

**CHARLOTTE WATER
ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CWAC)
MINUTES OF MEETING
March 17, 2022**

Charlotte Water Advisory Committee Remote Meeting Conducted
via WebEx Events on Thursday, March 17, 2022, at 2:30 pm.
The remote meeting was conducted by WebEx in accordance with statute law

Members Present: Barbara Bleiweis (Chair), William Cornett, Gordon Miller, Dierdra Evans,
and Cemental Grayson Roundtree (via phone)

Staff Present:	Angela Charles	Director
	Ronald Hargrove	Deputy Director
	David Czerr	Deputy Director
	Chad Howell	Utilities Manager
	Keri Cantrell	Chief Utilities Engineer
	Scott Clark	Utilities Manager
	Carl Wilson	Chief Utilities Engineer

Approval of Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by William Cornett and seconded by Gordon Miller to approve the February 2022 minutes as a correct record. The motion was **approved**.

Finance and Budget Update

Chad Howell (Utilities Manager) presented the Finance and Budget Update, and the following key points were noted:

- The proposed budget for 2023 (as considered at a previous CWAC meeting) would be presented (without major amendments) to the Budget Committee.
- The current budget was healthy with revenues exceeding forecasts due to deferred revenues and growth in user fees as a result of increasing developments in the area.
- Delinquent accounts overall were now at pre-Covid levels.
- Angela Charles (Director) mentioned that the state of North Carolina had recently been featured in a White House video highlighting the area's low-income household water assistance program, with Charlotte Water receiving one of the highest funding allocations. The link to the White House video would be circulated to CWAC members. **Action:** Latoya Lindesay
- Expenditure was currently below forecast due to the impact of Covid on operations and ongoing staff vacancies.

Operations and Capital Update

Ron Hargrove (Deputy Director) provided an Operations Update relating to the Charlotte Distribution and Collection System and referred to the Special Topics List which could be considered at future meetings.

Arising from his report, the following key points were noted:

- The drought condition in some parts of North Carolina was continuing with average water demand recording 102.7 MGD YTD. Average rainfall for 2022 was 9.5" with drought conditions currently categorized as "normal". Overall, water capacity was now optimal and stabilized at 174 MGD.
- In terms of the distribution system, the leak response was continuing to improve and was taking (on average) 23 days to respond to leaks.

- The wastewater update highlighted that the current average flow had hit 85.5 MGD and, as reported at the previous meeting, one toxicity incident had been recorded. Permit compliance was currently 99.9%.
- In relation to water collection systems, the main factors generating SSO problems were debris, roots, and grease. It was also reported that, to date, reducing SSOs concerning 'Compliant with Collection Systems Permit' had achieved 110 or 2.4/100 mi. As reported at the previous meeting, only one civil penalty (and associated state enforcement action) had occurred involving an external contractor.
- A spill involving millions of gallons of water had occurred at Long Creek this week: an outfall had washed out into the creek caused by a falling tree blocking sewer flows. Staff had responded quickly working with AAC and Sunbelt Rentals to commence and complete repairs. Pictures of the spill and CW's response to contain the spill were shared with Committee members. New pipe and couplings had been ordered to complete repairs by the end of next week, and discussions were being planned with relevant authorities to prevent future damage by cutting back trees near sewer pipes.

Carl Wilson (Chief Utilities Manager) provided a Capital Update and shared the latest images concerning the following projects:

- McAlpine Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant was a \$140m project involving major improvements to rehabilitation and processes and was on schedule for delivery by Fall 2023.
- The \$18m South Boulevard Water Main project at Scaleybark Road to Worthington Avenue would be completed by Summer 2022. The most challenging construction aspect of the project would be faced shortly at the junction with Benton Place.
- The Vest Water Treatment Plant project would cost \$30m and replace the oldest water treatment plant. As soon as relevant details from Duke Energy become available, invitations to CWAC members to attend the opening ceremony at the new plant would be sent. A Member asked when the Vest plant would be fully operational, and it was confirmed it would be this month.

Water and Sewer Authority of Cabarrus County (WSACC) Sewer Capacity Update

Keri Cantrell (Chief Utilities Engineer) provided an update on the WSACC Service Area. Arising from Cantrell's presentation concerning capacity challenges, the following key points were considered:

- A summary of historical flows/approvals, monitoring flows, and mitigation activities relating to the WSACC Service Area were outlined. WSACC represented around 10% of the Charlotte Water Regional Service Area covering the Northeastern border, including all of Davidson. Flow monitoring in the WSACC area was ongoing and, by the end of 2021, involved 5 MGD and ten projects for that year.
- There was a current pause on future plans and managing capacity requests involving land and neighborhood-style developments. 28 project requests were currently under review, and Charlotte Water had undertaken a number of actions to communicate the current position with Town leadership, State representative interests, the CLTW Developer Liaison Committee, and Land Development stakeholders. Reconciliation of the existing 28 projects was being undertaken with a view to maximizing support, alongside allocations of remaining flow to requests under review. Eleven projects have been forced to phase or consider alternative options.
- Charlotte Water's mitigation activities to gain capacity were outlined, particularly activity concerning WSACC Rocky River WWTP improvements and the Clarke Creek pump station which would be taken out of service with flows routed to a new pump station at the bottom of the Clark Creek basin.
- The Chair asked a question about the impact on easements and conservation opportunities for local farms, and Ron Hargrove highlighted the ongoing need for Charlotte Water to partner with local organizations and agencies to conserve water, for example, at Johnson Creek.
- A Committee member asked what the current approach was for the South of the County, and Dr. Cantrell outlined that the challenges (particularly in terms of growth projections, proposed

development activity, and limits to existing treatment capacity) were not as concerning as they were for the North. David Czerr (Deputy Director) also highlighted that Charlotte Water had strategic plans to utilize existing land and grow and respond to future development plans and serve a growing population.

Angela Charles (Director) mentioned next week's groundbreaking ceremony and invitations would be extended to members of the County's Sustainability & Environment Committee.

Meeting Adjourned

Gordon Miller moved to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Bill Cornett. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 3.46 pm.

The next CWAC meeting was scheduled for Thursday, April 21, 2022 at 2:30pm

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