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 and Technical Systems Committee
Alan Rimer (Chair)
Mac Clarke
Joy Preslar
William Stott
Amy Witsil
Gordon Merklein (*ex officio*)

THROUGH: Ed Kerwin

FROM: Mason Crum

DATE: October 13, 2010

SUBJECT: October 19, 2010 NRTS Committee Meeting

The NRTS Committee will meet this Tuesday, October 19, 2010, at 8:00 am in the OWASA Boardroom. Main topics will be:

1. State-Mandated Water Shortage Response Plan (WSRP), including trigger tables for mandatory water use restrictions. State legislation enacted after the 2007-08 drought requires water suppliers to develop WSRPs that outlines the actions that will be taken during drought events. Among other requirements, the WSRPs must include specific trigger conditions that will be used to determine different stages of mandatory water use restrictions. Upon the State's approval of the WSRP, OWASA will be required to declare water use restrictions when those trigger conditions exist; but we will still retain full discretion to declare mandatory restrictions at any time before reaching the specified triggers.

OWASA staff's recommendation and the draft WSRP are attached. NC Division of Water Resources staff has provided a courtesy review of this draft and advised us that it meets applicable State requirements.

Committee Action Requested: Authorization to present the draft WSRP, including the water shortage response trigger conditions, to the full Board of Directors, and to seek formal adoption by the Board (a draft resolution is provided in the attachment).

2. Clarification of the Water and Sewer Management, Planning and Boundary Agreement (WSMPBA). One of the five primary recommendations of OWASA's recently adopted Long-Range Water Supply Plan is to *"Work cooperatively with the elected boards of Carrboro, Chapel Hill, and Orange County to amend the 2001 Water and Sewer Management, Planning, and Boundary Agreement – only as needed – to resolve any unnecessary constraints on access to OWASA's Jordan Lake allocation and to ensure a reliable and sustainable water supply for the future."*

It is Counsel's and staff's opinion that certain language in the WSMPBA ought to be clarified to avoid constraints on access to our Jordan Lake storage allocation. In addition to implementing the Long-Range

Water Supply Plan, we believe that these clarifying amendments are necessary for meeting OWASA's future obligations to Carrboro, Chapel Hill, and UNC under the Sale and Purchase agreements. Any changes to the WSMPBA must be approved by all signatory parties, which include (in addition to OWASA) the Towns of Carrboro, Chapel Hill, and Hillsborough, and Orange County.

Counsel's and staff's recommendations for clarifying the WSMPBA are attached, along with a short list of "Questions That May Be Asked" talking points.

Committee Action Requested: Discuss staff's recommendation and consider the Committee's preferred approach for the way ahead.

3. Biosolids Outreach. At the Chair's request, the Committee and staff will discuss OWASA's outreach efforts in educating the public and key stakeholders about OWASA's biosolids recycling program.

A listing of activities already accomplished, those planned for the future and staff's thoughts about our overall community outreach program are attached.

Committee Action Requested: General discussion about staff's work to date and the Committee's preferred approach for the way ahead.

4. Forest Stewardship. Staff will provide a verbal report and brief update on the current status of active management activities at the Cane Creek Mitigation (Buckhorn Game Land) Tract and development of the overall forest stewardship plan for all other major OWASA-owned properties.

Committee Action Requested: Information only, no action is requested.

5. Mason Farm Wastewater Treatment Plant Hydraulic and Treatment Capacity Study. Staff will provide a verbal report and brief update on the current status of the study.

Committee Action Requested: Information only, no action is requested.

6. Other Business

7. Next Meeting?

We look forward to seeing you at 8:00 Tuesday morning.

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

Attachments
cc: Board of Directors
Bob Epting