

PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 27, 2023
8:30 AM

Present: Ronna Rowe Garrett, Chairwoman
 Donald L. Porter, Vice Chairman
 Evelyn O. Shaw, Secretary
 Christopher G. Davis, Treasurer

Others Present: Timothy L. Bryant, CEO/General Manager
 Adam Lindsay, Assistant City Manager
 Deno Hondros, City Council Liaison

Absent: Chancer McLaughlin, Hope Mills Interim Town Mgr.
 Jimmy Keefe, Cumberland County Liaison
 Media

I. REGULAR BUSINESS

Chairwoman Ronna Rowe Garrett called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Donald Porter motioned to approve the agenda as presented by staff unless there be necessary corrections.

Commissioner Evelyn Shaw motioned to amend the agenda by removing item III.D from the consent agenda and placing it on the regular agenda as item IV for discussion and renumbering the remaining agenda items V through X.

Commissioner Donald Porter withdrew his motion. And the motion for amending the agenda was then seconded by Commissioner Davis, and unanimously approved.

II. PRESENTATION

Presentation to AWWA Water for People

Presented by: Carolyn Justice-Hinson, Communications and Community Relations Officer

Ms. Justice Hinson stated since 2020 we have held candy gram campaigns for our employees. The candy grams not only help employees show appreciation and recognize our co-workers, but also the proceeds go to a non-profit that is closely aligned with our utility services. This past summer through our candy gram program we sold over 2,100 and raised \$1,800. Since 2020 we have raised \$6,000 that has gone to non-profits. This year for the second time, our non-profit is Water for People. Ms. Justice-Hinson then introduced Ms. Kim Hanson of Water for People.

Ms. Hanson stated she is from the NC Committee of Water for People. She appreciates PWC's efforts. A lot of what they do in their committee is to fundraise for Water for People. They work for nine

countries worldwide. Their goal is to provide safe water, hygiene, and sanitation services for everyone. Their overall goal is everyone forever when they refer to water.

Their campaign this year is the impact of these lack of water services throughout the world, particularly on women and girls. Women collectively spend over 200 million hours each day collecting water. In seven out of 10 households without water access, women and girls are primarily responsible for water collections. She stated in over some rural regions of India, women can take up to six trips a day walking to collect water, walking up to 6,000 miles a year.

She went on to state that the Water for People partner with the host city or village, requiring them to raise half the money to install the infrastructure and their personnel is trained to operate and maintain their system to ensure it is there forever.

Commissioner Garrett thanked Ms. Hanson for providing an explanation for what they do. She also thanked Ms. Hanson for coming in person to accept this donation.

III. CONSENT ITEMS

Commissioner Porter motioned to approve Consent Items minus Item D, which was pulled for discussion. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Davis, and unanimously approved.

- A. Approve Minutes of meeting of September 13, 2023
- B. Approve bid recommendation to award Alternate Bid for Re-Advertised Phase V Annexation Project XI Area 25 Lake Rim Estates project to T. A. Loving Company, Goldsboro, NC, the lowest, responsive, responsible bidder, in the total amount of \$18,985,000.00, and forward to City Council for approval.

This project consists of construction of approximately 140 manholes, 244 sanitary sewer laterals, 20,235 linear feet of 6 to 6-inch sanitary sewer mains and improvements with associated appurtenances, 4385 linear feet of 12-inch sanitary sewer mains and improvements with associated appurtenances, and proposed water improvements which consist of 8,054 of 2 to 12-inch water mains, 19 water laterals, and appurtenances.

