

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING: July 8, 2021  
HENRY COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY**

**I. CALL TO ORDER/ATTENDANCE**

A meeting of the Henry County Water Authority Board, duly advertised, was held on Thursday, July 8, 2021, at the Authority's Administrative offices (Engineering Building) located at 100 Westridge Industrial Blvd., McDonough, GA. Ms. Cletonya Stidom, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. The following members were present: Cletonya Stidom, Sandra Rozier, Siddiqia Gibson, Jimmy Carter, Warren Holder and Fred Mays.

The following Authority staff and consultants were present:

Administration: Lindy D. Farmer, Jr., Tony Carnell, Kim Osborne, Roderick Burch

Division Managers: Scott Sage, Allen Rape, Scott Harrison

Staff: Tara Brown, Eric Osborne, Sheila Kern, Bridget Graham, Barry Brand, Tammy Hawkins, Steve Ledbetter

Legal Counsel: Andy Welch, Smith, Welch, Webb & White; Chris Wood, PHD, JWA

**II. VISITORS:** Ms. Stidom recognized visitors: Honorable Holly Veal, Superior Court of Henry County; Pam Burnette and Mike Thomas, Georgia Association of Water Professionals (GAWP)

**III. ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE**

Following the Call to Order, Ms. Stidom introduced the Honorable Holly Veal who administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Fred Mays, Board Member, appointed by Chair Carlotta Harrell, Henry County Board of Commissioners, to represent the County-at-Large.

**IV. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA**

Ms. Stidom presented the Agenda for acceptance by the Board. There were no amendments and a motion was made by Mr. Carter and seconded by Mr. Holder to accept the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously (6/0).

**V. REPORT OF ATTORNEY**

Mr. Welch advised he had no matters on which to report.

**VI. REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER**

**Special Presentation**

Mr. Farmer introduced and welcomed Ms. Pam Burnette and Mr. Mike Thomas of GAWP. Ms. Burnett spoke about GAWP noting that the organization is to the water profession what the Bar Association and American Medical Association is to lawyers and doctors. She stated that all utilities are a part of this organization and that operating plants

and distribution systems is one of the most important functions of a utility. She stated that the GAWP awards program identifies top organizations and that the awards process is very competitive. She further pointed out that the inspection team that evaluates these utilities for awards is comprised of top professionals in the industry. Ms. Burnett and Mr. Thomas then presented to the Authority the GAWP award for the Best Operated Water Treatment Plant in the State of Georgia in the large facility category (15-25 mgd) for the Authority's Tussahaw Water Treatment facility. Eric Osborne introduced the following staff members from the Tussahaw facility: Barry Brand, Bridget Graham, Sheila Kern, Steve Ledbetter and Tammy Hawkins. Mr. Farmer expressed his appreciation to staff whose contributions helped the Authority achieve this outstanding accomplishment and he noted that it is awards such as this that give the public confidence in their Authority.

### **Consumer Confidence Report (CCR)**

Mr. Eric Osborne addressed the Board concerning the Authority's 2021 Consumer Confidence Report. He noted that it is both a federal and state requirement that an annual report be provided to consumers concerning the quality of the drinking water produced by the Authority. Mr. Osborne stated that the Authority has received several awards for its Consumer Confidence Report publication and he credited Bridgett Graham for her work in putting this report together. A copy of the report was provided to each Board member. Mrs. Rozier stated that she had reviewed the report online and inquired what the Authority is doing to promote the safety of our drinking water. Mr. Osborne advised that the Authority places a public advertisement in the Henry Herald concerning the availability of the report, and a message is also published on consumer's billing statements. He noted that the report is also available on the Authority's webpage, and hard copies are available in the lobby of the Authority's Customer Service Department. Chris Wood also prepares a release which is published in the Authority's customer newsletter, Currents.

