

**CHARLOTTE WATER  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
October 20, 2017**

Charlotte Water Advisory Committee met Thursday, October 20, 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
	Karen Weatherly	Assistant City Attorney

**Safety Minute**

How to Make an Emergency Lane Change

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Leslie Jones, and seconded by Barry Webb, to approve the September 2017 minutes. Motion was approved.

**Budget Update**

For September 2017, revenues were above the weighted average and are trending in the same manner as in the past. Expenses were below the weighted average, and are tracking closely with previous trends.

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, and will present to Advisory at future meetings. The budget submittals will undergo further evaluation and refinement over the next several months leading to Council adoption in June 2018.

**Green Bond Discussion**

At the September Advisory meeting, a webinar was presented to the group about green performance bonds. The webinar focused more on the performance aspect of these investments for investors and less on the benefits that the department can receive from partnering with those organizations. A research project underway through the Catawba-Wataree Water Management Group is expected to produce a method of prioritizing parcels of land based on water supply benefits. Once that project is complete, Charlotte Water may want to revisit how additional watershed protection investments could be financed, including the possibility of green bonds.

**Long Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant Update**

This ongoing project is planned to alleviate some of the growth pressures at the McAlpine Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). The increase in the population over the last few decades have made it feasible to

construct a new treatment plant at Long Creek instead of pumping and piping flows about 27 miles to McAlpine. Currently, there is a hydraulic bottleneck in the sewer conveyance piping where Highways 485 and 77 South meet. In order to handle the increase, the pipe that carries flow across this corridor would need to be enlarged to 96 inches in diameter and would cost more than \$80 million dollars.

A Memorandum of Agreements with Belmont and Mount Holly was approved by both Towns and the Charlotte City Council. This agreement required that Belmont and Mt. Holly decommission their existing plants and pay for on-site pumping stations and the treatment operation and maintenance costs at Long Creek WWTP. The towns would also transfer nutrient allocation to Charlotte.

The department negotiated with owners of the old Clariant industrial WWTP to buy land for the new plant and 90% of their nutrient allocation to Lake Wylie.

To protect Charlotte Water's investment in the purchased nutrient allocation, the department had a separate agreement with Belmont for the town to purchase the nutrient allocation that was bought from Clariant WWTP for \$6 million if the Long Creek plant could not be constructed. The permit was applied for in 2015, and currently, an interlocal agreement and NDPES permit modifications are being drafted. The Preliminary Engineering Report should be completed by December 2017. The project is estimated to be completed in 2022 and will cost roughly \$225 million.

### **Hot Topics**

1. Barry Gullet, Charlotte Water's current director, will be retiring at the end of the calendar year. His going away party is scheduled for Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, from 11 am to 2 pm at Zone 2 Operations Center at General Commerce Drive.
2. Doug Carter, the financial consultant for the City of Charlotte and Charlotte Water, will be presenting to City Council's Environment Committee on Monday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, at the Government Center. This presentation is about the department's rate methodology and to help prepare Council for their January retreat.
3. The Advisory meeting for December has been cancelled.

**Meeting Adjourned – 3:43 pm**

**KCJ**