The Re-Advertised Phase V Annexation Project XI Area 25 Lake Rim Estates Project is budgeted in the following account strings: 200.000.0435.1907909-13.800050.CPR1000130 & 200.0000.0435.1907910-13.7300030.CPR1000095

Bids were received September 8, 2023, as follows:

<u>Bidders</u>	<u>Total Base Bid</u>	<u>Total Alternate Bid</u>
T. A. Loving, Goldsboro, NC	\$18,985,000.00	\$18,975,000.00

COMMENTS: Notice of the bid was advertised through PWC's normal channels on July 28, 2023, with an initial bid opening date of August 29, 2023. Bids were solicited from three (3) bidders. PWC received only (1) bid for this project. A re-advertisement of the bid was then undertaken with a new bid opening date of September 8, 2023. PWC received no additional bids for this project. The one (1) bid that was received was then evaluated by the Water Resources Engineering and Procurement departments. The lowest responsive, responsible bidder was T.A. Loving Company, Goldsboro, NC. **MWDBE/SLS Participation:** T.A. Loving Company is a firm

based in Goldsboro, NC that also has a local office in Fayetteville, NC. T.A. Loving Company also pays Cumberland County taxes. They anticipate \$175,000.00 in MBE spend with a local hauling firm, Crowder Trucking. T.A. Loving Company anticipates an additional \$650,000.00 in Local Spend (Harnett County) with Hanson Aggregates and Concrete Pipe & Precast.

- C. Approve bid recommendation to approve purchase of Replacement Generator Step-up (GSU) Transformer Oil Coolers for Butler Warner Generation Plant (BWGP) to Unifin International, Canada, the lowest, responsive, responsible bidder, in the total amount of \$1,039,835.00, and forward to City Council for approval.

Bids were received August 16, 2023, as follows:

<u>Bidders</u>	<u>Total Base Bid</u>
Unifin International, Canada	\$1,039,835.00

COMMENTS: Notice of the bid was advertised through PWC’s normal channels on July 11, 2023, with an initial bid opening date of August 14, 2023, which was extended through August 16, 2023. Bids were solicited from two (2) bidders. PWC received only one (1) bid for this solicitation. A readvertisement is not required for goods and services when only one bid is received (NCGS § 143-132). The bid received was then evaluated by the Butler Warner Generation Plant and Procurement departments. The lowest responsive, responsible bidder was Unifin International, Canada. **MWDBE/SLS Participation:** Unifin International, Canada is not a local business and is not classified as an SLS or MWDBE vendor.

(REMOVED FROM CONSENT AND PLACED AS ITEM IV FOR DISCUSSION)

- D. ~~Approve sole source purchase of one (1) Lamson 1876 ADOI Bare Blower (the “blower”), two (2) VP1024035 vibration sensors (the “sensors”), and one (1) GuardianOne Blower Protection Panel (the “panel”) manufactured by Gardner Denver Nash LLC, from Premier Water, Charlotte, NC, for standardization and compatibility purposes for PWC’s Cross Creek Water Reclamation Facility.~~

~~The Commission is asked to approve a sole source exception to the competitive bidding requirements to allow PWC staff to purchase one (1) Lamson 1876 ADOI Bare Blower (the “blower”), two (2) VP1024035 vibration sensors (the “sensors”), and one (1) GuardianOne Blower Protection Panel (the “panel”) manufactured by Gardner Denver Nash LLC for standardization and compatibility purposes. N.C.G.S. 143-129(e)(6) allows an exception to the bidding requirements when (i) performance or price competition for a product are not available; (ii) a needed product is available from only one source of supply; or (iii) standardization or compatibility is the overriding consideration.~~

~~It is in the best interest of PWC to standardize the equipment for the following reasons:~~

- ~~○ The Water Reclamation Facility owns a total of three aeration blowers and all three blowers are manufactured by Gardner Denver Nash LLC.~~
- ~~○ The purchase will allow the Water Reclamation Facility to replace a blower that has passed its useful life with a new blower that is designed to fit on the existing frame and coupled to the existing motor.~~
- ~~○ The Gardner Denver Nash LLC motor to blower coupling is already sized and has worked well as installed.~~
- ~~○ The Water Reclamation Facility staff has a great deal of institutional knowledge for operating and maintaining the blowers as installed. Changing to a different manufacturer would require additional training for Operation and Maintenance staff and would require additional spare part inventory.~~

