

**BRUNSWICK REGIONAL WATER & SEWER H2GO
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
THURSDAY FEBRUARY 22, 2018**

OFFICIAL MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Jeff Gerken called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm, a quorum was present. The assembly was lead in the Pledge of Allegiance.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Present from the Board of Commissioners were members Jeff Gerken, Chairman, Trudy Trombley, Vice Chairman, Bill Beer, Secretary, Ronnie Jenkins and Rodney McCoy, present from H2GO was Bob Walker, Executive Director, Russ Lane, Assistant Director, Scott Hook, Finance Officer, Brenda Thurman, Customer Service Supervisor and Teresa Long, Clerk to the Board.

DISCUSSION/ADJUSTMENT OF AGENDA:

Chairman Gerken opened the floor for any adjustments to the agenda. Russ Lane requested to add an update on the Sensus meter reading equipment under Assistant Directors Report. Mr. Walker requested to add to the Executive Directors Report, two deeds of dedication, for Compass Pointe Phase 17, Sections 2 and Section 3. Chairman Gerken stated that he wanted to add an item under New Business to discuss the correspondence with Ann Hardy regarding the steps that Brunswick County is taking towards solving water system problems. **Commissioner Trombley motioned to approve the agenda as adjusted, Commissioner Beer seconded, the motion passed unanimously.**

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of Minutes: Chairman Gerken opened the floor for any corrections to the January 25, 2018 minutes. Commissioner Trombley said that she had already discussed a couple of typo's with the clerk, the clerk confirmed that they were corrected. **Commissioner Trombley motioned to approve the January 25, 2018 minutes, Commissioner Beer seconded and the motion carried unanimously.**

COMMISSIONERS REPORT:

Commissioner McCoy reported on taking a tour of H2GO's facilities with Mr. Walker and Commissioner Trombley, he said that it was fun and informative and he appreciated it.

Commissioner Trombley said that she also took the tour for the second time and it was very informative and thanked Mr. Walker, she said they visited the two storage facilities and the wastewater treatment plant, she said the wastewater treatment plant was "truly amazing".

Commissioner Beer said that he had not taken the tour nor did Commissioner Jenkins. Commissioner Jenkins said that he was doing better after having surgery and hoped to take the tour next week.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Chairman Gerken opened the floor to public comments; he stated that comments should be no longer than three minutes, Chairman Gerken said that he expected everyone to be respectful and no attacks on any person, he said the purpose of the meeting is conduct the boards business.

Kathy McEvoy, 8534 Salt Bush Ct, Compass Pointe: She stated "In a recent conversation at a local grocery store I discovered that 85% of the people that go through the checkout are buying water, and I found out that water sales are up 30% over last year. Now in recent months, we have heard from a variety of public officials at both at the county and here that it's okay to drink Cape Fear River Water. Well it would appear as if 85% of H2GO customers think it's unsafe and won't drink Cape Fear River Water. Even if you count those families that get water delivered to their homes. All those families are all buying their drinking water to the tune of anywhere from \$30 per month to \$100 per month. That is a very significant equivalent water rate increase made necessary by H2GO's failure to deliver water that its customers can drink. For the 10,000 H2GO customers, at an average monthly cost of, let's say \$60 per month, that comes out to \$600,000 per month. 85% of \$600,000 is \$510,000. Just think, your failure to complete the H2GO plant by blocking the project is costing your customers over ½ million dollars every month and \$6,120,000 per year. That is one heck of a rate increase you are passing on to your customers. So, every month the project gets pushed back costs your customers another ½ million dollars. Tell us please, how does that show fiduciary responsibility towards your customers?"

Jeff Bresler, 8658 Hamocks Cove Trail, Compass Pointe: Mr. Bresler said that he needed some clarification from the people in this room, he said the debate about whether or not the water in Brunswick is contaminated is over, he said that it is clear that the water is contaminated, he said you could only argue about the degree of contamination, he said that we have an answer that would solve that situation for 10,000 customers, he asked, why are we not taking action, he said he has been to a lot of meetings and heard a lot of discussions, he asked why has there been no action? Mr. Bresler said the only action he has seen is negative action, he said somebody has their foot on the brake to stop this plant, he asked why? Mr. Bresler said it is an answer for 10,000 people, he said if you want to look at alternative solutions, do it, but not at the expense of your customers and the drinking water being contaminated, which they have to serve to their loved ones and families, he said it doesn't seem right, he said it is not a political issue, it's a moral issue. Chairman Gerken told Mr. Bresler that we are looking for regional solutions for the water supply problems for all of Brunswick County.

