

WATER AND SEWER EXPANSION AUTHORITY
BOARD MEETING MINUTES



Date: January 15, 2010
Time: 2:00 P.M.
Location: City Hall/Don Davis Room

Attendees:

Jeanell Wilson, Chair
Harriet McDonald
Al Sinclair
Lawrence Jones
Susan West

Chair Wilson called the meeting to order / quorum determined. The Board approved the minutes from the December 9, 2009 board meeting.

General Update

1. Oakwood Villas BJP: Service Areas 1, 2, and 3 are complete. Mr. Odom stated he would update Board on status of connections.
2. Lincoln Villa Pilot Project- Construction Status: Sewer is 65 percent complete. The water portion is 50 percent complete.
3. Grant Update on STAG- Environmental document continues to be worked on and should be complete within 6-8 weeks. This document opens the door to receive funding from EPA.
4. Property Appraiser-Meeting has been scheduled for January 28, 2010.

Other Items for Discussion

A workshop was held this week to address how WSEA will move forward with the Septic Tank Phase Out (STPO) and included WSEA, Public Works, The Mayor's Office, Environmental Quality Division, and Office of General Counsel. The objective of the meeting was to find a permanent solution in moving forward together and discuss the roles of each agency. Two main objectives were getting a funding source and selection of projects. Mr. Odom added there is a major change that will be coming from DEP to the state of Florida regarding how they will address the pollution of the St. Johns River. He also added in the upcoming years there will be tremendous legal issues regarding EPA's new federal mandate of a Numerical Nutrient Criteria (NNC). This may require the city to eliminate more septic tanks than the current TMDL criteria. It is not determined how it will specifically affect Duval County, but it will be challenging. This federal mandate was established by the Bush Administration and was only applied to Florida. This new rule would be very costly for JEA. Mr. Odom, added that WSEA's original mission was to help homeowners who voluntarily wanted to eliminate their septic systems. The WSEA will most likely evolve into the Septic Tank Phase Out program (non voluntary projects).

Jeanell Wilson asked where funding will come from. Mr. Odom stated that long term funding is 18-20 months away. There is a lot of work needed to be done regarding legislation and getting ordinance changes in alignment with the new mission of the WSEA. As long term money funding is developed, homeowners will not have to pay to connect but it will be mandatory to connect to the central sewer line. Over the next year, a plan will be carefully laid out. Mrs. West suggested that the most projects with the biggest water improvement impact should be targeted first. She added that the joint effort with JEA, COJ, and WSEA will be beneficial for assisting with additional funding.

Jeanell Wilson presented a letter from Mayor Peyton to Harriet McDonald for her service on the WSEA Board. Both Mrs. Wilson and Mr. Odom expressed their gratitude for Mrs. McDonald's passion and dedication to the board.

Request for Public Comment

None.

Items for Next Meeting

Fred Odom and Jenny McCollum will be in D.C. the second week of February. The next board meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 17, 2010 at 2 p.m. at City Hall/Don Davis Room.

Meeting adjourned