- ~~○ The Water Reclamation Facility has an existing service agreement with Gardner Denver Nash LLC, and they provide on-site evaluation, repair, and heavy maintenance to all the blowers at Cross Creek. A change in the blower manufacturer would result in new service agreements with additional firms.~~
- ~~○ The existing piping system is currently designed for the dimensions of the existing blower and changing to a different manufacturer could require piping modifications due to different dimensions.~~
- ~~○ The blower is a critical piece of equipment and time is of the essence. Changing blower manufacturers will require additional engineering resulting in a delay before ordering. Due to current lead times on equipment, this will result in a longer timeframe for replacement than staying with the current blower manufacturer and type.~~

~~Therefore, the Cross Creek Water Reclamation Facility seeks approval to purchase the blower, the sensors, and the panel from Premier Water without the need for competitive bidding and for the sole source approval to remain valid for three (3) years.~~

E. Adopt PWC Resolutions Directing the Filing of State Revolving Loan Applications

- Resolution No. PWC2023.34 – Emerging Contaminants program funding for PO Hoffer WTP/Glenville Lake WTP Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) Facilities projects which are currently estimated at approximately \$74.3 Million for construction and \$4.8 Million for design.
- Resolution No. PWC2023.35 – Additional funding for Big Rockfish Creek Outfall (BRCO) and the Big Rockfish Creek Outfall (BRCO) Lift Station Elimination (LSEO) projects currently estimated at approximately \$39.9 Million and \$16.3 Million, respectively. We have received letters of intent from the State approving \$26.2 Million for BRCO and \$6.3 Million for BRCO LSEO. Costs for these projects have escalated and additional funding will be needed. These applications will be for only the additional funding amounts of \$6.0 Million and \$9.6 Million, respectively.

COMMENTS: Staff recommends that the Commission adopt the above resolutions directing Staff to file State Revolving Loan Applications for these projects.

END OF CONSENT

- IV. Discuss previous Item D on Consent. Sole source purchase of one (1) Lamson 1876-ADOI Bare Blower (the “blower”), two (2) VP1024035 vibration sensors (the “sensors”), and one (1) GuardianOne Blower Protection Panel (the “panel”) manufactured by Gardner Denver Nash LLC, from Premier Water, Charlotte, NC, for standardization and compatibility purposes for PWC’s Cross Creek Water Reclamation Facility

Mr. Bryant, CEO/General Manager stated at the Cross Creek Reclamation Facility we have multiple blowers, and this request is to make a onetime purchase to one of those blowers. The three-year term is not necessary. So, staff is only seeking approval of a one-time sole source exception to the competitive bidding requirements to allow the purchase of the equipment described in the meeting agenda consent item, previously Item D.

Commissioner Shaw motioned we strike the phrase “and for the sole source approval to remain valid for three (3) years” from meeting agenda item IV, and otherwise approve the item as presented by Staff, consistent with the clarification provided by the CEO. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Donald Porter, and unanimously approved.

V. WATER SUPPLY WATERSHED PRESENTATION AND CONSIDERATION OF PWC RESOLUTION # PWC2023.36 – SOURCE WATER PROTECTION WEEK SEPTEMBER 24 THRU SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

Presented by: Rhonda Locklear, Water Resources Environmental Program Manager

Ms. Misty Manning stated after this presentation, the Commission will be asked to adopt PWC Resolution #PWC2023.36. She then introduced Ms. Rhonda Locklear, WR Environmental Program Manager. Ms. Locklear stated this week is Source Water Protection Week. She thanked Ms. Justice-Hinson and her team for placing information on social media regarding it. She also thanked the Commission for allowing staff to observe Source Water Protection this week.

Ms. Locklear stated she will discuss the following.

- What is a Watershed?
- History of PWC Watershed Management
- How proper management affects Water Quality and Flood Mitigation

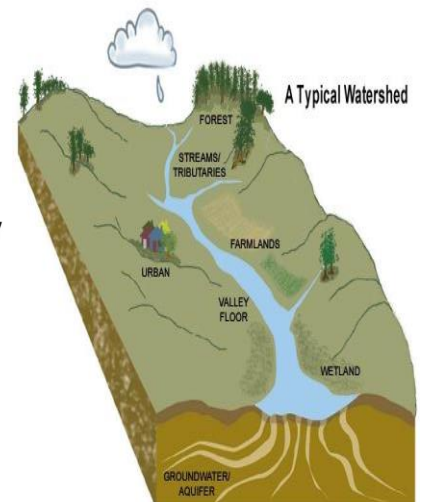
What is a Watershed?

