

**CHARLOTTE WATER  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
April 18, 2024**

Held at 4100 W Tyvola Rd, Charlotte on Thursday, April 18, 2024, at 2:30 p.m.

**Members Present:** William Cornett (Chair), Barbara Bleiweis (virtually), Gordon Miller, Grayson Rountree, Dan Melvin

**Members Absent:** N/A

<b>Staff Present:</b>	Angela Charles	Director
	Ronald Hargrove	Deputy Director
	Jackie Jarrell	Deputy Director
	Shawn Coffman	Deputy Director
	David Czerr	Deputy Director
	Thomas Powers	Assistant City Attorney Sr
	Karen Weatherly	Assistant City Attorney Sr
	Melissa Westfall	Utilities Business Manager
	Keri Cantrell	Chief Utilities Engineer
	Carl Wilson	Chief Utilities Engineer
	Marion Sanders	Utilities Manager
	Colin Stifler	Administrative Officer Manager

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

A motion was made by William Cornett and seconded by Barbara Bleiweis to approve the March minutes. Motion was approved.

**Budget Update**

David Czerr, Deputy Director presented Charlotte Water financials.

**Operations & Capital Update**

Joseph Locker, Utilities Manager, provided a comprehensive update on Charlotte Water Operations. He informed the group that the water supply demand has been closely monitored, especially in light of the recent transition from stage zero drought conditions to normal conditions. The current average demand for 2024 stands at 101 million, reflecting a stable water supply situation. Furthermore, Locker reported that the rainfall Year-To-Date (YTD) has reached 13.83 inches, slightly exceeding the levels expected in a typical year. He also highlighted the impressive response rate of 95% to leaks within the system, indicating a proactive approach to maintenance and infrastructure upkeep. Additionally, all wastewater plants were reported to be in good status, ensuring the efficient treatment of wastewater in the region. In terms of system protection, Locker emphasized that all components of the program are operating at above 90% compliance, demonstrating a high level of adherence to safety and regulatory standards. Moreover, he mentioned that compliance by local industries is being closely monitored, with necessary documentation being submitted as required. Switching gears, Carl Wilson, Chief

Utilities Engineer provided an update on the capital projects within the organization. His report outlined the progress and plans for upcoming infrastructure investments, highlighting the commitment to enhancing the efficiency and reliability of the water system. Overall, the updates presented during the meeting reflect a proactive and diligent approach to managing Charlotte Water Capital projects.

### **PFAS & Forever Chemicals**

Director Angela Charles covered PFAS & Forever chemicals. She discussed how since the 1940s, chemical compounds have been manufactured that are present in a variety of everyday products, including furniture, carpets, water-resistant items, stain-resistant items, grease-resistant items, and non-stick cooking products. These compounds, known as PFAS, have become widespread in the environment, with babies now being born with traces of PFAS in their systems and nearly everyone having detectable levels in their bodies. PFAS bioaccumulates and can be found in water, air, soil, fish, and wildlife around the world. According to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), almost every person has some level of PFAS in their blood. Recognizing the potential risks associated with PFAS, Charlotte Water has taken proactive measures to monitor and address the presence of these compounds in the community since 2013. The monitoring efforts have evolved over time, reflecting the commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of residents. Below is the progression of Charlotte Water monitoring of PFAS

- Mandatory Monitoring - EPA UCMR every 5 yrs
  - 2013 – UCMR3 monitoring for 6 PFAS compounds (No detections)
  - 2023 – UCMR5 monitoring for 29 PFAS compounds (PFBA = 9.7 ppt, PFPeA = 3.4 ppt)
- Mandatory Monitoring - NC PFAS Testing Network
  - 2019 monitored for 47 PFAS compounds in source waters
    - *Lake Norman – PFOA (1.4 ppt) and PFOS (1.3 ppt)*
    - *Mt. Island Lake – PFOA (2.5 ppt), PFOS (2.3 ppt), and PFPeA (2.0 ppt)*
- Voluntary Monitoring - Source Water/Drinking Water
  - Began in 2018 – ongoing monitoring for 72 PFAS compounds (modified method)
    - 2023 – PFOA (1.7 ppt), PFOSA (2.6 ppt), PFHxA (2.4 ppt) and PFPeA (2.7 ppt)
- Voluntary Monitoring - Wastewater/Biosolids/Residuals
  - Began in 2019 monitoring wastewater for 40 PFAS compounds.
  - Biosolids monitoring began in 2022. Conducting monthly sampling at all WTPs.
- Voluntary Monitoring - Industrial Users
  - Began in 2023 – monitoring in progress for 40 PFAS compounds.
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Charlotte Water have been including PFAS results in their CCR and on their website as unregulated contaminants: <https://www.charlottenc.gov/water/Water-Quality/Unregulated-Contaminants>

The 2023 CCR is ready for publishing and the Water Quality Report will be mailed to all customers in June.

### **Lyngbya alga Management in Mountain Island Lake**

Director Angela Charles provided a comprehensive overview of the management strategies employed for addressing the proliferation of Lyngbya, a type of blue-green alga, in various freshwater bodies such as Lake Norman, Mountain Island, and Lake Wylie. She highlighted the unique characteristics of Lyngbya, emphasizing its tendency to form dense mats on the bottom of water bodies and its propensity to bloom only during the summer months. Additionally, Director Charles discussed the potential consequences of Lyngbya infestations, including the formation of surface mats that can cover large areas, clog water intakes, and disrupt recreational activities. By shedding light on the challenges posed by Lyngbya, Director Charles underscored the importance of implementing effective management strategies to mitigate its impact on aquatic ecosystems and recreational areas.

#### **Charlotte Water Actions:**

- Charlotte water contributed to Lake Norman Marine Commission effort- Lake Norman
- Charlotte Water engaged Mecklenburg County, Gaston County, Mt. Holly and Two Rivers on Mt. Island efforts.
- Treatment began Monday, April 15, 2024
- 4 - 5-year effort

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4 pm.

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