

Bryan County Board of Commissioners – August 21, 2014 Workshop

The Bryan County Board of Commissioners held a workshop to discuss water issues on Thursday, August 21, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. at Fire Station # 7 located on Highway 204 in Ellabell. The following members were present: Vice-Chairman Wade Price, Commissioner Steve Myers, Commissioner Jimmy Henderson, and Commissioner Noah Covington. Also present: County Administrator Ben Taylor, County Clerk Donna Waters, County Engineer Kirk Croasmun, and County Public Works Superintendent Buddy Shuman.

Vice-Chairman Price called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and turned the meeting over to Kirk Croasmun.

A discussion was held on **Bryan County's groundwater allocation and usage**. Bryan County has been allocated 600,000 gallons of water to be used county-wide from EPD. Presently, the daily average being used by the Henderson well is 22,000 gallons; the daily average being used by the Middle School is 3,000 gallons; and the daily average being used by the Interstate Centre is 18,000 gallons. Of the 600,000 gallons, we are currently pumping 43,000 gallons. This amount does not include what Bryan County has committed to developers or the Interstate Centre.

Several **options for obtaining more water** were discussed. Options include: go with deeper wells and then treat the water; talk with Bulloch County about bringing water to Bryan County from Bulloch County; and try negotiating with the City of Savannah to get more water from them.

A discussion was held on the **EPD groundwater update**. The EPD currently has Chatham County and a portion of Effingham County are classified in the red zone (no additional pumping from the Upper Floridan Aquifer), Bryan County and Liberty County are currently classified in the yellow zone (limited pumping from the Upper Floridan Aquifer), Bulloch County and the remainder of Effingham County have no restrictions. The EPD will be moving the zone lines in the near future. When these new lines are drawn, a portion of Bulloch County will be in the yellow zone. Once this is done, we will not be able to get water from Bulloch County. If we have a well in Bulloch County when this is done, it will be grandfathered in. EPD is also proposing a reduction in water for the red and yellow zones.

A discussion was held on the **Savannah (Genesis Point/WaterWays Township) well service delivery area**. The water agreement between the City of Savannah, Fountainhead and Bryan County allows the use of 1.5 million gallons. Our agreement with Fountainhead allows them the use of 1 million gallons and Bryan County the remaining 500,000 gallons of water that comes from the Savannah well. Anything that comes off of this well does not come out of our 600,000 gallons allocated from EPD. This could be an option for some of the developments located in South Bryan County that are near this area.

Vice-Chairman Price declared the meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.