Steve Hosmer, 8452 Forest Crest Ct., Compass Pointe: Mr. Hosmer addressed the board, he said "You were elected to serve H2GO's customers by H2GO's customers. Among your responsibilities are the protection of their health and their finances. When Brunswick County announced their plan to treat their water with a new process, they agreed with H2GO's staff that the current water treatment isn't good enough to protect public health. In a recent email to my neighbor Jeff Bresler, County Commissioner Mike Forte addressed Jeff's desire to have the H2GO plant built. He told Jeff, 'We are installing a temporary low-pressure RO of our own to see how it functions and if it performs to our needs. Please also note that this is a project that

approaches almost \$200 million dollars, so we are proceeding cautiously before we spend that kind of taxpayer dollars.' Almost 200 million dollars. That's how much Brunswick County's surface water RO solution is estimated to cost the people of Brunswick County, including your ratepayers. Almost 200 million dollars. I know what everyone wants to say, that Chemours should have to pay for the county's costs. Should and will are two very different words. If you state that Chemours will pay for new water treatment processes, you are lying to your customers. There are no guarantees. And you gave the reasons why when you repeatedly stated the water is still safe to drink. There isn't enough data to definitively prove health impacts. Chemours will be able to hang their hat on this fact for decades. It's why the law firm with ties to Erin Brockovich is no longer working in this region. They didn't want to lie to people about their chances for legal success. For years, members of this board have stated that the RO plant's 35 million dollar cost is just too expensive." Mr. Hosmer said that looking at a 200 million dollar cost, the expenditure of just \$35 million to provide 25,000 people with water that is completely free of industrial contaminants with no rate increases, begins to look pretty attractive. Mr. Hosmer asked "well, commissioners, what do you have to say now with the county looking at a 200 million dollar price tag? In the last few weeks, Brunswick County's actions have blown apart your arguments against the need for the RO plant and its cost. You are now standing on your own. And what you are standing on just may be quicksand." Mr. Hosmer said he does not understand why you are trying to dismantle a popular project that has been proven cost effective, has been completely permitted by the State of North Carolina, the discharge permits have upheld in the courts and that will bring safe drinking water to 25,000 H2GO customers, he asked, "why are you trying to throw away the millions of dollars already invested in this project."

Susan Rutledge, 2314 Kingbird Bend, Compass Pointe: Ms. Rutledge said she has only been here two weeks so she is a new resident, she said she has been looking at the area for six months, she said prior to moving here she lived in Rockland County, NY where she was director of operations for the county and worked on the board of commissioners, she said she was familiar with a lot of the issues that are being discussed here. Ms. Rutledge said that she was going to read a letter from Denise Ann Wright who is a potential resident of this county, she read; "Dear Chairman Gerken, My husband and I strongly support moving forward with the H2GO reverse osmosis (RO) system to provide uncontaminated aquifer water to Leland and the northeastern area of Brunswick County. We applaud the H2GO Commissioner's foresight six years ago in planning for an alternate and cost-effective water source that can now protect some 25,000 people from the many contaminants in the Cape Fear River. I retired from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in Washington, D.C. after serving over 27 years as an Environmental Protection Specialist and Policy Advisor in EPA's hazardous waste, pollution prevention, and industrial and toxic chemicals programs. I am familiar with the known or likely health risks posed by many of these chemicals, including a range of perfluorinated chemicals, Gen-X and 1,4 dioxane that have been detected at unacceptable levels in the Cape Fear River. I am also very familiar with the long, federal regulatory process needed to take action on such chemicals. My husband retired as a civil engineer from Fairfax Water, the potable water provider in northern Virginia. We were extremely dismayed to learn about the Cape Fear water contamination issues in the summer of 2017 after we had signed a contract to build our home at Compass Pointe, in Leland. After we move into our home this spring, we will need to purchase bottled spring water for drinking and cooking until the H2GO reverse osmosis system is completed. Although we currently eat out daily in northern Virginia, we won't be doing so in Leland and Wilmington where contaminated water is used or served. We expect the water contamination issue will have an adverse impact on many restaurants and businesses as a result. We have discouraged others in northern Virginia from moving to Leland, Wilmington and

