



HCWA Currents



NEWS AND PUBLIC INFORMATION FOR CUSTOMERS OF THE HENRY COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

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HCWA anticipates over \$900 million needed for 30-year capital improvements

During the HCWA Annual Strategic Planning Session in May, the Authority Board of Directors received an in-depth look at the 30-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP), which outlines more than \$900 million worth of projects necessary for the utility to continue to meet current customer needs, while accommodating growth through the year 2045.

With the adoption of the FY 2018 budget at the HCWA June Meeting, the Authority took another step toward saving for the 30-year CIP.

HCWA annual revenue comes from a few sources, but predominantly from water and sewer sales, which equate to approximately 75 percent of the total. However, according to Authority officials, the 2 Mil Tax assessed to Henry County property owners is critical to paying off long-term debt and saving for

those anticipated capital improvements over the next 30 years.



Local leaders established a 2 Mil Tax in 1968 via an Amendment to the Georgia Constitution, allowing the Henry County Board of Commissioners to collect this revenue for the Authority, which had been created in 1961 as an autonomous enterprise.

Since that time, the 2 Mills have helped offset the cost of developing the HCWA water and sewer system, which would not have been possible without this security for bond issues that were necessary to fund this infrastructure for the community, says Gordon Martin, bond underwriter for the Authority.

"Without that 2 Mil tax, Henry County would not have the water and sewer system it has today; for example, the reservoirs that now provide a plentiful water supply could not have been financed and constructed," says Martin. "For the Authority's leadership to get voters to approve the 2 Mil tax was visionary, and that vision has brought extraordinary results to Henry County."

For additional coverage of the HCWA 30-year CIP, check out the news archives on our website at www.hcwa.com.

HCWA opens its doors to Henry County teachers

Approximately 20 Henry County teachers joined the HCWA for the first annual "Rain to Drain" water resources workshops over the course of four days in June. The event is the manifestation of the ongoing partnership between the HCWA, Henry County Schools, and Henry County Stormwater, to enhance public education in the protection and preservation of natural resources.

During the four-day event, Henry County teachers toured the HCWA Tussahaw Water Treatment Plant, the Walnut Creek Water Reclamation Facility, the HCWA Engineering Facility, and the HCWA Cubihatcha Outdoor Education Center. In addition, each day the teachers participated in activities that they could translate into lessons for their students at these respective HCWA facilities.

"Every subject and all content areas are covered (by visiting HCWA sites and operations), and it's all relevant (to student learning)," says Heather Toliver, Science Teacher on Special Assignment with the Henry County Board of Education.

"We have everything we need right here (at HCWA facilities) to get students excited about science," adds Jennifer Burton.

Check out the Rain to Drain photo gallery at www.hcwa.com.



Barry Brand (far left), HCWA Tussahaw Water Treatment Plant Supervisor, leads Henry County teachers on a tour of the Tussahaw Plant during the recent "Rain to Drain" workshops.

Drinking Water Week features Tussahaw Fishing, Open House

The Henry County Water Authority (HCWA) provided the public with a few opportunities to join the utility in the annual celebration of National Drinking Water Week, which is recognized each year during the month of May.

Fishing Tournament at Tussahaw Reservoir

The HCWA hosted a Fishing Tournament at its Tussahaw Reservoir the weekend prior to National Drinking Water Week.

The event was a tremendous success, as reflected in the 32 teams of parent-child tandems who came to cast their lines and reel in the biggest catch and collection of fish for the day.

The Big Fish winner was Owen Brown, whose largest catch tipped the scales at 4 pounds. The additional total weight winners included Dalton Nunn, 16, in first place with a total haul of 4.4 pounds, followed by Abigail Treadwell, 16, in second, Owen Brown, 12, in third (his biggest catch of the day was good enough to win third place overall), Isabella Wilson, 7, in fourth, and Chase Phillips, 16, in fifth place.



Dalton Nunn, 16, was the first-place winner at the 2017 HCWA Fishing Tournament, catching a total weight of 4.4 pounds.

Open House at the Tussahaw Plant

To kick off Drinking Water Week, the HCWA also hosted an Open House at its award-winning Tussahaw Water Treatment Plant. Nearly 100 guests visited the water plant to enjoy tours of the facility, water-related activities, educational insights on how their drinking water is produced, presentations from various departments of the HCWA, as well as displays of the winners of this year's HCWA rain barrel and photo contests.

The 2017 HCWA Rain Barrel Contest winners included: Locust Grove High School in first place, followed by Eagle's Landing Christian Academy in second, and Hampton High School in third. Locust Grove High School also won the People's Choice Award. Winners of this year's HCWA photo contest included Emma Faulkner in first place, Zeb Brown and Walker Smith in a tie for second, and Tamara Smith in third.

Water Conservation Tips

- Only water plants when necessary. More plants die from over-watering than from under-watering.
- Water the root zone of the plant instead of the foliage. This saves water and reduces diseases.
- Reduce the amount of lawn in your yard by planting shrubs and ground covers well-adapted to our region.
- Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered and not the house, sidewalk or street.

Find more conservation tips at mydropcounts.org



Save the date for Rivers Alive

Saturday Oct. 21, 2017

Join us for our annual volunteer river cleanup. More details to come on our website at www.hcwa.com.

Second Front

HCWA Walnut Creek Facility selected as a Georgia Wastewater Plant of the Year

Additional facilities and public education program honored as well

The Georgia Association of Water Professionals (GAWP) honored the HCWA during its Spring Conference & Expo with the Plant of the Year Award for the Walnut Creek Water Reclamation Facility. GAWP judged the Walnut Creek Plant as the best in the state among non-discharging facilities with land application systems that have a capacity up to 10 million gallons per day (MGD).

