

A Called Meeting of the Oconee County Board of Commissioners was held on Monday, February 13, 2006, at 7:00 p.m., in the Commission Meeting Chambers at the Oconee County Courthouse.

Members Present:

Chairman Melvin Davis
Commissioner Jim Luke
Commissioner Don Norris
Commissioner Margaret S. Hale
Commissioner Chuck Horton

Staff Present:

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

Gary Dodd, Utility Director
Chris Thomas, Assistant Utility Director
Jeff Benko, Finance Director
Wayne Provost, Strategic Planning

Media Present:

Billy Vaughn, The Oconee Enterprise

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

Water Source Alternatives: Jordan, Jones and Goulding Vice-President Wayne Haynie reported on water supply needs and alternative water sources for the future of Oconee County. Mr. Haynie said the current water supply is projected to meet the county's water needs until 2020. By 2050, 18 MGD of additional need is projected.

While assisting Oconee County with water challenges, Jordan, Jones and Goulding looked at various water source alternatives over the years. These included the expansion of the High Shoals Impoundment on the Apalachee River (\$88 million), withdrawal from Lake Oconee (\$88 million), the Hard Labor Creek Project in Walton County (\$110 million) and a potential reservoir on Barnett Shoals Road (\$55 million).

As Oconee County considered a plan to partner with Walton County in a reservoir and treatment facility on Hard Labor Creek, a potential reservoir site was located off the Oconee River on Barnett Shoals Road within Oconee County. Jordan, Jones & Goulding performed a yield analysis and determined the reservoir would generate a daily flow of 12 MGD and 18 MGD on peak days. Mr. Haynie stated the cost for construction of a reservoir and treatment facility at this location would be less and the cost per gallon would be lower than the other alternatives.

In partnership with Jordan, Jones and Goulding, Schnabel Engineering performed a geotechnical subsurface investigation. Engineer Dan Magill concluded the site is suitable for construction of an earthen dam based on the geotechnical investigations performed as part of the preliminary investigation.

Finance Director Jeff Benko reported on the financial stability of Oconee County and the Oconee County Utility Department. He presented a recommended financial plan with a combination of three sources for funding the project - GEFA Loan Program, Lease Purchase Program through ACCG and Revenue Bonds.

Citizen comments were heard after the presentation. Kate McDaniel questioned the quality of water in the Oconee River. Wayne Haynie said Athens-Clarke County is in the process of improving their treatment plants and samples show improvement already. Gaynor Bracewell asked about the difference in cost between sand filtration and membrane filtration. Project Manager David Haas explained the cost is comparable. Mr. Bracewell also asked how much clay is available for the reservoir core. Engineer Dan Magill stated the studies show there is a good quantity. Jake Wells asked about environmental and residential impact. Mr. Haynie said the entire basin is contained in the site. There are no houses to be torn down and no running streams would be affected.

Final comments were made by Wayne Haynie who explained the next step would be to apply for a Surface Water Withdrawal Permit.

On motion by Commissioner Norris and second by Commissioner Luke, the Board voted unanimously for the Chairman to notify the Walton County Board of Commissioners and the Walton County Water and Sewer Authority of Oconee County's decision to withdraw from participation in the Hard Labor Creek Project.

On motion by Commissioner Horton and second by Commissioner Hale, the Board voted unanimously for the Chairman and the County Attorney to begin the acquisition process for the property currently being reviewed for the construction of a reservoir located on Barnett Shoals Road.

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

County Clerk

Chairman

Date