Brunswick County until the water contamination issues are adequately addressed. We ask H2GO to complete its reverse osmosis system as soon as possible to provide safe drinking water to its customers, who deserve nothing less. We should not have to wait for the lengthy process underway in Brunswick County to study and build the appropriate water treatment system to address the ever growing Cape Fear River contamination issues. Sincerely, Denise and Doug Wright”

Debbie Vaccaro, 2438 West Oak Bridge Way, Compass Pointe Ms. Vaccaro asked, which should be the most important factor in securing clean water, politics, money or health? She said if politics came first on the agenda then that means there is very little caring for the health and welfare of the people in the area being affected by the contaminated water. Ms. Vaccaro said if money was the first choice that would mean there is still very little caring for the people who are paying twice for water, once to H2GO that may be contaminated and the other to bottled water companies so we can stay healthy, she said bottled water is not cheap and there are people that cannot afford bottled water, she asked “are they expendable”. Mr. Vaccaro talked about those who put RO systems in their homes, she said that is pretty expensive and not everyone can afford to do that. Ms. Vaccaro said that if health was chosen first, that would be the winner, she said that health is more important than anything else, she said our water must come from a cleaner source than the Cape Fear River. Ms. Vaccaro said “there is no reason on earth that this should not be a priority for all involved.”

Glen Thearling, 3127 Thistlewood Lane: Mr. Thearling said that he was concerned when listening to the board that he has not heard anyone from the board come and say they have talked to the county, that they understand what the costs are going to be to the individual customers and that they accept what their sample results are for everything that is above the health advisory levels. Mr. Thearling said there needs to be a listing of all the chemicals in the water that are above the health safety levels, he said if it is coming from the EPA that chemicals are above acceptable levels we should tell our customers. Mr. Thearling said we should also be telling our customers that we are actively representing them to the county and demanding to know what they are doing about the levels that are above health safety levels. Mr. Thearling said he is not hearing anything coming he said we should be demanding what are they doing, not hearing anything coming back, talking to the county officials or the H2GO officials that represent us, and say what those levels are and what plan is going forward with those, he said levels of 1-4 dioxane have been going up over the last several months, he said all he is hearing is “it’s getting better” . Mr. Thearling asked what are we doing about it, he said New Hanover County has put in equipment that basically reduces, not eliminate 1-4 dioxane, he said that Brunswick County has done nothing in that area yet. Mr. Thearling said that H2GO buys 10 percent of Brunswick County’s water, he said we are their best customer, he said we should have the best relationship with the county, he said we are paying the county \$20 million to pay for the infrastructure for the water that we buy, he said the regional solution is not working and we are not hearing anything from our commissioners and from the county as to how that is going to be phased in production. Mr. Thearling said this board should be our biggest advocate in pushing the county to go forward with a solution, but all they are saying is “we are looking into it”. Mr. Thearling said when New Hanover County came up with their cost for an RO plant they listed breakdowns of what it would cost their individual customers per month, he said we should be demanding the same thing.

Chairman Gerken said that he received an email from Ann Hardy, of Brunswick County this week, inviting all of H2GO's commissioners to attend a meeting on March 19th at the county complex to discuss the results of their studies done by CM Smith and to talk about plans for a regional solution to supply water in Brunswick County, he said this is a public meeting and anyone can attend.

Gene Aversa, 1175 Greensview Circle, Magnolia Greens: Mr. Aversa asked the board, what are these regional solutions? Is there a specific timeline when the solutions will be identified and is there a specific timeline when will that be put in place?

Chairman Gerken said there will be meeting at the county on March 19th, he said everyone will be made aware of the exact time and location.