- An area of land that drains surface water into a common body of water.
 - All land is located within a watershed of one kind or another, but only 20% of North Carolina's land area is classified as being within water supply watersheds.



Little Cross Creek Water Supply Watershed

- This area includes Bonnie Doon Lake, Glenville Lake, and their tributaries.
- It includes nearly 3,000 acres.
- It is on the NC Registry of Natural Heritage,
- Longleaf Pine Forests
- Endangered Species – Long Leaf Pine; Red Cockaded Woodpecker



PWC Watershed Management Program

The program was established in 1990. It protects PWC's water source by reducing pollutants and improving water quality.

The staff of three perform both Land Management and Water Quality Management Activities.

- Land Management
 - Controlled Burns
 - Forestry Management
 - Promote native wetland plant species
 - Erosion Control and Stabilization
 - Land Acquisition
- Water Quality Management
 - Maintenance of 4 earthen dams and 3 Best Management Practices
 - Water monitoring



Protection of Water Quality

- Nutrient Removal
- Pollutant Removal
- Sedimentation Control
- Organic and Bacteria Removal
- Plants uptake NO_3 and remove contaminants such as metals, pesticides, solvents, oils and hydrocarbons.
- Soil microbes use NO_3 and release N_2 to atmosphere



Flood Mitigation

- Riparian forest buffers provide bank and soil stability
- Trees and forest use huge amounts of water for growth, 1 tree can intercept 500-700 gal/year
- An acre of wetland can store 1 million gallons of floodwater

PWC Urges You to Protect the Source

- Because
 - Our community depends on a reliable supply of safe, high-quality drinking water
 - Our drinking water is essential to preserve our health and economy
 - Conserving watersheds and preventing pollution lowers the cost of water treatment

Chairwoman Garrett thanked Ms. Locklear for the presentation, and for bringing her staff with her. She then read the PWC Resolution # PWC2023.36 – Declaring Source Water Protection Week - September 24 Thru September 30, 2023

VI. LEAD AND COPPER COMPLIANCE PROGRAM UPDATE

Presented by: John Allen, Water Resource Engineer III

Mr. Allen stated in 2021 the EPA issued a revised Lead and Copper Rule. Overall purpose of revised rule is to continue efforts to eliminate lead in drinking water.

He stated we will discuss some definitions; the regulatory history; revisions to the Lead and Copper Rule; PWC's approach; the current status, and next steps.

Mr. Allen noted PWC complies and exceed all drinking water requirements. He also stated to the best of our knowledge, PWC did not install lead service lines from the main to the meter.

He stated prior to early 1960's galvanized services were installed from the main to meter. Some of those galvanized services likely had lead goosenecks. From the 1960's to 2007 polyethylene services were installed. Since 2007, PWC has installed copper services.

How Does Lead Get In Drinking Water?

- Plumbing Materials Corrode (solder)
- Common Lead Containing Sources:
 - Pipes
 - Fittings
 - Faucets
- Lead Pipes Were Common in Older Cities and Homes Built Before 1986



Mr. Allen stated lead used in solder for copper fittings can be a big source of lead. These soldered fittings are most likely inside a house. Corrosion between the pipe material and the water is the most likely source of lead leaching into the water. That varies depending on the chemical content of the water and the pipe material.

