

**Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority
Minutes of Regular Meeting**

November 20, 2023 – 2:30 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority was held on November 20, 2023, at 2:30 p.m., in the Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority's Board Room. Water Authority Board members present were James Scott, James Balli, Dan Buyers, Grif Chalfant, Charlie Crowder, Lisa Cupid, and Corkey Welch.

The meeting was called to order at 02:30 p.m. by Chair James Scott.

- 1. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**
 - a. Mr. Sam Woodie offered the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

- 2. Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting of October 16, 2023**
 - a. Mr. Scott asked for approval of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 16, 2023. Mr. Chalfant made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Buyers seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously 7/0.

- 3. Approval of Minutes of Executive Session of October 16, 2023**
 - a. Mr. Scott asked for approval of the minutes of the Executive Session of October 16, 2023. Mr. Crowder made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Welch seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously 7/0.

- 4. New business**
 - a. There were no new business items to present.

- 5. Financial report**
 - a. Ms. Allison Clements, Director of Finance, presented a summary of the October 31, 2023, Financial Statements (copy in file). Operating income for October was \$3,518,701, exceeding the budget expectation by \$966,998. Net income for October was \$4,819,942 exceeding the budget expectation by \$2,100,774.

- 6. Bid Results – Mars Hill Church Road to Pine Mountain 36-Inch Water Main Replacement Project**
 - a. Mr. Cole Blackwell, General Manager, referred to the memorandum in the board package (copy in file). Mr. Crowder made a motion to award the Mars Hill Church Road to Pine Mountain 36-Inch Water Main Replacement Project

contract to Cleary Construction Inc. of Tompkinsville, Kentucky, for the verified low bid of \$38,990,975.00. Mr. Chalfant seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously 7/0.

7. Sole-Source Procurement – Spare Medium Voltage Breaker for Main Switch Gear

- a. Mr. Cole Blackwell, General Manager, referred to the memorandum in the board package (copy in file). Mr. Chalfant made a motion to authorize the sole source procurement of one Eaton medium voltage, two-thousand-amp breaker (VCP-W Breaker, 50VCP-W40, 2000A) from the local distributor for Eaton, McNaughton-McKay Electric Company of Norcross, Georgia at the negotiated quoted price of \$59,318.56. Mr. Balli seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously 7/0.

8. Planning Committee Report

- a. The Planning Committee Chair, Mr. Dan Buyers, and Ms. Clements, Director of Finance, gave the report from the October 19, 2023, meeting of the Planning Committee (copy in file).
 - i. The Planning Committee approved and recommended to the Finance Committee the proposed 2024-2028 Capital Improvement Plan, with a 2024 capital budget of \$73,952,127.
 - ii. The Planning Committee recommended to the Finance Committee a 2.5% rate increase for fiscal year 2024 and use of the new planning estimate of 4.00% for 2025, 4.25% for 2026, 4.50% for 2027, and 4.75% for 2028.

9. Personnel Committee Meeting

- a. The Personnel Committee Chair, Mr. James Balli, gave the report from the October 30, 2023, meeting of the Personnel Committee (copy in file).
 - i. The Personnel Committee approved and recommended to the Finance Committee the 2024 Personnel Services Budget with the following implementations:
 1. The General Manager’s recommendation for adding an additional Field Sampling/Laboratory Analyst position as presented (increasing the Simmons Laboratory staff by one (1) Full-Time Staff member.
 2. COLA increase of 4.4% and shift the Pay Scale by 4.4% to keep pace with the metro-area Consumer Price Index.
 3. Merit increases not to exceed an average of 3% for each Division.
 - ii. Under authority provided through Board action on October 16, 2023, the Personnel Committee approved binding employee Health, Dental, and Vision Insurance as proposed through Cigna; Continue Life, AD&D, Short-Term Disability and Long-Term Disability as proposed through United Healthcare; Continue Health Reimbursement Account and

Flexible Spending Accounts administered by iSolved Benefits. Overall, .9% year-over-year increase in premiums.

10. Finance Committee Report

- a. The Finance Committee Chair, Mr. Crowder, and Ms. Clements, Director of Finance, gave the report from the November 06, 2023, meeting of the Finance Committee (copy in file).

