ORANGE WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY

A public, non-profit agency providing water, sewer and reclaimed water services to the Carrboro-Chapel Hill community.

MEMORANDUM

TO: **Natural Resources/Technical Systems Committee**
Terri Buckner (Chair)
Dana Raborn
Stephen Dear
Michael Hughes
Will Raymond
Amy Witsil
Alan Rimer (*ex officio*)

THROUGH: Ed Kerwin

FROM: Mason Crum

DATE: May 2, 2013

SUBJECT: **May 21, 2013 Natural Resources/Technical Systems (NRTS) Committee Meeting**

The NRTS Committee will meet May 21, 2013 at 5:00PM in the OWASA Community Room. The Committee will discuss petitions previously received from the public requesting that OWASA discontinue its practice of adding fluoride to drinking water as part of the treatment process at the Jones Ferry Road Water Treatment Plant. The Committee's discussion will specifically address Dr. Paul Connett's book "*The Case Against Fluoride*" that was provided to all members of the OWASA Board of Directors. The primary objective of the meeting is for the Committee to either confirm or reverse its previous decision to recommend to the full Board that OWASA continue fluoridation of the drinking water provided to OWASA's customers, while also committing to stay abreast of scientific developments, changes in best management practices, etc. regarding this issue.

As time allows, the Committee may also continue their discussions of potential topics that may be considered by the Committee in the future. At the April 16th meeting, the Committee identified several high priority items as topics of discussion for upcoming monthly meetings. These included:

- May 2013: Fluoridation of drinking water and continued discussions of potential topics that may be considered by the NRTS Committee in the future. Will Raymond was asked to provide greater definition of the watershed partnership concept for discussion at the May meeting.

- June 2013: Issues and milestones associated with OWASA's ability to gain access to its Jordan Lake allocation.

- July 2013: Evaluate the feasibility of OWASA's use of "smart" water meter technologies.

- August 2013: Exploration of opportunities for OWASA to increase its use of renewable energy sources.

Attachment 1 is the complete (prioritized) list of potential NRTS Committee discussion topics.

Notice to the Public: ***Although the public is welcome to this or any other OWASA Committee meeting, please note that the NRTS Committee will not receive comments from the public at this Committee meeting. However, the public is welcome to present comments or petition the OWASA Board at any of its regularly scheduled Board meetings.***

We look forward to seeing you at 5:00 PM on May 21st.

Mason Crum, P.E.
Director of Engineering and Planning

Attachment

cc: Board of Directors
Robert Epting

NRTS Priority List

Top Priorities (3 or more votes)

- Explore opportunities to partner with others on solar and wind power projects using OWASA-owned properties
- Contracts and technical issues surrounding OWASA's ability to gain access to its Jordan Lake allocation
- Watershed partnership with municipal and County partners
- Consider accelerating the "Smart" metering project (NOTE: 1 vote to remove this from the list)

Medium Priorities (at least 2 votes as a top priority)

- Pursue additional technology improvements
- Sustainable forest management on OWASA-owned properties
- Partner with local governments to promote water conservation standards on par with Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)
- Explore opportunities to improve regional planning in regards to water supply and demand trends
- Biosolids recycling
- Determine whether OWASA should conduct another greenhouse gas inventory

Lower Priorities (at least 1 vote as a top priority)

- Consider dropping OWASA's membership in the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chamber of Commerce (NOTE: 3 votes to remove this from the list)
- Improve OWASA's outreach efforts (website improvements, local media, rural neighbors) (NOTE: 2 votes to remove this from the list)
- Explore opportunities to prevent pharmaceuticals from entering OWASA's wastewater collection and treatment processes. Also assess their impacts on the biosolids generated by OWASA
- Explore opportunities for the NRTS Committee to take a more active role in the technical aspects of the annual budget review process (NOTE: 2 votes to remove this from the list)
- Can OWASA encourage more use of harvested rainwater?

Other (no top priority votes)

- Explore opportunities to have a security audit performed on OWASA's IT systems (NOTE: 1 vote to remove this from the list)
- Establish a workgroup with the Towns to further refine the water conservation standards outlined in existing Town ordinances and OWASA policy