

**MINUTES FOR  
ATHENS MUNICIPAL WATER AUTHORITY  
REGULAR SESSION  
March 4, 2015**

The Board of Directors of the Athens Municipal Water Authority ("AMWA") met in Regular Session on Wednesday, March 4, 2015 at 8:00 a.m. in the Hart-Morris Conservation Center of the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center with the following members present and constituting and quorum, to-wit:

Stephen R. Sparkman  
Donald A Foster  
Wylie Pirkle, Executive Director

David Thomas  
Mike Peek

Others present included:

Martin Bennett, AMWA Attorney  
Darlene Forshage, AMWA Staff  
An Audience of Concerned Citizens

Tyler Hendrickson, of Velvin & Weeks  
Corey Frentress, of Velvin & Weeks

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Director Sparkman.

**DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

Director Foster completed and signed a Declaration of Conflict of Interest and indicated his intent to abstain from a vote regarding the bids for Monitoring Well #3 Testing.

**MINUTES**

Motion was made by Director Thomas and seconded by Director Peek to approve the Minutes of the Regular Session on February 11, 2015.

**APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 2013 – SEPTEMBER 2014 DRAFT AUDIT REPORT**

Motion was made by Director Thomas and seconded by Director Gatlin to table this item for consideration during the April 8, 2015 Regular Session. Motion carried unanimously.

### **APPROVAL OF RAW WATER SUPPLY FACILITIES AGREEMENT WITH TPWD**

Motion was made by Director Gatlin and seconded by Director Thomas to approve the final Raw Water Supply Facilities Agreement between AMWA and the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department regarding a new easement between the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center and Lake Athens. Motion carried unanimously.

### **CONSIDERATION FOR PAYMENT OF STATEMENTS**

Motion was made by President Sparkman and seconded by Director Gatlin to pay all statements that have been presented to the Water Authority. The Motion carried unanimously to authorize payments of all bills that were presented to the Board.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Committee reports were given as follows:

- a. **Lake Athens:** President Sparkman reported that AMWA continues to make progress with regard to the Lake Athens Marina. This includes dealing with creditors, prospects, and owners of property in the dry storage area, etc. All security lights are now turned on and a 2-yard dumpster has been installed for public use. AMWA is researching the best manner to provide public restrooms. Finally, the level of Lake Athens is down 2".
- b. **Finance:** Director Gatlin informed the members that AMWA currently has \$5,539,196.87 on deposit with \$6,643.00 bills approved for the month.
- c. **Water Development:** Director Foster reported on a meeting with Velvin & Weeks on February 23<sup>rd</sup> to discuss various AMWA projects including: 1) testing the Powder River Well #3; 2) the Maintenance Contracts for AMWA-owned properties; 3) the access road into Powder River, 4) well installation, and 5) groundwater storage booster. Further detail will be provided by Tyler Hendrickson in his report.
- d. **City/AMWA Relations:** Director Thomas acknowledged Jess Laird from Athens Economic Development Corporation and thanked him for his partnership with AMWA.
- e. **Public Awareness:** President Sparkman informed the members that the new AMWA website has well exceeded expectations. The site continues to evolve by addressing comments, etc. as they arise. He cited the addition of a blog regarding Zebra Mussels as an example. He also addressed a blog that details the various "users" of water from Lake Athens. The site has been used extensively with an average time per user of 1.5 minutes, and 2,620 page views to date. Director Thomas suggested adding RSS feeds and links to the site that present information on water issues throughout Texas. He also offered to assist in soliciting joint advertising efforts with the City of Athens to create greater awareness of our water supply and quality of life.

f. **Economic Impact:** Director Peek reiterated that he welcomes input from anyone who has an idea for economic development in Athens that could impact the water supply. He then reminded the audience that while AMWA would like to reopen the marina bait shop and restaurant as quickly as possible, any progress to this end is dictated by the disposition of current assets at the property by lien holders.

### **ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Tyler Hendrickson of Velvin & Weeks Engineering reported on the status of all AMWA current and proposed projects. Discussions resulting from Mr. Hendrickson's report led to the following motions:

- A motion was duly made by Director Gatlin and seconded by Director Thomas to approve a bid received from Andrews & Foster Drilling Company in the amount of \$12,349.25 for verification and testing of the Powder River Ranch Monitoring Well #3. The motion carried by the following vote: Ayes: Sparkman, Gatlin, Peek, Thomas. Nays: None. Director Foster abstained.
- A motion was duly made by Director Gatlin and seconded by Director Foster to adopt the maintenance plan for the Lake Athens Marina and allow the firm of Velvin & Weeks to solicit bids to perform the necessary maintenance items. Motion carried unanimously.
- A motion was duly made by Director Gatlin and seconded by Director Thomas to adopt the maintenance plan for Powder River and the Franks' Tract properties, Oakwood, and Lake Athens Dam properties and allow the firm of Velvin & Weeks to solicit bids to perform the necessary maintenance items. Motion carried unanimously.

### **OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO EXPRESS ITEMS OF CONCERN**

Several lake property owners expressed concern over the methods used to gather information regarding water usage from Lake Athens.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO THE TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE, SECTION 551.074, PERSONNEL MATTERS; DELIBERATION REGARDING THE HIRING OF A NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

The board then adjourned to Executive Session at 9:14 a.m. for the purpose of discussing the employment and duties of the Executive Director of AMWA.

**CONSIDER AND ACT UPON MATTERS RESULTING FROM DELIBERATIONS IN EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO THE TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE, SECTION 551.074, PERSONNEL MATTERS; DELIBERATION REGARDING THE HIRING OF A NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Returning to Regular Session at 10:04 a.m., a motion was made by Director Thomas and seconded by Director Gatlin to authorize the President of AMWA to interview, qualify, negotiate, and select an Interim Executive Director. Motion carried unanimously by all directors present. It should be noted that Director Peek excused himself at the beginning of this Executive Session prior to the vote on this item and did not participate.

**ADJOURN**

Motion was made by Director Thomas and seconded by Director Gatlin to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

**PASSED AND APPROVED** on this 8<sup>TH</sup> day of April, 2015.

  
Stephen R. Sparkman, President

ATTEST:

  
Donald A. Foster, Secretary