

UPPER OCONEE BASIN WATER AUTHORITY
NEGRC HEADQUARTERS
NOVEMBER 17, 2010
9:30 A.M.

MINUTES

Members Present:

Melvin Davis
Elton Collins
Eric Klerk
Hunter Bicknell
Heidi Davison
Bob Snipes
Chris Thomas
Myron Garrett
Amrey Harden

Alternates Present:

Mark Whiddon*
Harry Sims
Gary Duck

*Representing Danny Yearwood

Others Present:

Jim Dove, NEGRC Executive Director
Mott Beck, NEGRC Executive Assistant
Kirby Atkinson, Atkinson & Cullen
Chris Atkinson, Atkinson & Cullen
Hill Baughman, JJG Services
Ken Moore, JJG Services
Gina Mitsdarffer, Jackson County
Ricky Sanders, Jackson County
Mark Beardsley, **Mainstreet Newspapers**

CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Melvin Davis called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. He asked for a motion to approve the September meeting minutes. Such a motion was made by Mr. Elton Collins and seconded by Commissioner Hunter Bicknell. Prior to action on the minutes, Mr. Bob Snipes referred to the last sentence under the Operations Committee report, which reads "Members feel that it is important that all participating counties be consistent with conservation measures." Mr. Snipes suggested, and it was agreed, that the term "conservation measures" should be replaced with "drought measures." The motion passed unanimously contingent upon the aforementioned amendment.

FINANCIAL REPORT

At this time, NEGRC Comptroller Evans Brinson gave the financial report. The total liabilities and fund balance for the month ending October 31st were \$63,917,842. A motion to approve the financial report as presented was made by Mr. Snipes and seconded by Mayor Heidi Davison. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ON FY11 BUDGET

The Authority voted in September to forward the FY2011 Budget to the four participating counties and the Resource Management Commission (RMC) for review and comment. No suggestions or revisions were received, and the Finance Committee recommends that the Fiscal Year 2011 Budget be approved as presented. A motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2011 Budget was made by Mr. Collins and seconded by Commissioner Bicknell. The motion passed unanimously.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

At last month's meeting of the Committee, Bill Martello led a discussion pertaining to new state water restrictions. Members reviewed proposed changes made in the UOBWA Drought Management Plan as a result of said restrictions. It was the consensus of members to wait for guidance from EPD prior to making any modifications to the Authority's drought plan. Also, staff is developing an analysis and a cost estimate on the possibility of installing variable speed pumps. The Committee will also be revisiting the feasibility of using Solar Bee mixers in the event of another drought.

OPERATIONS AND MANAGEMENT

Mr. Baughman advised that operations of the facility are in compliance with EPD rules and regulations. The reservoir level is at full pool, and the average treated water flow for the week of November 8th was 6.5 MGD. A new operator has been hired, and the facility is now at full staff. Removal of debris and trash at the river intake is complete, and the sludge lagoons will be cleaned within the next two weeks.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no Executive Session.

OTHER BUSINESS

Due to safety concerns with launching and retrieving boats at the boat ramp, Jackson County has developed plans and presented a proposal for the addition of a walkway and boat dock to aid fishermen and boaters with such matters. Members of the Recreation Committee have been made aware of this issue and are in agreement that this would help to alleviate safety concerns. Given this, it is the recommendation of the Recreation Committee to construct the walkway and dock at the boat ramp site. The estimated costs, including contingency, amount to \$23,174.00. It was agreed that members will discuss the proposal with their respective governmental bodies, and the matter will be discussed further at the January meeting.

At this time, Jackson County Recreation Director Ricky Sanders gave a report on the boat ramp and fishing operation at Bear Creek. During 2010, the Authority sold 217 annual passes (at \$25.00 each), 2009 daily passes (\$5.00 each), 695 daily passes (\$3.00 each) for veterans, senior citizens or children, and 15 annual passes (\$25.00 each) for adjoining property owners. Mr. Sanders reported that the facility is averaging 14 to 15 boats a day, with a high of 30 during weekends. He advised that there will be a deficit of \$1,500 to \$2,500 for 2010. This is in addition to a 2009 deficit of \$1,200. Mr. Sanders feels that the only way to break even is to increase fees or cut hours. After discussion, members agreed that increasing fees was the most feasible. Based on discussion regarding the recommendation of the Recreation Committee and the report from Mr. Sanders, the following motion was made by Mr. Amrey Harden and seconded by Mr. Collins:

“To accept the recommendation of the Recreation Committee to construct a walkway leading to a small boat dock at a cost of \$23,174; to increase fees as follows – from \$5.00 to \$6.00 for daily pass and from \$25.00 to \$35.00 for yearly pass (property owners and all others); and to collect funds from each participating County to cover the 2009 and 2010 deficit. This motion is contingent upon amending the Intergovernmental Agreement for Recreation Management.”

The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:22 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Martha “Mott” Beck
UOBWA Secretary