Regulatory History

1986 – Safe Drinking Water Act

- Prohibited use of lead piping

1991 – Lead and Copper Rule

- Sampling Protocols
- Corrosion Control Treatment (CCT)
 - Implement CCT by January 1997

2011 – Lead “Free” Fittings and Fixtures

- Reduced the amount of lead in fittings
- Effective January 4, 2014

2021 – Revised Lead and Copper Rule

- Lowered Action Level
- Revised Sampling Protocols
- Inventory Requirements
- Communication Requirements
- Compliance Date – October 16, 2024

Mr. Allen stated PWC has revised our treatment processes and procedures to ensure compliance with these rules and regulations. He reiterated PWC's water meets or exceeds all regulatory requirements for water quality

Original Lead and Copper Rule (1991)

- Established Action Level of 15 ppb (lead) and 1.3 ppm (copper)

- Established protocols for taking samples (1st liter after 6 hours of no use).
- Sample Frequency
 - Semi-Annual
 - Annual
 - Triennial – Every three years. PWC is on this schedule.
- Corrosion Control Treatment Program
- No Requirement for Find and Fix
- Minimal Inventory Requirements
- Public Outreach – Consumer Confidence Report
- Schools and Daycares – No Requirements

The overall goal was to reduce lead and copper levels in drinking water.

Mr. Allen noted PWC is successful in meeting and exceeding the requirements established by the EPA, He also stated PWC has implemented a corrosion control treatment program which adds a chemical to the drinking water at the plant which coats the inside of the pipe to reduce the ability of lead or any other contaminate in the pipe to leach into the water. PWC has non-detect levels in our samples.

Lead and Copper Rule Revisions

Corrosion Control – review program and adjust as necessary to meet the new lower trigger level of 10 ppb.

Utilities – develop protocols and processes for meeting the new requirements (provide filters, additional communication requirements, funding, etc.).

Inventory:

- need to identify all services (main to house)
- provide inventory to the public (typically via web-based interface)
- submit inventory to the State
 - maintain/update inventory until all lead services have been replaced and all services have been identified.
- Initial inventory due to State October 16, 2024.

Lead Service Line Replacement – need to develop a program to replace any lead or galvanized requiring replacement services (main to the house). Partial replacements do not “count”.

Public Education – quicker communication with customer when get high levels, annual notification to customers with lead or unknown service lines, etc.

Sampling

- now need to take 1st and 5th liter samples
- sample at schools and daycares



PWC Approach

Develop Compliance Program

- Contract with CDM Smith
- Provide Technical Assistance and Guidance

Internal “Task Force”

- Representatives Across PWC
 - WRE
 - WRC
 - IT
 - CCR
 - Water Treatment
 - Environmental/Lab
 - Meter Services

Education

Current Status

Service Lateral Inventory

- Schools and Daycares – completed
- Public and Private Laterals
 - Desktop Inventory – completed
 - Physical Locates – ongoing

Communication

- Operation Clean and Clear - ongoing

Sampling

- Completed Summer 2023
- All Results “Non-Detect”

Corrosion Control Review

- Completed
- No Changes Needed



Next Steps

Service Lateral Inventory

- Complete Physical Locates - These are used to identify service lateral materials.
- State Agency Coordination - determine if machine learning will be allowed. Expected to be approved, but the State has not issued specific guidance.
- Funding Opportunities - PWC has submitted an application for funding for the lateral inventory efforts. Eligible for up to \$1M in funding, with up to 60% principal forgiveness.
- Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning
- Determine Replacement Program
- Develop On-line Map for Customers

Communication

Operation Clean and Clear

- Postcards will be distributed 19,000 in batches. Expect to start November/December.

Schools and Daycares

- Coordinate Efforts - Need to coordinate with private schools and daycares.
- Sampling Protocols
 - Need to develop and implement a sampling program to get schools tested in next 5 years. We have been in communication with the Cumberland County Schools.
 - Sampling will need to be coordinated, as daycares are required to sample as part of their State licensing.

- State has passed a “Lead and Asbestos” rule, which in some cases contradict the Federal EPA Lead and Copper rule. We are working with the schools to find out how we can both be compliant.

Lead and Copper Rule – Further Revisions?

- The EPA has indicated they may issue further revisions to the rule later this year.

Commission thanked staff for the update on the lead and copper rules.

VII. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Bryant thanked Ms. Locklear for enlightening the Commission on our Watershed Program, and the need to protect our source water. He also thanked Mr. Allen for the work he and his team does in ensuring PWC stays compliant with the Lead and Copper rules.

