

**CHARLOTTE WATER  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
November 16, 2017**

Charlotte Water Advisory Committee met Thursday, November 16, 2017, 2:30 pm at 4222 Westmont Drive, Charlotte, NC.

Members Present: Barbara Bleiweis, Jim Duke, Leslie Jones, William Royal, Frank McMahan, Barry Webb, Dorian Carter

Staff Present:	Barry Gullet	Director
	Carl Wilson	Chief Engineer
	Chad Howell	Chief Financial Officer
	Steve Miller	Customer Service Manager
	Shawn Coffman	Deputy Director
	Ron Hargrove	Deputy Director
	Angela Lee	Field Operations Chief
	Jason Bromirski	Senior Engineer
	Bryant Beck	Senior Engineer
	Karen Weatherly	Assistant City Attorney

**Safety Minute**

Use a Buddy System

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Leslie Jones, and seconded by Jim Duke, to approve the October 2017 minutes. Motion was approved.

**Budget Update**

For October 2017, revenues were slightly below the weighted average. The department had a phenomenal September and is coming back in line with the weighted budget at this point in the year. Expenses were below the weighted average.

The deadline to have budget information for FY19 and FY20 submitted to City Strategy and Budget Department is December 15<sup>th</sup>. The Business Office is preparing this information for the department.

**Comments on Presentation to Environment Committee**

The department has provided presentations to City Council's Environment Committee to help them understand the rate methodology for their upcoming January retreat. Doug Carter, the financial consultant for the City of the Charlotte and Charlotte Water, gave feedback on the importance for the department to have a AAA rating. There was some discussion about whether the City needed to maintain this rating, as there is a cost associated with it.

**Mallard Creek Sewer Spill/Repair & Steam Bank Restoration**

On October 24<sup>th</sup>, operators at the Mallard Creek WWTP noticed that there were lower than normal flows coming into the plant and notified the Field Operations division. After investigating, Field Ops discovered that a

36 inch wastewater pipe had collapsed because of a fallen tree. Storm Water Services assisted with the removal of the tree so Field Operations could bypass flow around the damaged. Crews worked with Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation to close Kirk Farm Fields, which is an informal soccer field near UNCC. Gabion walls with galvanized steel fabric were filled with rocks, dirt, and other debris to protect the pipe from future damage and to preserve the creek bank. The pipe was initially installed in 1968. The total repair cost is approximately \$600,000.

The department is finding more situations where streams are eroding, resulting in damage to sewer lines and in some cases, sewer spills. The site of the spill on Mallard Creek had been inspected just a few weeks prior to this event and no problems were evident. The department may face regulatory action and/or a fine for the spill.

### **42 Inch Water Main Break/Repair & Construction Impact Updates**

On October 27<sup>th</sup>, a contractor working to on I-77 broke a 42” diameter water main around mile marker 11 when it was struck by a backhoe around 8 am. This water main services the central business district and beyond. A 10 inch hole was ripped into the pre-stressed concrete cylinder pipe. The pipe had previously been located and marked by Charlotte Water for an upcoming project. The contractor apparently did not complete an 811 locate request before their construction began.

The water treatment division was able to close valves on Whisnant St (east side of the pipe) and on Madison St (west side of the pipe). Sanders Utility was able to make the repairs on the following Tuesday. Water was flushed and the pipe is being sterilized and dechlorinated; samples were gathered to test for water quality. The total costs to repair the line are estimated to be \$110,000, which the department will seek to recover from the contractor who hit the line.

### **Hot Topics**

1. At the North Carolina American Water Works Association Conference (NC-AWWA), the department’s Operational Hazards team competed in the Operations Challenge in 5 separate events that were timed and judged on process and procedure. They won every event at the State level, and will go on to represent North Carolina at the National Conference in New Orleans. At the same conference, Charlotte Water won the Large Collection System of the Year award for the fourth time. Angela Lee, Field Operations Chief, is the outgoing Chair of NC-AWWA, and Ron Hargrove, Deputy Director, was elected to the Board of Trustees for NC-AWWA.
2. The process for selecting a new director is underway. Barry Gullet, the current director, will retire on January 1, 2018.
3. The National League of Cities conference took place in Charlotte on November 14-17. Delegates were able to take a tour of Franklin Water Treatment Plant.
4. Mt. Holly is having a special meeting in December with their board to consider sending their wastewater to Charlotte Water to process at Long Creek WWTP, the plant scheduled to be built and completed by 2022. The town did ask if we could take all of their flow through a pipe underneath the Catawba River while the plant is being built.

**Meeting Adjourned – 3:43 pm**

**KCJ**