OLD BUSINESS:

Commissioner McCoy: Discussion on removing prohibition imposed at the December 4th 2017 meeting by resolution which stated; "(e) Do not discuss, or allow other staff to discuss, any matters of the sanitary district with the media, and to direct all media inquiries regarding Brunswick Regional Water and Sewer H2GO to Commissioner Jeff Gerken". Commissioner McCoy said he felt like that creates a hostile workplace and he did not see a reason for it to be there, he said that he would like to see this section deleted from the resolution. Chairman Gerken said that we are now in litigation and there many issues that we are facing. Commissioner McCoy said the resolution says that no employee can talk to anybody and everybody has an opinion. Chairman Gerken said employees should not discuss certain things especially things that pertain to the litigation or the transfer of the assets to Belville on November 28th 2017. Commissioner McCoy asked if Chairman Gerken had ever heard any employee talking out of line on anything like that. Chairman Gerken said that there were things that were done behind the scenes that at least he and Commissioner Trombley were not aware of, he said there were people that went to the Town of Belville and arranged for the transfer of our assets in the event that the election did not turn out the way they wanted it too, he said we need to be particular about everything that goes out in particularly when we are in the middle of litigation, he said there have been things that have been said that are simply not true. Chairman Gerken said an example was during a meeting in one of our communities where these statements were made; the permit for water from the Cape Fear River is 110 mgpd, we are at 82 to 84 mgpd, Commissioner McCoy said that he was the one who said that. Chairman Gerken said that is not true, he said the Lower Cape Fear Water and Sewer Authority could not transfer 82 to 84 mgpd if they had to because the pipeline will not handle that volume of water, he said via email to Don Betz he was able to determine the average take from the river from Pender County, Brunswick County and New Hanover County is about 25 to 26 mgpd and the peak is in the mid 40 mgpd, he said they are in the process of building a 54" transfer line. Chairman Gerken also added that McKim and Creed has projected that by 2040 the take from the river will peak about 70 mgpd. Chairman Gerken said that there was also a statement made that the Black Creek Aquifer was as big as Lake Erie, he said the area may be as big but not as deep, he said Lake Erie is not just 20 feet deep and filled with sandstone like the Black Creek Aquifer. Chairman Gerken said another area of concern is public information requests, he asked one of the attorneys present to comment on whether or not it is normal for a public utility of this size to have public records requests met by the public information officer? Mr. Coble said that historically any public information request that came to the district that he was aware of did come across his desk, he said he did not prepare them but the information was provided for his review before they went out. Chairman

Gerken asked if that was not a reasonable request, to have all public information requests to go through Mr. Coble or Mr. Edes. Mr. Edes said that he agreed, he said in every town that he had represented, he at least saw the public records requests, he said it is a legal requirement to respond to the public records request, he said you want to make sure of the nature of the request and that you comply with the law and also that you don't inadvertently disclose something that is not a public record such as attorney-client communications, personnel records, criminal investigations and things of that nature, he said the attorney should catch that and not allow those things to be disclosed. Chairman Gerken asked Commissioner McCoy if he would like to make a motion to modify the resolution, he said he was willing to modify it to allow Mr. Wittkofsky to put out notices of meetings, boil water advisories, etc., he would be fine with that. Commissioner Trombley said that she had come up with something; "staff is not to discuss impending court actions or records requests and to direct all inquiries of such by the media and others to Chairman Gerken or the attorneys". Chairman Gerken said there have been some false statement given to the media, he said we should at least monitor the requests from the media for comments and perhaps have Mr. Walker review everything that goes out to the media even things that are not related to the litigation or the transfer of assets. Mr. Walker said he was willing to do that. Mr. Edes said he wanted to make something clear to the public and the board, he said so far he has responded on behalf of the district in conjunction with Mr. Coble to four public records requests, he said three of them were staff oriented type questions, staff had the information to help respond, he said they corresponded closely on the contents of those responses and before the responses were sent they were cross checked for accuracy and approval by staff to make that they were accurate and that staff was comfortable with the contents of it, he said that Mr. Walker provided him with the advertisement for the Public Information Officer position, he said there is at least 18 delineated duties for that position, he said as far as he knows, none of those duties have been delegated to Mr. Coble or himself. Mr. Edes said he has not been tasked of taking over the role of the public information officer's position. Chairman Gerken admitted that the wording that was in the resolution of Dec 4th was perhaps a little too restrictive. Commissioner McCoy said that he did not have a problem with delaying the exact wording until next month. Chairman Gerken tasked Commissioner McCoy with putting together a proposed motion for next month's meeting. Mr. Edes said the resolution as written pertains to official statements on behalf of the district, he said it does not restrain individuals from speaking their personal opinions, only to the extent that it will be held out as a statement of the district. Chairman Gerken said we need to alert the media that may be asking those questions that any statements from people without authorization represents their personal feelings. Mr. Edes said he wanted to make it clear that the district is not implicating the first amendment on peoples personal feelings. Mr. Edes said that Commissioner McCoy could send his motion to Mr. Walker so as not to violate the open meetings law, and Mr. Walker could notify the other commissioners that he has the motion available and they could come and look at it individually.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Deed of Dedication: Compass Pointe, Phase 17 Section 2; Mr. Walker stated that Mr. Coble has reviewed and approved paperwork, he said the infrastructure has been inspected and approved by the state. **Commissioner Jenkins made the motion to approve the Deed of Dedication for Compass Pointe, Phase 17 Section 2 as presented; Commissioner McCoy seconded and the motion carried unanimously.**

