

Oktoc Water Association Minutes  
Annual Membership Meeting  
October 7, 2019  
7:00 p.m.  
Location: Oktoc Water Association Well House

President, Herman Bush called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

President Bush welcomed all members to the annual meeting and gave the invocation.

President Bush introduced Oktoc Water Board members, staff members, and others. Board members present were: Herman Bush, president; David McGee, vice president; Joe Stewart, Jr.; Kevin Cane; and Carlton Polk, treasurer.

President Bush presented the agenda to the board and asked for acceptance. Joe Stewart, Jr. made the motion to accept with Kevin Cane seconding. Agenda was accepted as written.

President Bush asked for the reading of the minutes from the 2018 Annual Membership Meeting. Minutes were read by Courtney Honnoll. President Bush asked for adoption of the minutes. Florence Box asked that correction of typos be made before they were submitted. Courtney Honnoll agreed to correct all typos before the minutes were formally signed by board members. William Oakley made the motion to accept the minutes as read with typo corrections. Joe Miles seconded. Minutes were accepted as read with typos to be corrected.

President Bush moved further into the agenda to the comment section. He said that he and the board want to do what is right for Oktoc Water Association. From what Robert Oakley said at the end of the last meeting, members have a voice. If members want to come to any of the board meetings, they should come.

President Bush called upon Kelly Cutshall, CPA to review budget and financial statements. Kelly Cutshall, CPA reviewed budget and financial reports. Cutshall informed the group that she had some copies of the budget, and copies are always available upon request. President Bush called for a motion from the membership to accept the budget for the current fiscal year and the projected budget for the new fiscal year. Questions from the floor concerning the decertification of the area of Acadiana and Faith Baptist Church were answered by board attorney David Hunt. Joe Miles made the motion to accept with Kevin Cain seconding. With a verbal vote of "yea" or "nay", the budget and financials were approved. President Bush thanked Cutshall for her time at the meeting.

President Bush moved further into the meeting to the nominations part of the agenda. Jack Rhodes mentioned that last year, Kevin Cain helped count the ballots but that he couldn't help this year due to him being on the ballot for re-election. Mr. Rhodes asked if the board could appoint someone to help. President Bush appointed Joe Stewart, Jr. to help count the ballots. Larry Box was called on to speak about who was nominated. He named the four candidates and asked each to raise their hands: Kevin Cain, David McGee, Leona Randle Fowler, and Courtney Kennard Honnoll. Mr. Rhodes mentioned that people must be a member of the Water Association to be able to be nominated. President Bush asked for nominations from the floor. There being no further nominations, Kevin Cain asked to speak. He said that he had been on the board for 30-something years but currently had some issues going on. If re-

elected, he might not be able to make all the meetings but will never neglect his duties as a board member. He isn't sure if he can handle his entire term and might ask to step down to have someone to replace him, but he wanted to let everyone know his situation if that came up.

President Bush opened it up for the other candidates to say something or introduce themselves. Leona Randle Fowler spoke and mentioned she grew up in Oktoc and is looking forward to being part of the community and working together. Courtney Kennard Honnoll introduced herself and said that she will do anything and everything that she can to keep Oktoc Water Association going forward. David McGee said that he didn't have a speech.

Joe Stewart, Jr. mentioned at this point that the board was going to 7 members as had been talked about in previous years. If people were gone but needed a number for a quorum, the others could take care of business in their absence. It also helps the association get business handled. It helps the membership have more board members that they can go to if there is an issue. Hampton Fowler asked if members were going from 5 to 7: two re-election positions and two new positions Stewart, Jr. said that he was correct.

