

**CHARLOTTE WATER
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
October 18th, 2018**

Charlotte Water Advisory Committee met Thursday, October 18th, 12:00 pm at 7980 Babe Stillwell Road, Huntersville, NC

Members Present: Barbara Bleiweis, Leslie Jones, Scott Baker, Dorian Carter, Barry Webb

Members Absent: Frank McMahan, William Royal

Staff Present:	Angela Lee	Director
	Ron Hargrove	Deputy Director
	Carl Wilson	Chief Engineer
	David Czerr	Deputy Director
	Steve Miller	Utilities Manager
	Chad Howell	Chief Financial Officer
	Will Rice	Engineering Project Manager
	Joseph Lockler	Utilities Operations Manager
	Rosie Pindilli	Water Quality Program Admin
	Keri Cantrell	Chief Engineer
	Shawn Coffman	Deputy Director
	Jackie Jarrell	Utilities Manager
	Carole Trohanowsky	Executive Assistant

Safety Minute

Changing a Flat Tire

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Leslie Jones, and seconded by Barbara Bleiweis, to approve the September 2018 minutes. Motion was approved.

Budget Status

FY19 has started out as a wet year with the occurrence of two hurricanes; so far, consumption has been down. The Business office is closely monitoring revenues, which are slightly under revenues from prior years. Expenses are running under budget and are currently showing a savings. Debt service payments will be coming out around January and PAYGO payments will occur at the end of the year.

Engineering has starting collecting future projects to include into the CIP (Community Investment Plan). The Business office is also working on the operating budget for FY20 and FY21. All division budgets have been collected and division heads are looking at enhancements and SLCs to ensure consistency with the department's vision and plan.

LIFT

The LIFT program provides a \$4,000 scholarship to help utilities share resources to pilot technology that will enhance water and wastewater operations. Four Charlotte Water employees won the scholarship and visited various Wisconsin plants. They learned about nutrient harvesting, which allows phosphorus to be

captured from bio solids instead of being milled directly from the ground. This will save roughly \$500,000 in wastewater operational expenses. They also learned about granular activated sludge which allows wastewater treatment to happen on a smaller footprint, Trojan UV 4000 which disinfects wastewater more efficiently, combined heat and power, side stream treatment, fermentation, digester receiving, and gas storage.

CIP PROCESS

The department develops the CIP year round to identify project and program needs. Project scoping and budgeting begins in the fall, the leadership review process starts in late fall/early winter, and then a City-level review and adoption occurs in spring and early summer. The accepted projects are determined based on risk analysis, risk aversion, and financial viability. The CIP increases in more profitable years and reduces projects in leaner times. The outlook for the CIP over the next five year is to make improvements throughout the county to handle the growth. External influences on the CIP are inflation and tariffs, competing growth needs (private vs. public, labor job market, capacity of vendors, and bonding capacity of vendors), City policy and procedural (guidelines, CBI goals, real estate, procedural practices, and increasing land value/competition). The CIP will go before Council for approval in February 2019.

HYDRILLA UPDATES

Hydrilla is a weed that has affected the local water supply. It's a shallow weed that spreads extensively; its roots will root at the bottom of the water source and grow above the water to create mats. It's an invasive aquatic plant originally from Asia that out competes native species, overtakes lakes and rivers rapidly, alters water chemistry such as dissolved oxygen and pH, impacts fish populations and recreational uses, and reduces water quality. Hydrilla is spread from one water source to another by humans (ex, boating and swimming) and is very expensive to treat.

Hydrilla infestation in Lake Norman and Mountain Island lakes began in 2004. The biological control of adding sterile grass carp to the water was successful. Yearly maintenance has continued until the present time, however, the number of fish allowed is not sufficient. In October 2017, a copper herbicide was applied around Dukes Water Treatment Plant. It was unsuccessful and the hydrilla remained and became dormant as temperatures dropped. All funding parties involved collaborated and submitted a request for approval from the state to allow for 10,200 carp to be added to Lake Norman in Spring 2018 and to increase yearly maintenance. The addition of the fish was approved and added to the lake. The carp are doing their job, but it takes time to see real progress. Complaints from boat owners, marina operators, and homeowners started flowing in. Duke, Charlotte Water, and the Lake Norman Marine Commission posted information to encourage the public to give the fish a chance and to discourage them from putting chemicals, particularly diquat which remains in the environment indefinitely and is known to cause cataracts, into the lake. The carp are sterile 12 inch fish that will not reproduce and overwhelm the delicate ecosystem of the lake.

Open Discussion

1. The December meeting has been cancelled. The last meeting for the year will be on November 15th at Sugar Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Meeting Adjourned – 3:53 pm

KCJ