Deed of Dedication: Compass Pointe, Phase 17 Section 3; Mr. Walker stated that all the paperwork is in order and has been reviewed and approved by Mr. Coble and the infrastructure

has been inspected and certified and ready to be dedicated to the district. **Commissioner Trombley made the motion to approve the Deed of Dedication for Compass Pointe, Phase 17 Section 3 as presented; Commissioner McCoy seconded and the motion carried unanimously.**

Deed of Dedication: Lift Station at Waterford: Mr. Walker said that this lift station has been in service since 2005 but was never formally deeded and dedicated to the district, he said he was just clearing up this issue. **Commissioner Beer made the motion to approve the deed of dedication for the Lift Station at Waterford, Commissioner Jenkins seconded and the motion carried unanimously.**

Adair Park Cash Bond for Plat Approval: Mr. Walker said Adair Park is a new subdivision behind Wal-Mart, he said that everything has been installed, he said they have not been able to install the roads and it has been our policy in the past to not accept the deed and dedication until the roads have paved so that we can have access to our facilities. Mr. Walker said he made a proposal to Thompson Corder, the developer, he said they posted a cash bond in the amount of \$121,404.80 for the outstanding pavement so that we could sign off on the final plat so that they can continue forward, he said they expect to have the paving done possibly by next week. Mr. Walker said if it is the boards pleasure we can accept that cash and bond sign off on the final plat, then we will have the deed of dedication at the next board meeting. **Commissioner Jenkins motioned, Commissioner Trombley seconded, the motion carried unanimously.**

NEWWTP Expansion Discussion: Mr. Walker said that at the last board meeting he brought up the last partnership meeting with Brunswick County, H2GO, Navassa, Leland and Northwest are going have to expand the county's Northeast Water Treatment Plant, he said they first proposed to expand by 2.5 mgpd, he said we had committed to having 1.2 mgpd capacity in the next plant expansion just for H2GO for the next 20 years, he said that figure was not received well by some of the partners, he said the county's engineers came back and proposed a 1.65 mgpd plant expansion, he said that still has not been received well by the other partners. Mr. Walker said as of last week the other partners have not given the county any indication as to what they would like to see in their allotted capacity. Mr. Walker said the county asked him what he thought of an 875,000 gpd plant expansion. Mr. Walker responded that he was not in favor of that because he thought it was shortsighted. Mr. Walker said they are waiting on the other partners to speak up so they can make a decision on which way to go. Mr. Walker said they will have another partnership meeting here at H2GO in April. Mr. Walker said that all the partners have an equal vote.

