

CUMBERLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JUNE 2, 2009, 4:00PM
SPECIAL MEETING TO RECEIVE THE COUNTY-WIDE WATER STUDY

PRESENT: Chairman Jeannette Council
Vice Chairman Billy R. King
Commissioner Breeden Blackwell
Commissioner Kenneth Edge
Commissioner Marshall Faircloth
Commissioner Jimmy Keefe
Commissioner Ed Melvin
James Martin, County Manager
Juanita Pilgrim, Deputy County Manager
Amy Cannon, Asst. County Manager
Grainger Barrett, County Attorney
Deputy Clerk Marie Colgan
Deputy Clerk Designate Candice White
Clerk Marsha Fogle
Mayor Tony Chavonne, City of Fayetteville
Councilman Wesley Meredith
Councilman D.J. Haire
Councilman Bobby Hurst
Councilman Ted Mohn
City Manager Dale Iman
City Attorney Karen McDonald
PWC Chairman Wilson Lacy
Public Works Commissioner Luis Oliveria
Public Works Commissioner Terri Union
PWC Manager Steve Blanchard
Joe Glass, PWC
Tom Cooney, County Utilities Director
Sally Shutt, Communications Manager Designate

Chairman Council called the meeting to order. James Martin, County Manager, noted the purpose of the meeting is to receive the county-wide water feasibility study. He introduced Public Utilities Director Tom Cooney who introduced Hiram Marziano from the Marziano & McGougan Firm, who, along with Koonce, Noble & Associates, Inc. prepared the report.

Mr. Marziano reviewed the report. He said the study centered around analyzing the overall feasibility of a county-wide water system, cost, identifying a long-term water supply source and to recommendations for an operational and organization scheme for the water system. He said the study includes all areas located outside of existing municipal influence areas (MIA's) and located within the boundaries of Cumberland County. The county areas lying outside of the MIA's were divided into regional areas (East Central, Northeast, Southeast and Southwest) based on census tract and township

areas. The report confirms that a central water system could be developed on an area by area basis. However, it would depend upon adequate financing once an area achieved the proper population density in order to keep the user fees reasonable.

Mr. Marziano said that there are adequate water supplies available in the County, which would avoid the need for the County to develop its own county water supply source. PWC, of course, is already in the county and provides water in Fayetteville as well as in some other populated areas in the county. Other sources that could provide water are Harnett County and the Lower Cape Fear Water & Sewer Authority.

Mr. Marziano reviewed various federal and state funding sources. He advised the Board(s) that federal stimulus money is now available and if the County is ready to move forward, applications should be submitted fairly soon. He said the stimulus money is likely to be available for only the next 18 months and the competition to receive the money will be great.

Mr. Marziano noted that the Southwest area in Cumberland County should be the first area of consideration for water extension. He suggested that a Steering Committee be formed comprised of citizens in the Southwest target area to assist the Board in moving forward with the development of a water system in that area. He said that USDA financing over a 40 year period, packaged with some grant funding, could make the average water bill feasible.

Mr. Marziano suggested that the County begin talks immediately with PWC and others regarding a water supply. In addition, he stated we should also be talking with USDA and NCDENR for the purpose of beginning the application process for a selected project.

Some decisions that will have to be made are as follows:

Mandatory sign-ups or a “dry tap” minimum charge;

Do you want to use county funds until the system becomes self-supporting;

Approach this project with a “view to the future”, understanding this project may take 20-40 years to complete.

Wilson Lacy, PWC Chairman, said PWC is committed to working with the County, with the blessing of the City of Fayetteville, to do what is right for the citizens in the community.

Mayor Chavonne said it was important that the City and County work together on community projects.

James Martin, County Manager, inquired of the Board of Commissioners its consensus in moving forward. The consensus of the Board of Commissioners was to begin talks with

PWC, the City of Fayetteville and others regarding providing potable water to the citizens.

Mr. Martin, County Manager, noted that Dee Freeman, Secretary of DENR, may drop by the meeting of the County's Safe Water Task Force on Wednesday, June 3, 2009.

Mr. Marziano said his firm would be available to help the County to move forward with its application to USDA for stimulus money and/or other services as needed.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 5:00PM.

Marsha Fogle, Clerk to the Board