

**NEUSE REGIONAL WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING DATED
Thursday, January 26, 2017**

The Neuse Regional Water and Sewer Authority held its Monthly Board Meeting on Thursday, January 26, 2017 at 6:00 P.M. at the Neuse Regional Water and Sewer Authority Water Treatment Plant.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Barry Sutton, Steve Miller, Terry A. Koonce, Steven Harrell, Clarence Mills, Jimmy Cousins, Virgil O’Neal, Neal Baggett, Mike Hill, Bruce Parson, Greg Smith, Tommy Daughety, Joseph Johnson

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jamie Cannon, Sammy Aiken

ALTERNATES PRESENT: Rusty Byrd, Rhonda Barwick, Ray Baldree

NRWASA STAFF PRESENT: Harold Herring - Executive Director
Debbie Purvis - Administrative Assistant
Amber Goodman - Administrative Secretary
Jamie Norment - Legal Counsel
Charlie Colie - WTP Superintendent
Jacob Brown - Assistant WTP Superintendent
Robin Blackburn - Chemist
Kyle Smith - Distribution Superintendent

SPECIAL GUESTS: Mr. Donald Garbrick, P.E. – AWWA Award Presenter

Call to Order

Chairman Barry Sutton called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. and welcomed Special Guests.

Revisions, Additions and Adoption of Agenda

Mr. Greg Smith moved to adopt the Agenda as presented. Seconded by Mr. Mike Hill and upon unanimous vote, the motion carried.

ACTION ITEMS

1. AWWA Award Presentation Mr. Donald Garbrick, PE

Mr. Donald Garbrick, P.E. representing N.C. American Water Works Association stated that at the North Carolina AWWA Conference on November 15, 2016, they had a “Best Tasting Water” competition. On Thursday, January 26, 2017, the Neuse Regional Water and Sewer Authority Board of Directors and NRWASA Employees received the award. Mr. Garbrick stated that the winners usually have three things in common; Well-maintained facility, dedicated staff, and a Board that provides the tools that they use to produce the water. It takes a team effort to win this award. He stated the process is very difficult and to win is very exceptional. Mr. Garbrick presented a plaque to NRWASA for having the “Best Tasting Water” in North Carolina in 2016.

2. Swearing in of New Director Chairman Sutton

Chairman Sutton led New Director Mr. Joseph Johnson in the Oath of Office, to replace Mr. Joe Albright as Director for the Town of Grifton. Mr. Johnson will become the Town of Grifton’s Director as well as Town Manager.

3. Approval of November 2016 Minutes Chairman Sutton

Mr. Greg Smith moved to approve the November 2016 Minutes as presented. Seconded by Mr. Mike Hill and upon unanimous vote, the motion carried.

4. Approval of January 2017 Treasurer's Report.....Chairman Sutton

Mr. Mike Hill moved to adopt the January 2017 Monthly Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Mr. Virgil O'Neal and upon unanimous vote, the motion carried.

5. FEMA Resolution.....Mr. Harold Herring

NRWASA experienced \$76,000 worth of wind and flood damage caused by Hurricane Matthew in October 2016. Mr. Herring requested that the Board agree to move forward with the FEMA Resolution. Mr. Virgil O'Neal moved to go forward with the Resolution as presented. Seconded by Mr. Greg Smith and upon unanimous vote, the motion carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

6. Ward & Smith.....Mr. Jamie Norment

Mr. Jamie Norment has corresponded with the Department of Environmental Quality about the proposed wastewater discharge permit at the H. F. Lee Energy Power plant in Goldsboro, N.C. The Coal Ash Pond is to be decommissioned with a permit to be issued from DEQ sometime in March. NRWASA commented that they are concerned that the proposed permit lacks efficient limits for controls to prevent the degradation of water quality in the Neuse River or any such degradation will have long term adverse effects. Bringing it to their attention, as an upstream discharger of the coal ash pond, should only be allowed to discharge what can be treated by downstream users without additional costs or increase limits. Essentially, NRWASA is asking DEQ to issue a permit that takes into consideration the downstream water plants.