US 17 Interceptor South and Hewett Burton Road Regional Pump Station-RFP Response and Recommendation: Mr. Walker said that back in October we had advertised for Engineering Services Proposals for the next regional pump station and gravity sewer system, he said we now have under construction now, a gravity sewer and regional pump station, that will serve basically from the Willoughby's restaurant down to Old Lanvale Road to the Sunny Point Railroad. Mr. Walker said this project will take care of some bottle neck situations that we have on Old Lanvale Road and to open up that corridor along highway 17. Mr. Walker said that he has a number of developers that are in need of sewer systems south of Sunny Point Railroad, down to Hewett-Burton Road, he said the master plan that he has put together, there is another regional pump station situated somewhere near US 17 and Hewett-Burton Road, he said this proposed project would provide sewer service to that area. Mr. Walker said the reason that he is pushing for regional pump stations is because we can do one pump station and serve several

developments rather than having four or five new pump stations to take care of forever. Mr. Walker said the project was advertised in October and we had one responder in November and that was The Wooten Company. Mr. Walker asked for board recommendation approval of the executive director to enter into negotiations and ask The Wooten Company for a proposed contract for this design work, he said this would not commit us to anything. Chairman Gerken asked how hard do we reach to other engineering firms, Mr. Walker said it's advertised, it's put on our website, just like we always have. Chairman Gerken said it concerned him that it always seemed to come down to The Wooten Company. Mr. Walker said that if we reject this RFP then we would have to re-advertise. Chairman Gerken stated that he was afraid that the board was getting too far into Mr. Walker's business of managing H2GO and that the board relies on Mr. Walker for his judgment, however he said that he would like to see other engineering firms. Chairman Gerken called for a motion; **Commissioner Jenkins motioned to accept the RFP response from The Wooten Company, and to move onto the next state and ask The Wooten Company for a contract proposal. Commissioner McCoy seconded and the motion carried unanimously.**

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Lane said that we had budgeted last year for the new Sensus meter reading equipment, he said it came in Monday, he said all the training has been set up and all the software, he said we can start integrating this new system, he said the meters stay the same, but the electronics that hooks to the meters will change. Mr. Lane said we will turn in some of the old electronics and get a discount. Mr. Lane said it will probably take two or three years to go through our entire system with the change out. Mr. Walker said with the new MXU's it will give us the ability to read meters by the way of towers, via the office remotely and get daily usage. Mr. Lane said that we are getting a free propagation study that will tell us how many towers we will need for our service area.

FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT:

Check Register January 24, 2018 through February 15, 2018: There were no comments concerning the check register.

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER'S REPORT:

Mr. Wittkofsky was not present.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

Mr. Coble stated he had nothing to report in open session.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion on correspondence with Ann Hardy of Brunswick County concerning water issues (Jeff Gerken): Commissioner Gerken said it is clear that the county is not sitting on their thumbs, they are actively working on coming up with a solution, he said he has been communicating with Ann Hardy of the county, he said that conversation does continue, he said she has invited our commissioners and residents to a meeting on March 19th to discuss the results of the studies that