11. First Reading of Proposed 2024 Operations and Capital Improvement Plan Budgets

- a. Ms. Clements, Director of Finance, recommended the 2024 Operating Budget and 2024 Capital Improvement Plan with no modifications for consideration by the Board. Mr. Scott acknowledged the First Reading of the Proposed 2024 Budgets.

12. Old business

- a. There were no old business items to present.

13. General Manager's report

- a. Mr. Blackwell provided the following updates to the published General Manager's Report (copy in file):
 - i. 42-inch Pipeline, Saddle Failure - Legacy Park
 - 1. On the morning of Saturday, November 18, 2023, a saddle failed on CCMWA's 42-inch pipeline in the Legacy Park subdivision.
 - 2. Instrumentation recorded the leak rate at approximately 5 million gallons per day.
 - 3. The pipeline was quickly isolated by CCMWA Transmission staff, and the leak was contained.
 - 4. Repairs should be completed today, and the pipeline is planned to return to service on Wednesday.
 - 5. CCMWA's critical valve replacement program proved valuable. A recently replaced critical valve was used to isolate the leak.
 - 6. Because CCMWA has a looped transmission system, no customers were without water because of this leak, and system pressure was not lost.
 - ii. Wyckoff 6 MG Clearwell Addition
 - 1. Contractor, IHC Construction, requested and received the substantial completion milestone certification on July 30, 2023.
 - 2. IHC has completely demobilized from the site. Grassing is not fully established and will be considered a warranty item.

3. The contractual completion date is May 18, 2022. The final completion date has been established as November 1, 2023, approximately 530 days behind schedule.
 4. IHC is responsible for attendant overtime construction engineering costs and costs beyond contractual contract time.
 5. Staff has confirmed that retainage was sufficient to cover accrued engineering costs and liquidated damages as of October 31, 2023.
 6. Claims from IHC Construction are still unresolved and outstanding on the project.
- iii. 2023 Critical Valve Replacements
1. The 2023 CVR project consists of replacing existing butterfly valves at three locations near the intersection of Callaway and Austell Roads.
 2. Contractor, Ruby-Colling Inc., mobilized mid-October.
 3. Meetings were held with GDOT and C.W. Matthews to coordinate permitting, traffic control, and overnight resurfacing work.
 4. Construction is expected to be completed in November 2023; overall project completion is expected in December 2023.
- iv. Maner Road 36-inch Pipeline Replacement
1. Contractor, JDS Inc., mobilized in early November 2023 and began surveying, clearing, pipe removal, and installed access points required for the project.
 2. Received 90 pieces of Fiberglass Reinforced Pipe (FRP); remaining FRP materials, including fittings, are expected to be delivered in December 2023.
 3. This pipeline will remain out of service until construction is substantially complete.
- v. Everbridge – Mass Notification System
1. Everbridge is CCMWA’s mass notification system. The software broadcasts messages to inform employees, Board Members, and customers of an emergency.
 2. Everbridge allows CCMWA to send alerts and instructions to groups and individuals during critical events.
 3. Communications can be sent through multiple mediums at once: SMS, email, desktop alerts, and/or phone calls.
 4. The software gives real-time analytics on who has acknowledged alert messages and who has not.
 5. Staff has historically, exercised use of Everbridge twice per year with staff and customers.
- vi. Alternative Powder Activated Carbon Purchase
1. High levels (>10 ppb) of the taste and odor-causing compound MIB began occurring in the Chattahoochee River in late October.
 2. The powdered activated carbon (PAC) CCMWA utilizes was ineffective in removing the MIB to goal levels.
 3. Following testing, CCMWA staff identified a different type of PAC that effectively removed the MIB.