### **Request for Funds – American Rescue Plan Act of 2021**

Mr. Farmer advised that he has communicated with Chair Harrell concerning the Authority's request for funds from Henry County's portion of the funds it received under the American Rescue Plan Act. Mr. Farmer advised that he has submitted an amended request to Chair Harrell to include funding for water and sewer projects along the Western Parallel Connector, the Highway 81 GST Supply Line and the Highway 20 West Loop projects at a total cost of \$6,460,000. If additional funds are available, he has requested funding for the Meter Change-Out/AMI Deployment program; SCADA Improvements/Upgrades and an Emergency Generator for the Towaliga WTP all totaling \$24,105,000. Mr. Carnell noted that funds allocated under the ARP Act must be spent by December, 2024. He noted that the costs associated with the western parallel project and the Highway 81 Supply Line total approximately \$6.5 million. He reiterated that the Authority has requested consideration from the County for funding these projects. If additional funds are available, the Authority has identified 3 other projects totaling approximately \$24 million. Mr. Holder inquired whether the Authority has received any response from the County. Mr. Farmer advised that he had spoken with Chair Harrell and emphasized the importance of receiving funding for the Western Parallel project. Mr. Farmer advised that David Smith, Henry County's CEO, has also reached out to the Authority concerning funds available to assist customers with past

due accounts. He stated that Mr. Burch and Mr. Rape are working with Mr. Smith to develop a process for requesting funds to assist customers when their accounts fall past due.

**Sewer Maintenance Department – Presentation**

Mrs. Tara Brown, Manager, gave an informative presentation concerning the Authority’s wastewater collection system. Following the presentation, she took questions from the Board. She pointed out that treating sewer is many times more costly than water, and noted that grease build-up in the system can impact the system significantly. Mr. Holder expressed appreciation for the presentation and stated he is glad to see the Authority’s efforts to provide information to the public about the system. Mr. Farmer noted that sewer services are vital important and he noted that Tara’s department has worked to control infiltration in the system which will help us delay the need for costly future expansion.

**Public Relations Report**

Dr. Chris Wood addressed the Board concerning recent media coverage and upcoming news releases. A clip file and report were also provided to the Board. Dr. Wood noted that news coverage was received on the release concerning the Authority’s receipt of the Plant of the Year Award. He pointed out that each of the Authority’s facilities has been recognized by receiving this award for the Tussahaw Water Treatment plant. Other stories receiving news coverage were: availability of Consumer Confidence Report and the addition of new drive-thru lane at the Authority’s Admin building; and other awards received by the Authority. Dr. Wood advised that releases are currently being prepared on the following: Mr. Mays’ appointment to the Board; adoption of LSMP program; Henry County’s Bicentennial celebration (co-promoted with HCBOC and others) and Commissioner Thomas’ ForABetterMe Expo. Mr. Farmer also stated that it is noteworthy that the Authority has never had to issue a “boil water advisory.”

**VII. PROJECTS AND ADJUSTMENTS**

The following New Projects were presented for the Board’s approval. Mr. Sage provided additional information concerning each project. There were no questions from the Board, therefore, Chair Stidom called for a motion to approve the New Projects as presented. Motion was made by Mr. Carter and seconded by Mrs. Rozier to approve the projects. All members voted in favor and the motion carried unanimously (6/0). One Developer Project was presented for the Board’s approval. There were no questions and a motion was made by Mrs. Rozier and seconded by Mr. Mays to approve the project. All members voted in favor and the motion carried unanimously (6/0). There were no budget adjustments.

New Projects:

- EXT3745 E King & Floyd Rd WL Relocation
- EXT3746 2470 & 2580 New Hope Rd WL Extension
- WATDIST3750 Master Meter Replacement – City of Hampton
- EXT3748 983 Indian Creek Road

Developer Projects:

DEV3722 Bridges Road Multi-Family

Budget Adjustments: None

**VIII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES June 10, 2021 Regular Board Meeting**

The minutes of the June 10, 2021 regular meeting of the Board were presented for approval. There was no discussion and a motion was made by Mr. Carter and seconded by Mr. Holder to approve the minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously with all members voting in favor (6/0).

**IX. OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Mays addressed the Board and stated that he is honored and blessed to be a part of the Authority's Board. He stated that he was born and raised in Stockbridge and educated in the Henry County school system. He expressed appreciation to Chair Harrell for giving him the opportunity to serve. He stated that he has had an opportunity to meet some of the Authority's employees and pointed out how happy they are to be employed by the Authority. He stated that this is a credit to management.

**X. ADJOURNMENT** Motion was made by Mrs. Rozier and seconded by Mr. Carter to adjourn the meeting at 9:07 a.m. The motion carried (6/0) and the meeting was adjourned.

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Cletonya Stidom., Chair

Kim Osborne, Clerk