HCWA wastewater treatment facilities have been the "Plant of the Year" in Georgia in eight out of the last nine years.

In addition to Walnut Creek being selected as the GAWP Plant of the Year, the HCWA also received the GAWP Certificate of Achievement for Best Operated Water Plant for its Towaliga Water Treatment Facility. The Towaliga Plant graded out at 90 percent or higher on



Receiving the GAWP Plant of the Year Award on behalf of the HCWA are (left to right): Division Manager Pat Hembree, Billy Kim, David Farmer, and Matt Hunt.

its annual audit to receive this industry honor.

Four HCWA facilities also received acclaim for achieving 100 percent permit compliance. The HCWA

Towaliga and Tussahaw Water Treatment Plants were Platinum Award winners for operating without a permit violation for 10 consecutive years through 2016. GAWP grants Platinum Awards to those facilities with at least five consecutive years without a permit violation.

Likewise, the HCWA Walnut Creek Facility – this year's Plant of the Year – also was a Platinum Award winner for eight consecutive years of 100 percent compliance. The HCWA Bear Creek Water Reclamation Facility received a GAWP Gold Award for having no permit violations last year.

Finally, the HCWA received the GAWP Public Education Program of Excellence Award for its efforts in public outreach. This honor recognized the HCWA as a leader in educating the public about water systems and operations, while likewise encouraging citizen involvement in related issues that impact water quality.

HCWA set to open Ola Water Tank and Transmission Main this fall

The HCWA is in the process of implementing a new East Henry Operating Scheme to improve water service and consistency to residents and businesses in this portion of the county.

A new Ola Water Tank and Transmission Main, set to open this Fall, will be critical to this long-range plan for capital improvements to the HCWA system.

The 2 million gallon (MG) Ola Water Tank construction began this past winter and is set to come online by October. This capital project will allow the Authority to better manage its water distribution system by reducing pressure in the eastern portion by 50 PSI.

The eastern area of Henry County is primarily low in elevation, resulting in high static pressure, in relation to water distributed in the rest of the county. High pressure can result in increased leaks, water loss, and a reduction in the longevity of the HCWA water distribution system.

In addition, the Ola Water Tank and Transmission Main, which runs down Highway 81 in McDonough to connect the tank with the Tussahaw Water Treatment Plant, are essential to the Authority's long-range master plan that calls for future expansion of the Tussahaw Plant.



The new HCWA 2 million gallon Ola Water Tank (pictured) and Transmission Main are set to come online in October, to improve service to customers in this portion of the county through more consistent water pressure, while providing more efficient operations of the HCWA water distribution system.

Henry County Water Quality Report assures HCWA water is clean and safe to drink

During a year highlighted by extreme drought, 2016 provided a unique challenge for the Henry County Water Authority (HCWA) to meet customer demand amidst some of the driest conditions on record, without jeopardizing water quality.

The empirical evidence of HCWA water quality can be found in the 2017 Henry County Water Quality Report, which is available on the HCWA website at <http://waterqualityreport.hcwa.com/report.pdf>. Hard copies also are available upon request at the HCWA Headquarters, located at 1695 Highway 20 West in McDonough. Customers also can request to receive a copy via mail by calling 770-957-6659.

The laboratory data in the Water Quality Report, reviewed and authenticated by the state Environmental Protection Division (EPD), inform HCWA customers of what is in their drinking water and why. In the case of the 2017 Report, HCWA drinking water again met or exceeded all industry safeguards for water quality, reflected in water samples and laboratory tests conducted from Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2016.

These lab results include measures of regulated substances found in HCWA tap water to assure consumers that the detected amounts of potential contaminants are well within the limits allowed by Georgia EPD, in accordance with federal guidelines of the Safe Drinking Water Act enforced by the U.S. EPA.

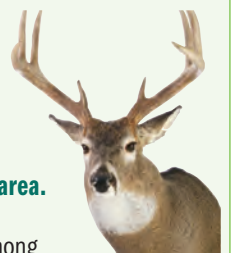
During 2016, the HCWA experienced no violations of regulatory limits on potential contaminants – whether organic, inorganic, or microbiological, or as the result of disinfectants or disinfectant by-products used in the drinking water treatment process.



HCWA Hunting Season includes several youth education events

The HCWA offers opportunities for the public to hunt on its property as a part of its land management practices, under the guidance of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The Authority has several public hunts scheduled for its 2017-18 Hunting Season.

- ➔ **HCWA Youth Dove Hunt – Saturday Sept. 2, 2017**
- ➔ **HCWA Youth Deer Hunt – Saturday Oct. 14, 2017**
- ➔ **HCWA Youth Deer Hunt – Saturday Oct. 28, 2017**
- ➔ **HCWA Veterans Deer Hunt – Friday Nov. 10, 2017**
- ➔ **Waterfowl Fundraiser Hunt to be determined by waterfowl activity in the area.**



Participants in these hunts are selected via a blind draw among qualified applicants, who must be HCWA customers, or Henry County property owners or residents. Once selected, all participants will go through a safety orientation prior to the respective event. Applications are available at the Cubihatcha Center and via a link on the Authority's website front page at www.hcwa.com.

For additional information on the 2017-18 HCWA Hunting or Fishing Seasons, contact the Cubihatcha Center staff at 678-583-3930, or by emailing Jeffrey.Scott@hcwa.com.

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