

The Agenda Setting Meeting of the Oconee County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, February 27, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. in the Commission Meeting Chambers at the Oconee County Courthouse.

Members Present:

Chairman Melvin Davis
Commissioner Jim Luke
Commissioner Donald H. Norris
Commissioner Margaret Hale
Commissioner Chuck Horton

Staff Present:

Administrative Officer Alan Theriault
County Attorney Daniel Haygood
County Clerk Gina M. Lindsey

Jeff Benko, Finance Director
Paula Nedza, IT Director
Wayne Provost, Strategic Plan Director
Gary Dodd, Utility Director
Chris Thomas, Assistant Utility Director

Media Present:

Vinnie Williams, The Oconee Enterprise
Ingunn Mercer, The Oconee Leader

Chairman Davis began the meeting with a Moment of Silence. Commissioner Hale led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Future Water Sources: Mike Bledsoe of The Engineering Group, Inc. reported on their review of the data and engineering studies performed on the Jacks Creek Drainage Basin. Mr. Bledsoe stated the scope of his review was to verify the Jacks Creek basin could yield 12 – 18 mgd with no impact to Hard Labor Creek (Option 1) and 12 – 18 mgd with river diversion (Option 2); provide an estimate of probable cost for each option; and, identify the potential impacts associated with the project.

The results of Option 1 determined a safe yield of 12.4 mgd without diversion and 18 mgd with a 5.2 mgd diversion, a surface area of 1,355 acres and a normal pool of 720 MSL. Mr. Bledsoe said Option 1 would impact 528 acres of wetlands, 91,200 linear feet of stream, 3,900 linear feet of roadway and numerous properties. He estimated the probable cost of Option 1 to be \$145.3 million, not including land cost.

The results of Option 2 determined a safe yield of 12 mgd with a 4.9 mgd diversion and 18 mgd with a 10.9 mgd diversion, a surface area of 476 acres and a normal pool of 700 MSL. Option 2 would impact 135 acres of wetlands, 38,600 linear feet of stream and 540 linear feet of roadway. Mr. Bledsoe noted there would be less impact on the property owners. He estimated the probable cost of Option 2 to be \$99.7 million, not including land cost.

In summary, Mr. Bledsoe stated Jacks Creek can provide the required safe yield. He noted, however, a significant percentage of the cost is for wetland mitigation, land costs are not included in the estimated probable costs, the project is not located in Oconee County and Option 2 will impact the current Hard Labor Creek Project.

After brief discussion, the Board opened the floor for public comment. Kate McDaniel inquired about the distance of Jacks Creek from Oconee County. Walton County resident Robby Bowen spoke on the valuing of mitigation banking. Mike Power expressed concern with continuing the use of groundwater wells as a water alternative. Walton County resident Tal Thompson spoke on the cost estimates for the Jacks Creek project and suggested partnering with the City of Monroe. Norm Grayson remarked Oconee County should build the largest reservoir it could afford. Jerry Studdard said the population estimates should be more conservative.

There being no further discussion, on motion by Commissioner Luke and second by Commissioner Horton, the Board voted unanimously to postpone the vote until the March 6, 2007 Board of Commissioners meeting.

Comprehensive Plan Community Assessment and Community Participation Plan: On motion by Commissioner Horton and second by Commissioner Hale, the Board unanimously approved a resolution to forward the Comprehensive Plan Community Assessment and the Community Participation Program Plan, as presented by Strategic and Long Range Planning Director Wayne Provost, to the Northeast Georgia Regional Development Center and the Georgia Department of Community Affairs for approval. **See Documentation in Ordinances and Resolutions Book No. 17.**

Oconee Community Complex – Electric Service Agreements: Administrative Officer Alan Theriault presented a proposed agreement with Walton EMC to provide underground electric service to the new Oconee Community Complex. Mr. Theriault noted Walton EMC is also requesting a right-of-way easement on the Herman C. Michael Park property to move one or two electric poles that would be required for the project.

By consensus, these items will be placed on the Consent Agenda for March 6, 2007.

March 6, 2007 Agenda: The agenda for the March 6, 2007 meeting was read by County Clerk Gina M. Lindsey.

Executive Session: On motion by Commissioner Luke and second by Commissioner Horton, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn into Executive Session to discuss land acquisition and pending litigation. No action was taken.

On motion by Commissioner Luke and second by Commissioner Horton, the Board adjourned Executive Session.

On motion by Commissioner Luke and second by Commissioner Horton, the Board adjourned back into Regular Session.

There being no further business, on motion by Commissioner Horton and second by Commissioner Hale, the meeting was adjourned.

County Clerk

Chairman

Date