

Anniston water works board elects Robison as chairman

By Patrick McCreless, Star Staff Writer, pmccreless@annistonstar.com | Posted: Monday, January 25, 2016 5:01 pm

The overseers of Anniston's drinking water picked a new leader last week.

The Anniston Water Works and Sewer Board elected member Bill Robison as chairman during a meeting Thursday. Robison replaces former chairman Jimmy O'Dell, who died in November.

"I am very, very excited ... I'm looking forward to it," Robison said of serving as chairman.

Robison, 76, has served as a board member since 1998 but has never been chairman. For the last eight years, Robison has served as the board's secretary treasurer.

Robison works as the director of the Calhoun County Community Corrections and is also a member of Anniston Board of Education.

The water board is a seven-member body that oversees the operation and policy-making of water and sewer services to more than 20,000 customers in Anniston and the surrounding area, including Honda Manufacturing of Alabama in Lincoln.

Robison, a former Anniston mayor, said the board works closely with the city of Anniston and the McClellan Development Authority on projects; he wants to improve the relationship with those two entities.

"I want to make sure our communications are very good," Robison said. "I want to make sure we're all on the same page."

Robison said good communication has become more imperative since the December opening of Veterans Memorial Parkway in Anniston, which runs through McClellan. City officials have said the parkway could encourage retail and business growth in the area, which would need utilities like water



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and sewer.

“The potential of the parkway will require the water board’s assistance,” Robison said. “We’ve got to really get down and see the best way for the three of us governing bodies to work together.”