTMENTS

Mr. Sage addressed the Board concerning the new projects, showing map locations and descriptions for each project which are all within the Authority's policy.

- New Projects: MTRUPG3484K Route104 Iperl Meter Replacement  
MTRUPG3484J Route105 Iperl Meter Replacement  
ADMIN3900 Board Room/Meeting Room Renovations  
SPLOST3528 McDonough Pkwy @ Hwy 20

There being no further discussion, motion was made by Mr. Carter and seconded by Mrs. Lott to approve the new projects as presented. The motion carried (5/0/1).

- Developer Project: DEV3864 E Lake @ Price Quarters Townhomes

Mr. Sage addressed the Board regarding the East Lake @ Price Quarters developer project slated for 84 townhomes and showed the map location. Motion was made by Mrs. Lott and seconded by Mr. Mays to approve the developer project as presented. The motion carried (5/0/1).

- Budget Adjustments: EXT3784 Upper Reeves Creek SS Ext Design  
EXT2893A Upper Birch Creek SS Extension  
EXT3741 Western Parallel Connector SS Extension

Mr. Sage addressed the Board concerning the budget adjustments, showing map locations and explained reasons for the adjustments. There being no further discussion, motion was made by Mr. Carter and seconded by Mrs. Lott to approve the budget adjustments as presented. The motion carried (5/0/1).

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**      December 14, 2023 Regular Meeting  
December 14, 2023 Executive Session Meeting

Motion was made by Mrs. Lott and seconded by Mr. Carter to approve the December 14, 2023 Regular Session Meeting minutes. The motion carried (5/0/1).

Motion was made by Mr. Carter and seconded by Mr. Mays to approve the December 14, 2023 Executive Session Meeting minutes. The motion carried (5/0/1).

- **EXECUTIVE SESSION** (*An Executive Session may be held in pursuant to O.C.G.A. §50-14-2*)

- **OTHER BUSINESS**

- **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made by Mrs. Lott and seconded by Mr. Mays to adjourn the meeting at 9:14 AM. The motion carried (5/0/1).



Warren Holder, Chairman

Karen Lake-Thompson, Clerk