

**CHARLOTTE WATER  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
January 21, 2016**

Charlotte Water Advisory Committee met Thursday, January 21, 2:30 pm at 4222 Westmont Drive, Charlotte, North Carolina.

Members Present: Jim Duke, Leslie Jones, Frank McMahan,  
Ron Charbonneau, Pride Patton,

Staff Present:	Barry Gullet	Utilities Director
	Jennifer Frost	Assistant to Director
	Barry Shearin	Deputy Director
	Shawn Coffman	Deputy Director
	Chad Howell	Business Manager
	Melissa Hershberger	Assistant Business Manager
	Steve Miller	Customer Service Manager
	Regina Cousar	Continuous Improvement Manager
	Carl Wilson	Chief Engineer
	Mike Tkachuk	Administrative Officer II

**Safety Minute**

Reduce Wet & Slippery Surfaces

**Minutes**

A motion was made by Frank McMahan, and seconded by Leslie Jones, to approve the November 2015 Minutes. Motion was approved.

**User Fee Presentation**

Charlotte City Council policy is that fees are collected to recoup the cost associated with providing special regulatory services such as land use permits, subdivision reviews, and hazardous chemical permits. Charlotte Water was excluded from this policy. During the budget preparation and approval process last year City Council directed Charlotte Water to collect fees related to review, plan approval, and inspection of water and sewer lines for new development and to employ a phased implementation approach beginning July 1, 2016. Charlotte Water plans to use the cost recovery model used by other City departments that recovers both direct and indirect cost. Staff time is an example of direct cost and facility cost is an example of indirect costs. This phased implementation approach will recover 50% of costs in FY17, 75% in FY18, and 100% in FY19 and beyond.

**Meter Project Update**

Charlotte Water has been working diligently to select a service provider to furnish equipment and optimize the Utility's current and future water metering effort. This will improve how water meters are maintained, data is collected, analyzed and communicated effectively with customers, add to efficiencies in operations, and improve planning of capital projects. Next steps will be to

initiate contract negotiations with a potential vendor out of the three that have been identified. All three vendors have met the minimum requirements however each vendor has a different approach to reaching the Utility's goal. Charlotte Water is also working with the City Attorney's office to ensure the terms and conditions of the contract are in alignment with existing performance requirements as well as future technology modifications.

## **Hot Topics**

***PCB Cleanup*** – City Council will be asked to approve a contract estimated at about \$10M to do extensive work to continue the PCB cleanup and decontamination processes at Mallard Creek and McAlpine Creek Wastewater Plants. Charlotte Water has been working aggressively with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to ensure all key steps are followed and maintained. Much of the work will be to determine the level of contamination and type of mitigation/cleanup required as well as performing the mitigation/cleanup work and disposing of the contaminated material.

***Flint Michigan*** – Publicity about the situation in Flint, Michigan has raised awareness about drinking water throughout the country. Charlotte Water is responding to questions from local media and customers about drinking water quality.

***Coal Ash*** - Duke Energy is starting to dewater the coal ash basins at the Riverbend Power Plant. Charlotte Water's staff is working with county staff to monitor Mountain Island Lake to identify any impacts. Duke Energy has been cooperative and is also monitoring water quality in the lake.

***Park South Station*** - This is a private development near South Park where the water and wastewater systems are owned and operated by a private utility company (Aqua). Charlotte Water has received several inquiries from residents about the potential for the systems to be converted to public systems. The inquiries are driven by residents' concerns about water quality and rates.

***Telecom Work*** – There have been an estimated 70-80 water main lines that have been broken as a result of work surrounding the installation of fiber optic lines for Google Fiber. Charlotte Water staff locates water lines ahead of the Google construction and repairs lines that are broken by the Google work. When the Google contractors are at fault for the break, Charlotte Water works to recover the repair costs.

Meeting adjourned: 3:50 TGN