

Minutes
MCRWASA Board of Directors Regular Meeting
May 24, 2018

The Martin County Regional Water and Sewer Authority (MCRWASA) Board of Directors met for its Regular Meeting on Thursday, May 24, 2018 at 3:00 p.m. in the MCRWASA Water Treatment Plant Building, 1001 Park Street, Williamston, NC.

ASSEMBLY

Members present: Chairman David Bone, Vice Chairman Al Chesson, Board Director Hilton Keel, Board Director Julius Patrick, Board Director Junious Horton (alternate) and Secretary Marion Thompson.

Board Director Tommy Bowen (alternate) and Treasurer/Deputy Secretary Cindy Ange were not in attendance.

Others present: Martin County: Commissioner Dempsey Bond, Jr. and Water District Manager Ed Warren; Town of Williamston: Town Clerk/Deputy Secretary Christina Craft, Water System Operator Gary Barmer and Street & Lines Supervisor Stacey Stalls ; SUEZ: Project Manager Joe Thaxton and Senior O & M Technician Eddie Bristow and The Wooten Company, Project Engineers, Derrick Smith.

Chairman Bone called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Vice Chairman Chesson made a MOTION to approve the agenda, with a SECOND by Director Keel. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 26, 2018 Regular Session

Director Keel made a MOTION to approve the minutes as presented, with a SECOND by Director Patrick. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – None.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Update on MCRWASA Well #1

Chairman Bone reiterated that the MCRWASA Well #1 has been off-line for the last few months, due to turbidity/cloudiness. Turbidity has historically been an issue. In 2017, some work was done by Magette Well and Pump Co., the driller of the well, and Groundwater Management Associates (GMA). GMA completed a hydrogeological analysis of MCRWASA Well #1, and Magette installed a blow-off valve on the well to allow staff to blow-off water until the desired turbidity levels were received.

The Martin County Water District #1 Hassell Well is being used to supply Martin County Water District #1 and its customers.

SUEZ and Magette have been working to correct the matter. Project Manager Joe Thaxton reported from May 1, 2018 to May 4, 2018, an air compressor and air lift pump were operated on and off for one week, in an effort to improve turbidity. After the 5th day, the turbidity levels showed some improvements but still ranged from 16 NTU (nephelometric turbidity unit) to 20 NTU. On May 14, 2018, the well was restarted in the normal mode, ran for four (4) hours, and produced a turbidity of 32 NTU. The pump ran (18) hours on May 15, 2018 and the turbidity levels went down to 2 NTU. When the well is shut down and restarted, the high turbidity is a reoccurring factor.

Project Manager Thaxton stated he had exhausted all known options to a solution but would continue to run the system until the MCRWASA Board of Directors instructed otherwise. Project Manager Thaxton added in an emergency condition and the Hassell Well could not function, the MCRWASA Well #1 could provide water. The only issue would be the white clay causing the water to be white. Otherwise, the water meets all recommended EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) compliance standards.

Director Patrick stated the Greenville Utilities Commission Water Treatment Plant experienced a similar situation with high turbidity. As a solution, the Upper Cape Fear Aquifer was sealed off, and water was pulled off the Black Creek Aquifer. The method decreased turbidity tremendously.

Possible Options if Turbidity Does Not Improve at MCRWASA Well #1

Project Engineer Derrick Smith, of The Wooten Company, attended the meeting to be part of the discussion concerning the following information provided by The Wooten Company regarding MCRWASA Well #1.

Martin County Water District #1 is currently supplied water through two sources, the Hassell Well and MCRWASA Well #1. MCRWASA Well #1 was originally installed as a redundant source of water to the Hassell Well before the MCRWASA water treatment plant was constructed. It was allowed by the State, since the Penco wells were abandoned (i.e., no increase in withdrawal) and given to the County. With the addition of this well, Water District #1 had excess water supply that could then be made available to other parts of the overall system as withdrawal rates declined, due to the State mandated CCPCUA rule. Once the new MCRWASA Water Treatment Plant was placed into operation, it was planned that the excess capacity between the two wells could be used as a back-up supply for the other areas of the system, as well as remain the primary source of water to Water District #1 for a number of years.

It was understood that over the past couple of years, there have been issues with water quality at Water District #1 caused by cloudiness or high turbidity water. The main reason for this cloudiness appears to be due to a fine clay present in the groundwater that is extremely difficult to remove. Numerous attempts have been made to clear this well, but it has been intermittent at best. Most recently, the well is still experiencing high turbidity but has seen some improvement. With this being said, the Authority has some options to consider:

Option 1 – Continue to use existing Well #1. At this point, this is not really possible, but all reasonable measures to improve the water quality should be exhausted, since the capital cost for this well has already been invested. However, it should be noted that this well may still not be consistent for a supply in the future.

Option 2 – Install a new well to replace Well #1. This is an option, because there is ample water supply through a groundwater source. There could be additional measures (non-typical) that may be used to help minimize the obvious risks; however, there would be no guarantee that a new well wouldn't face the same turbidity issues. The approximate cost range of this option was quoted to be between \$300,000 and \$400,000.

