

The Banks County Board of Commissioners held a called meeting on October 31, 2007 at 3:30 pm in the courtroom of the Banks County Courthouse. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the Georgia Environmental Protection Division mandate that all public water supply systems reduce their water production by 10% beginning November 1, 2007. Present were Chairman Gene Hart, Commissioner Rickey Cain and Commissioner Joe Barefoot. Others present were:

Banks County Administrative Officer Angela Sheppard  
Banks County Finance Officer Randy Failyer  
Banks County Public Utilities Director Steve Reece  
Banks County School Maintenance Director Tom Nicholson  
Banks County High School Principal Art Wheaton  
Banks County School Superintendent Chris Erwin  
Banks County News Reporter Chris Bridges  
Mayor of Homer Doug Cheek  
Banks County School Nutrition Manager Dennis Marlowe  
Banks County Primary School Principal Janice Rieselt  
Homer Mayor Pro Tem Sandra Garrison  
Banks County Keep Our Mountains Beautiful Director Leslie George  
Banks County Sheriff Charles Chapman  
Banks County Clerk of Superior Court Tim Harper  
Banks County Development Authority Member Dennis Brown  
Homer Town Clerk Carol Ayers  
Banks County Middle School Principal Matthew Cooper  
Banks County Technology Administrator Leonard Burris  
Banks County E911/EMA Director Deidra Moore  
Banks County Engineer Ben Turnipseed of Ben Turnipseed Engineers

#### **Call to Order**

Ch. Hart called the meeting to order and stated the average water usage of December 2006 through March of 2007 would be used to determine the 10% reduction. He then asked Public Utilities Director Steve Reece to give a report on usage. Mr. Reece stated the average usage for October had been .53 mg/day. In December 2006 the average usage was .61mg/day, in January 2007 the average usage was .55 mg/day, in February the average usage was .59mg/day and in March 2007 the average usage was .53mg/day. The total daily usage average for the entire time period was .57 mg/day leaving the usage limit per day at .513 mg/day or 513,000 gallons per day with the reduction. He said since March 31, 2007 186 new connections had been made with 30 paid for but not yet installed. He said The Pottery will close on November 12, 2007. They used an average of 13,929 gallons per day in October. This should contribute significantly to the reduction.

Admin Officer Angela Sheppard stated she had talked with EPD and they had stated the most important thing the county can do is to take conservation measures and to continue documenting the actions. She stated there may be penalties incurred if goals are not met but was not sure what that would be at this time. She also stated the repair of Hwy 105 waterline could help with some water usage unaccounted-for because of leaks, however documentation must be kept.

Homer Mayor Doug Cheek stated they would be corresponding with top users and drafting letters to all customers. He said he will contact the Hammers Glen Golf Course as well.

School Superintendent Chris Erwin stated he realized the school system was a top user with approximately 3,000 students and over 5,000 people total passing through the school system daily. He stated conservation plans are already in place. He stated the school system will be closed for 1 week in November and 2 weeks in December which should help in the reduction. He then asked the school principals, Maintenance Director and School Nutrition Manager to give reports of planned conservation efforts that included education classes and measures. Information would be given to students through cable channels and posters and the students will take home information to their parents to raise awareness and to encourage conservation. Also mentioned were the following in all schools:

Increased paper products usage in cafeterias

- Outside water usage stopped
- Classroom labs cut back
- Maintenance reviews for leaks
- Greenhouse watering reduced
- Sanitizers used instead of sinks
- Chemicals for cleaning instead of water
- Encouraging students to bring bottled water
- More sandwiches offered in the cafeteria
- No watering on athletic fields
- Toilet auto flushes to be installed
- Reported leaks will be a priority

County Engineer Ben Turnipseed stated ways to conserve water were to research unaccounted-for water usage, install in-line meters to tell which direction the water is flowing and how much to help detect leaks, adjust water plant backwash to operate longer between filter runs and he encouraged a summer surcharge for all usage above set average usage, and using existing wells not currently in use by large users, as well as long term water/wastewater or reuse of treated water.

Ch. Hart said fire departments will be doing less hydrant flushing and truck washing. He said an ad would be in the newspaper this week that specified no new applications, applications submitted but not installed would be placed on hold, and carwashes would be contacted as well as other large users. Comm. Cain stated he had talked with the carwash who stated they recycled 70% of the water used and that they are willing to install conserving heads on the machines and would reduce hours of operation. Ch. Hart stated new construction would have to be discussed. Comm. Barefoot stated he felt the board must decide on a case by case basis according to need. Ch. Hart stated he would contact EPD next week with the plan of action.

Mr. Reece stated 28 customers have paid but had not yet been installed with 9 being on Yonah Homer Rd and stated it would be important to install those on Yonah Homer to increase storage by getting the new water tank in service. Comm. Barefoot stated those should be considered on a case by case basis but no new applications should be accepted until EPD is consulted.

Homer Mayor Pro Tem Sandra Garrison thanked the schools for conserving efforts.

Sheriff Charles Chapman stated the prisoner showers were already on a timer and patrol car washes would be cut down drastically.

E911/EMA Director Deidra Moore asked who will enforce the violations. Ch. Hart and Comm. Barefoot stated the Code Enforcement Officer would enforce the regulations.

**Adjournment**

With no further business, Comm. Barefoot made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Comm. Cain seconded. Two aye votes and motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 4:17 p.m.

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Chairman

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Clerk  
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