the county has been doing. Chairman Gerken pointed out a story that was in the Brunswick Beacon today which stated the RO system begins testing in the county that will remove GenX from the water supply, he said they already have a pilot plant installed that is looking at the ability of a different type of a RO plant to remove GenX from the water, he said it was a low-pressure RO system. Commissioner Beer said that when RO systems were first introduced 30 to 50 years ago, the pressure required to operate them put the water under 500 lbs. per square inch of pressure, he said over the years that pressure has come down to 200 to 250 lbs. per square inch depending on the type of membrane and the type of contaminate you are looking to remove, he said these systems are operating at lower pressures of 150 to 200 lbs. per square inch, he said that is important because the lower pressures require less capital investment to operate, he said that is the only advantage, they still operate the same way, basically micro filters take out very small molecules, he said with any RO certain small molecules or gas can get through the filters. Chairman Gerken commented that the Black Creek and Lower Pee Dee Aquifers have contaminants. Commissioner Beer said there is selenium, chromium and other heavy metals in the aquifers. Commissioner McCoy stated that these are in trace amounts. Commissioner Beer said they are all toxic, he said that Reverse Osmosis will take out at 96% on average which leaves 4%, he said if you do the math on the water analysis that we have on the wells, that will still leave quite a bit in parts per trillion, he said even if you ran the ppt of carcinogenics in bottled you would find them in there, he said there is no water out there that is completely pure. Chairman Gerken said that levels of GenX that we are seeing in the water right now are a small fraction of the 140 ppt that the state has said is a safe level for an infant to drink throughout their entire life. Commissioner McCoy said if you look at all the chemicals it is almost two times the state limit, he said 1,4 dioxane is 20 times more. Chairman Gerken stated that the water from the county meets all state and federal water quality standards, he said the level for 1,4 dioxane is below the detection level, he said the limit that has been put together as an advisory limit by the EPA and is not a limit that is enforced by the EPA. Commissioner McCoy made the point that he was not looking for a regional solution which will take years to complete, he said the H2GO RO system would take 14 to 16 months. Chairman Gerken said that he was looking for a regional solution, but he was speaking for himself. Commissioner Trombley asked Mr. Walker if he had a list of contaminants in the well water because she would like a copy of that. Mr. Walker said they are posted on the website. Commissioner Beer said they are in the permit also. Commissioner Trombley said at last month's meeting there was a discussion about doing some additional testing for nafion and other fluoropolymer compounds, she asked if there has been any discussion on that increased testing, she said we discussed decreasing the amount of testing that H2GO is doing, but the county was not testing for some of the things that we were testing for. Mr. Walker said he brought copies for the commissioners' of his email correspondence on January 29th to John Nichols concerning the testing, he reads; "Good morning John, hope all is well, H2GO has been sampling and testing our finished water at the point of entry at our Buckeye Road meter vault. Typically we've been running the full complement of EPA 537 compounds along with GenX. We have also been testing for the two nafion by-product compounds and the six new PFCECA's identified by Dr. Knappe via a non-targeted high resolution mass-spectrometer method developed by Dr. Striner with the EPA research lab. Recently we've also been testing for 1,4 dioxane. Gel Labs in Charleston has been our testing lab. I posed the question to our new board of commissioners as to continuing or not the sampling and testing program. For now we will continue on a bi-monthly sampling basis, however if the county were to expand the sampling and testing to include the above described analytes, the H2GO board would likely discontinue water quality testing. What are your thoughts on the county expanding its sampling and testing program to include the nafion by-products, six PFCECA's and 1,4 dioxane. If you have any questions or want to discuss please

contact me.” Mr. Walker said he has not received a response back from the county. Chairman Gerken said he would write a note to Ann Hardy and ask her to push that.

INFORMAL DISCUSSION:

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS ISSUES OF CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS PURSUANT TO NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (5) AND LITIGATION ISSUES PURSUANT TO NCGS143-318.11 (a) (3):

Commissioner Beer made the motion for the board to enter into executive session to discuss issues of contract negotiations pursuant to NCGS143-318.11 (a) (5) and litigation issues pursuant to NCGS143-318.11 (a) (3); Commissioner Trombley seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Jenkins made the motion for the board to resume open session; Commissioner Beer seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

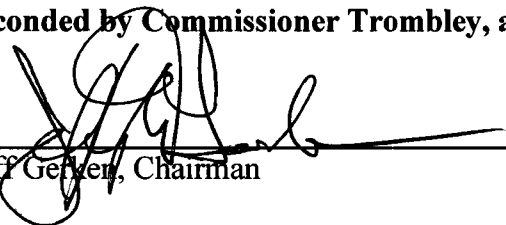
Chairman Gerken said there was no action to be taken as a result of Executive Session.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING:

March 20, 2018 will be the next regular meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

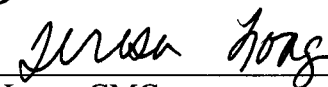
Commissioner Jenkins made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 pm, it was seconded by Commissioner Trombley, and the motion carried unanimously.



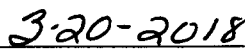
Jeff Gerken, Chairman



Bill Beer, Secretary



Teresa Long, CMC
Clerk to the Board



Date of Approval