Mr. Jamie Norment also informed the Board of the new Raleigh Department of Environmental Quality Leadership Secretary Designate, Mr. Mike Regan.

7. Annual Conversion to Free Chlorine.....Mr. Harold Herring

Mr. Herring advised the Board that the annual conversion to Free Chlorine would be March 13, 2017 to April 17, 2017. The information in the agenda packets were sent to the contact people at each Member Entity to make sure it is published in the newspaper. Chairman Sutton was reminded that some of Lenoir County Members go together and put a news release in the paper. Mr. Ray Baldree stated that he would handle this for Pitt County Members and that none of the information has changed except the dates. There will be an Operator's meeting March 9th at 10 a.m. at NRWASA to prepare for the Conversion.

8. USDA Loan Financing.....Mr. Steve Miller

Mr. Steve Miller informed the Board that the Finance Committee Meeting was Wednesday, January 25, 2017 at NRWASA. David Cheetwood from First Tryon Advisors, came and spoke as a guest speaker about the Refinancing of the NRWASA USDA loan. The Finance committee recommends that NRWASA continues with the USDA Loan without refinancing at this time.

9. NRWASA Annual Audit Accountants.....Mr. Steve Miller

Mr. Steve Miller informed the Board also, that the Finance Committee discussed the requested proposals for new accountants as discussed in a previous meeting. There are no requirements for proposals, however, there are a limited number of Auditors that would be willing to work with entities of this size. There is a benefit to using the same Auditors and not switching Auditors within the company each year. After much discussion, the Finance Committee has recommended staying with RSM McGladrey and complete the current contract.

10. Felix Harvey Parkway Extension- The Wooten Company Engineering Design Mr. Harold Herring

Mr. Herring informed the Board that NRWASA is working with the Department of Transportation and The Wooten Company on the Felix Harvey Parkway Extension. The project will require NRWASA to either move or encase several thirty inch pipes that are in conflict on the new parkway project. Mr. Herring asked the Board to approve working with The Wooten Company and their design on this project. The total project is estimated to cost between \$350,000 and \$400,000, all reimbursable. Mr. Greg Smith moved to move forward on The Wooten Company Project as presented. Seconded by Mr. Bruce Parson and upon unanimous vote, the motion carried.

11. NCRWA Training Mr. Harold Herring

Mr. Harold Herring informed the Board that NRWASA will host the NCRWA Training Session on February 23, 2017. Class is only available to members of NRWASA, USDA and NCRWA. This class will count for Dual Credit, 6 Hours for Water and 6 Hours for Wastewater. Final Deadline to register, February 18, 2017.

10. 2017 NRWASA Board of Director Meeting Dates Chairman Barry Sutton

The 2017 NRWASA Board of Director Meeting Dates is in the agenda. The next meeting is March 23, 2017.

CLOSED SESSION

Pursuant to a motion duly made, seconded, and unanimously approved, the Board entered a Closed Session at 6:52 pm, for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter in accordance with N.C. General Statute § 143-318.11(a)(6). Attorney Norment remained as Counsel and acting Secretary.

Mr. Steven Harrell made the motion to come out of Closed Session. Seconded by Mr. Mike Hill, and upon unanimous vote, the Board approved a motion to reconvene into Open Session.

ADJOURNMENT

At approximately 7:00 PM, the Board returned to open session.

Mr. Jimmy Cousins made a motion to accept the Personnel Committee's recommendation to allow Mr. Herring to participate in the Authority's employee benefits plans upon termination of Mr. Herring's current Employment Agreement, all effective January 1, 2017. The motion was seconded by Mr. Clarence Mills. The Board discussed the motion.

The motion passed with a majority of the Directors voting yes. Directors Virgil O'Neal and Mike Hill voted no.

Being no further business before the Board, Chairman Barry Sutton adjourned the meeting without objection at approximately 7:30 P.M.

Sincerely,

Amber Goodman,
Administrative Secretary

Virgil O'Neal,
NRWASA Secretary