Safety

Mr. Bryant stated PWC continues to work safely as a team. There are no major concerns from a safety perspective. We continued to monitor tropical storm Ophelia. Fortunately, the storm by-passed us here in Fayetteville. It reminded us we are still in the midst of an active storm season.

Source Water Protection Week

Mr. Bryant thanked the staff and the Commission for recognizing Source Water Protection Week and approving staff’s resolution.

FTCC

Mr. Bryant stated in one of our prior meetings, we discussed PWC’s engagement with FTCC and the work we are doing there. He was pleased to report PWC was able to hire two water resource utility workers from the recent graduating class. It shows our resolve and the benefits of our partnership with the FTCC as we work to further strengthen that relationship.

CAG

We had the opportunity to graduate some individuals from our Community Advisory Group last week. It was a good event, as we also onboarded new advisory team members. The Communications and Community Relations Group is doing a fantastic job.

Public Power Week / Customer Service Week

Public Power Week is next week, as well as Customer Service Week. Our Customer Care Team’s theme is Team Service. We are focusing on collaboration, communication, creativity, caring about the community and celebrating wins.

PWC Day

PWC Day is October 5th. The team has laid out a full agenda of exciting and engaging opportunities to show our engagement with the community relative to what PWC brings to this community.

VIII. COMMISSIONER/LIAISON COMMENTS

Council Member Deno Hondros

Council Member Hondros stated there was good information shared today. He stated he would be interested to see how the water supply; watershed study impacts future development. It may be good for the City Council to receive this information as well.

Commissioner Donald Porter

No Comments

Commissioner Christopher Davis

No Comments

Commissioner Evelyn Shaw

Commissioner Shaw stated it has been her pleasure to be with the Commission for the last eight years. She is elated to leave the Commission in such good hands with the three commissioners she knows will do a great job in setting policy and supporting Mr. Bryant. She also stated it has been a pleasure to meet Mr. Bryant, and they have danced beautifully together.

She thanked staff for being cordial, courteous, showing much decorum during her endless questions. She hopes to see you in the grocery store, on the street and in church somewhere.

Commissioner Shaw commended Chairwoman Garrett, stating she has done a magnificent job as chairwoman, and she is absolutely proud of the way Commissioner Garrett took the reins and marshalled through.

Commissioner Ronna Rowe Garrett

Commissioner Garrett stated she did not know Mrs. Shaw when she joined the Commission. Very rarely do you meet people who are educated, wise, but also passionate, concerning, caring, genuinely care. One who dances beautifully with the CEO to the last minute, as you are on your way out the door, asking questions to highlight perhaps some gaps, but not because she wants conflict or friction but because she is looking for the right thing at all times.

Commissioner Garrett stated besides the fact Commissioner Shaw has been here for eight years, she was the first African American woman to become the Chair of the Commission. She made an impact across people, processes, policies, and things. She stated to Commissioner Shaw, you can leave knowing that after eight years of community service to PWC, the impact you leave behind is great. The wisdom she has given to them all is great.

She stated “Commissioner Shaw, you are a role model, a mentor, a coach, someone to emulate, you are wise, you are passionate, you genuinely care about people, and this community. You can’t ask for

more. So, thank you for your service. We will see you in the grocery store, at church, and I will call you on the phone. We will see you at a more formal farewell.”

IX. REPORTS AND INFORMATION

The Commission acknowledges receipt of the following reports and information.

- A. Monthly Cash Flow Report - August 2023
- B. Recap of Uncollectible Accounts – August 2023
- C. Investment Report - August 2023
- D. Career Opportunities
- E. Financial Statement Recaps – August 2023
 - Electric Systems
 - Water Resources
- F. Actions by City Council during the meeting of September 11, 2023, related to PWC:
 - Approved - Phase 5 Annexation Area 24BC Resolution Declaring Cost, Ordering Preparation of Preliminary Assessment Roll, and Setting Time and Place for Public Hearing on Preliminary Assessment Roll

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, upon motion by Commissioner Donald Porter, seconded by Commissioner Evelyn Shaw, and unanimously approved, the Commission adjourned at 9:32 am.