4. However, the PAC was more expensive, at \$57,140 for 40,000 pounds, versus \$48,000 for the PAC typically utilized.
 5. Per CCMWA's Procurement Policy, purchases of goods over \$50,000 require competitive bidding (publicly advertised for two weeks) unless in an emergency.
 6. To avoid mass complaints from the public about taste and odors in the drinking water, authorization was given on November 2nd to purchase 40,000 pounds for the more effective type of PAC and the CCMWA Board Chair was notified.
- vii. Fifth Unregulated Contaminate Monitoring Rule PFAS Test Results
1. On November 9, 2023, the United States EPA made its second public release of monitoring data from the Fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 5).
 2. EPA provides UCMR 5 data on an online dashboard. The dashboard allows the public to find sample results associated with utilities.
 3. EPA reports 10.7% of systems have observed PFOS and 9.5% have detected PFOA at a level of 4 ppt or more. (4 ppt is the proposed MCL)
 4. Lithium occurrence is much more widespread than PFAS. More than 32% of groundwater systems and 14% of surface water systems observed lithium levels above 9 ppb, the EPA reference level. None was detected in Cobb.
 5. While EPA proposed maximum contaminant levels for six PFAS including PFOA and PFOS at 4.0 ppt respectively, it has not withdrawn or amended previously distributed interim health advisories for PFOA and PFOS at the part per quadrillion level.
 6. Data released for Cobb County Water System show PFBA at 6.5 ppt (not part of the upcoming MCL for PFAS) and PFBS at 3.1 ppt. The upcoming rule does include PFBS but sets a unitless hazard index for the chemical.

Equation

$$\text{Hazard Index} = \left(\frac{[\text{GenX}_{\text{water}}]}{[10 \text{ ppt}]} \right) + \left(\frac{[\text{PFBS}_{\text{water}}]}{[2000 \text{ ppt}]} \right) + \left(\frac{[\text{PFNA}_{\text{water}}]}{[10 \text{ ppt}]} \right) + \left(\frac{[\text{PFHxS}_{\text{water}}]}{[9.0 \text{ ppt}]} \right)$$

- viii. Hickory Log Creek Reservoir Pipeline Request by the City of Canton
1. On October 6, 2023, at the Hickory Log Creek Reservoir (HLCR) Board of Managers meeting, the City of Canton was advised that moving the city's drinking water treatment plant withdrawal would open the withdrawal permit for Hickory Log Creek Reservoir.
 2. Opening the withdrawal permit for the reservoir could result in changes to the permit such as reducing the yield of the reservoir based on higher flow pass-by requirements.
 3. The City of Canton has since met with the Georgia Environmental Protection Division to discuss the feasibility and possible

ramifications of moving their withdrawal permit to the reservoir's river intake.

4. CCMWA staff met with Georgia EPD officials on October 25, 2023, and confirmed that Canton can apply to modify the HLCR withdrawal permit without CCMWA's consent.
5. A meeting will occur between Georgia EPD, the City of Canton, and CCMWA on November 30.

14. Executive Session


- a. Mr. Buyers made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss Pending & Potential Litigation and Personnel. Mr. Balli seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously 7/0.
- b. Mr. Balli made a motion to return to the Regular Meeting. Mr. Buyers seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously 7/0.

Mr. Crowder made a motion to approve the Executive Position Employment Agreement as presented (copy in file). Mr. Balli seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously 7/0.

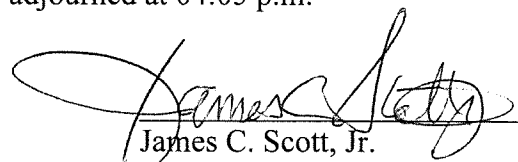
15. Legal

- a. CCMWA received a letter dated October 11, 2023, from Cincinnati Insurance Company (copy in file) informing CCMWA that Ms. Carmen Vega, via Glass & Robson Trial Attorneys, has filed a general liability loss due to the failure of the stormwater drainage system near Roanoke and Saint Augustine Trail in the Bentley Ridge Condominiums complex.
- b. Staff reviewed the area, and CCMWA neither owns or operates any stormwater or transmission mains in that vicinity.
- c. Staff recommended responding to the letter received from Cincinnati Insurance Company dated October 11, 2023, to deny the claim of Carmen Vega.
- d. Mr. Balli made a motion to deny the claim of Carmen Vega. Mr. Buyers seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously 7/0.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 04:05 p.m.



Nicole L. Zvanut
Assistant Secretary



James C. Scott, Jr.
Chair