

**CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG UTILITIES  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
April 18, 2013**

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Utilities Advisory Committee met Thursday, April 18, 2013, 2:30 pm at 4222 Westmont Drive, Charlotte, North Carolina.

Members Present: Jim Duke, Jim Merrifield, Pride Patton, Frank McMahan, Ron Charbonneau

Members Absent: Eric Sieckmann, Ralph Messera

Staff Present:	Barry Gullet	Director
	Barry Shearin	Chief Engineer
	Regina Cousar	Quality Assurance Manager
	Karen Whichard	Community Relations Manager
	Randy Hawkins	Water Treatment Operations Manager
	Rusty Campbell	Water Quality Program Administrator
	Will Rice	Engineering Project Coordinator

**Safety Minute**

Bites and Stings – Do not open a snake bite and try to suck out the venom; this will bring more harm than good. Do not try to capture the snake after it attacks.

**Minutes**

A motion was made by Ron Charbonneau, and seconded by Frank McMahan, to approve the March 2013 minutes.

**Tree Farm Project**

- McDowell Creek has a little more than 100 acres of unused land available, which is classified as a critical watershed protection area for Mountain Island Lake.
- This project is a potential revenue source for the unused land.
- The property was originally acquired for watershed protection with the intent to use it for wastewater reuse to reduce the amount of phosphorous and nitrogen that enters Mountain Island Lake. A tree farm may limit the potential for using reclaimed water on this part of the site.
- Options for the unused land include:
  - leaving the land unused (natural conditions)
  - solar power generation (not financially feasible)
  - traditional farming (limited flexibility, limited revenue)
  - tree farming of shortleaf pine
- Currently, it's not a good habitat with invasive species and there is no revenue potential if left unused.
- Revenue Analysis – cost is approximately \$40,900; potential revenue would be approximately \$600,000 at final harvest. All revenues from harvest will be returned to CMUD.
- Forest Service will handle the site prep.

## Water Treatment

- 80% from Mountain Island Lake / 20% from Catawba River
- Clearwells hold treated water.
- Reservoirs hold untreated water (500-600 million gallon capacity).
- Three pipes convey water from Mountain Island to reservoirs at Franklin WTP.
- Vest Water Treatment Plant was built in the 1920s.
- Property next to Vest is occupied by non-profit groups, but still owned by CMUD.
- In terms of treatment capacity, CMUD currently has enough to satisfy existing average and peak demands.
- CMUD uses electricity pumping water, so we participate in Duke's PowerShare program and utilize time-of-use rates to keep costs low.
- Regulatory changes that are taking place include:
  - Air Quality
    - New emission standards will require CMUD to upgrade generators to new standards
  - Annual Drinking Water Quality Report
    - EPA approved change to allow electronic delivery in lieu of U.S. Mail, which will reduce costs to CMUD
  - Lead and Copper Rule is being revised and tightened
    - Will require CMUD to optimize its treatment process to reduce corrosion within the customer's plumbing
  - Disinfection Byproduct Rule
    - Chlorine used to disinfect drinking water can react with organic carbon compounds in the water to form trihalomethanes (THMs) and other byproducts
    - Rule is intended to reduce potential cancer and other health risks from disinfection byproducts in drinking water
    - A Distribution System Evaluation identified areas in the system with the highest potential DBP concentrations
    - Generally, the outlying areas have the highest potential DBP concentrations
    - Some cities have had to change the chemicals used to disinfect their water because of this rule
    - CMUD has changed the treatment plant process to reduce the time exposure of the chlorine which limits the formation of the byproducts
  - Revised Total Coliform Rule
    - Established limits for coliforms and requires public notification if test results are confirmed positive
    - Public notification is required when E. Coli is found or the water system fails to conduct assessment/corrective action
    - CMUD currently tests water in public areas such as schools, shopping stores, fire stations, etc. There are approximately 600-700 testing sites throughout the county.
  - Unregulated Contaminates Monitoring Rule 3
    - EPA will publish a list of potential contaminants for regulation
    - CMUD is periodically asked to screen for the contaminants
    - Contaminants in this round of screening include hormones and metals
- Fluoride has been added to CMUD water since 1949.

- CMUD communicates often with City Council and other elected officials about the program
- Medical community (Health Department & CDC) is in support of fluoridation
- Fluoride concentration in the treated drinking water is 0.7 milligrams per liter
- Partnership for Safe Water
  - Four phases in program – CMUD is in third phase currently and working toward the fourth (highest) phase
  - Franklin Water Treatment Plant received the Director’s Award in recognition of their high achievements

### **Budget**

- CMUD has received the majority of numbers from City Budget & Evaluation Department for our cost allocation for services provided by the City’s general fund departments.
- The recommended water and sewer rate increase is \$2.14/month increase for a typical 7ccf customer.
- CMUD has decreased projections for Tier 3 and Tier 4 consumption for FY2014.
- There is no change proposed for the billing fee.
- The availability fee is based on recovering 20% of debt service and is proposed to be increased incrementally in FY14.

### **Future Agenda Items**

- Wastewater Treatment
- Industrial Use Program
- Delinquencies

Adjourned at 3:40 pm  
Karen Baldwin