Everett Kennard asked that if there were four nominees and no nominations from the floor and four were to be elected, could a motion from the floor be made to accept the four nominations and accept the four by vote of acclimation instead of a paper ballot vote. Larry Box said that it seemed appropriate to him, but he didn't know what the bylaws said. Kennard said that he would make the motion if it was in order. David Hunt, board attorney, said that he didn't think there was anything in the bylaws to address it, so they would have to go by Robert's Rules of Order. Going by Robert's Rules, a motion could be made, but, that any one objection would stop it. David McGee mentioned that the current bylaws do not designate the number of board members. Joe Miles asked if all four would go off of the board at the same time. Joe Stewart, Jr. said that it was up to the board and members to decide. Kennard said that if his motion was in order, then he moved to accept the four nominees by vote of acclimation. Larry Box seconded. President Bush reiterated Kennard's motion: "These four nominees on the ballot would automatically be elected." With a verbal vote of "yea" or "nay", the four nominees were elected to the board.

President Bush moved into the agenda asking for public comments. William Oakley mentioned that the board address the rotation of board members so that four don't go off at the same time. President Bush asked if it needed to be addressed and taken care of tonight or by the board at a later date. Mr. Oakley said that a later date would be fine. David McGee said that when he and Carlton Polk came on, McGee was finishing out Jack Rhoades's term. President Bush said that the board would discuss at the next meeting.

Joe Miles asked for an update on the big leak last month. Jeff Foster said that it was caused by a faulty switch gear. The timer was replaced which caused the wells to cycle all the time, so everything should be back good. There were some smaller leaks that were found which helped contribute to some of the low water pressure, but those are being addressed. Most of the leaks were on Bluff Lake Road and were caused by the installation of fiber lines. They are looking at a road bore there to abandon a three-inch line that has one customer on it. Mrs. Miles asked how they figured it out—is there a process of elimination or a checklist. David McGee said it was a glitch in the system. Foster said that he doesn't have SCAIDA to tell him; he lets the wells run manually which gets us out of crisis. When there was no leak found, they backtracked. There are checklists, but you are putting out fires at that point.

Joe Miles asked about the status of the agreement with Starkville Utilities. Carlton Polk stated that Oktoc Water Association gave them the area on the corner. Miles asked about for future situations and if we were going to keep giving our area away. Polk commented that we aren't. East Oktibbeha Utility District is in the middle of taking another sewer district. They took in Clayton Village, MSU Golf Course, and a few subdivisions in that area. The board is appointed by Oktibbeha County. When someone wants sewer service, they have to go to them first. David McGee said that we have some kind of alternative now that we are dealing with East Oktibbeha Utility District. They are only trying to do sewer, not water. David Hunt said that it depends on the sewer system they run. If a sewer utility wants an agreement with Oktoc Water Association, we can do it on the condition that the terms are satisfactory.

Florence Box asked about updating the current bylaws as stated in the previous minutes. She asked about the progress. David Hunt mentioned that he wanted to speak with the board about the bylaws. He has some questions about the drafts. Carlton Polk said that we will have to hold a special meeting to adopt them. President Bush told David Hunt that the board would need his assistance at one of the future board meetings. David McGee asked if President Bush would appoint a committee to help review and update the bylaws.

President Bush appointed a committee and asked for volunteers to review and update the bylaws for possible adoption by the membership. He said that we would visit the bylaws at the next meeting. The committee appointed was Roberta Nicholson, Ellen Thornton, Mike Clark, and Florence Box. President Bush noted that someone would be contacting the committee. There was no further comment.

President Bush moved to the "other business" portion of the agenda. President Bush asked if David Hunt had anything further, and Mr. Hunt said that he didn't unless someone had questions. The Browning Creek area was discussed. William Randle and Chapel Hill Water had an agreement, and David Hunt is working on satisfying the areas for the Public Service Commission. Jack is working on straightening the lines of the coverage area. David McGee praised the work of Jack and Pam Rhodes for their work for the water association.

With no further business, Carlton Polk motioned for the 2019 annual membership meeting to be adjourned. Kevin Clark seconded.

The 2019 annual membership meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

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Board President

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Secretary

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Vice President

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Treasurer

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