Option 3 – Install a new Booster Pumping Station. This station would be installed on the existing 8-inch water main between Williamston and Water District #1. It would essentially pull water through Williamston. It appeared preliminarily that approximately 200 to 300 gallons per minute could be provided to Water District #1 through this option. While that would not be a complete duplication of the supply from the Hassell Well, it might provide enough to meet the current demands. It should be noted that the planned long-term solution for water supply into Water District #1 was a Booster station and parallel transmission line. In this case, due to minimal demands, a parallel line would likely not be needed. Additional study would be needed to confirm this option. The cost of this option would range from \$400,000 to \$500,000. Note that this would include some minimal improvements that would be needed at the Hassell Well. Either Option 2 or 3 may take up to 12 months to design, permit, and construct, once funding is secured.

The Board of Directors discussed the options at length, with the pros and cons of the third option being expounded upon the most. During the discussion, the Oak City Well was mentioned as a potential source of water. The Oak City Well has not been in operation since 2008.

The Board consensually agreed to table the decision to allow research/observation of the feasibility of restarting the Oak City Well. Project Engineer Smith stated the grant application would allow funding for a new booster pump station, as well as for restart-up operations. The Wooten Company would be taking the lead on this.

Approval of 2018 Water Shortage Response Plan

Chairman Bone stated the North Carolina Division of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ) approved the updated Water Shortage Response Plan submitted by Project Manager Joe Thaxton. The Board of Directors was asked to approve the following resolution adopting the Water Shortage Response Plan.

Vice Chairman Chesson made the MOTION to approve the 2018 Water Shortage Response Plan/ Resolution, with a SECOND by Director Keel. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously.

RESOLUTION FOR APPROVING WATER SHORTAGE RESPONSE PLAN

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statute 143-355 (l) requires that each unit of local government that provides public water service and each large community water system shall develop and implement water conservation measures to respond to drought or other water shortage conditions as set out in a Water Shortage Response Plan and submitted to the Department for review and approval; and

WHEREAS, as required by the statute and in the interests of sound local planning, a Water Shortage Response Plan for Martin County Regional WASA PWSID# 60-59-015 has been developed and submitted to the MCRWASA Board of Directors for approval; and

WHEREAS, the MCRWASA Board of Directors finds that the Water Shortage Response Plan is in accordance with the provisions of North Carolina General Statute 143-355 (l) and that it will provide appropriate guidance for the future management of water supplies for Martin County Regional WASA PWSID# 60-59-015), as well as useful information to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for the development of a state water supply plan as required by statute.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the MCRWASA Board of Directors of Martin County Regional WASA PWSID# 60-59-015 that the Water Shortage Response Plan entitled, Martin County Regional Water and Sewer Authority (MCRWASA), Martin County, North Carolina dated March 12, 2018, is hereby approved and shall be submitted to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Division of Water Resources; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the MCRWASA Board of Directors intends that this plan shall be revised to reflect changes in relevant data and projections at least once every five years or as otherwise requested by the Department, in accordance with the statute and sound planning practice.

This the 24th day of May, 2018.

Name: _____
David Bone, MCRWASA Chairman

Attest:

Marion B. Thompson, MCRWASA Secretary

Budget Amendment #3

Finance Director/MCRWASA Treasurer Cindy Ange stated in a memo that Budget Amendment #3 would transfer \$15,000 from insurance and bonding to cover additional expenses in other professional services and permitting, including \$8,000 for the maintenance cap. The Board of Directors was asked to approve Budget Amendment #3. This would increase the maintenance cap allocation for FY 2017-2018 to \$119,000.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT-3

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Directors of Martin County Regional Water and Sewer Authority that the following amendments be made to the annual budget ordinance for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018.

Section 1. To amend the Operating Fund, the expenditures are to be changed as follows.

	Increase	Decrease
Other Professional Services	\$ 2,500	
Permitting	1,750	
BPS – permits, testing	2,600	
Office supplies	150	
Contracted Services	8,000	
Insurance and Bonding		\$ 15,000

Section 2. Copies of this budget amendment shall be furnished to the Clerk to the Governing Board and to the Finance Officer for their direction.

MOTION by Director Patrick and SECONDED by Director Keel to adopt the above budget ordinance amendment this 24th day of May 2018. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously.

INFORMATIONAL UPDATES

Monthly Report from SUEZ

In addition to the MCRWASA Well #1 update, Project Manager Thaxton reported that eight (8) documents had been added to the NC 811 website, and the final email address had been setup to start receiving requests.

The MCRWASA WTP air conditioner unit stopped working. The unit is in the 3rd year of its seven (7) year warranty. Bowen Heating, Air & Refrigeration, Inc. stated it would be seven to eight weeks before the repair parts would arrive. Fortunately, the SCADA system control room has air conditioning.

An identical HVAC unit had been recommended for the new 911 PSAP/Regional Facility. Project Manager Thaxton suggested taking a second look before installation.

All lab analyses have been done. The lab certification has been completed.

Resignation of Director Junious Horton

Chairman Bone stated Director Junious Horton had submitted his resignation as a MCRWASA Board Director, effective June 30, 2018. Chairman Bone thanked and commended Director Horton for the years of dedicated service, as an alternate member on the MCRWASA Board.

Director Horton stated it had been a pleasure to serve the MCRWASA Board and the citizens of Martin County.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Chairman Bone adjourned the meeting around 4:00 p.m. The MCRWASA Board of Directors scheduled its next regular meeting for June 28, 2018.

David Bone, MCRWASA Chairman

Marion B. Thompson, NCCCC, NCMCC
MCRWASA Secretary