Orange Water and Sewer Authority
Natural Resources and Technical Systems Committee
October 19, 2010, 8:00-10:00 a.m.
OWASA Boardroom
Meeting Summary

Members Present

Alan Rimer (Chair), Mac Clarke, Joy Preslar, Amy Witsil, Gordon Merklein (*ex-officio*),

Other Board Members Present

None

Staff Present

Ed Kerwin, Ed Holland, Pat Davis, John Greene, Stephen Winters, Mason Crum, Damon Forney, Greg Feller, Bob Epting (General Counsel)

Visitors Present

None

Items Discussed:

1. State-Mandated Water Shortage Response Plan (WSRP), including trigger tables for declaring mandatory water use restrictions.

Staff presented its first draft of the WSRP that outlines the actions that will be taken by OWASA during future drought events. The State requires this plan be formally approved by the OWASA Board after a prescribed period of public review and feedback.

The Committee's discussion centered mostly on the specific trigger conditions that will be used to determine different stages of mandatory water use restrictions. Upon the State's final approval of the WSRP, OWASA will be required to declare water use restrictions when those trigger conditions exist; but OWASA will retain full discretion to declare mandatory restrictions at any time before reaching the triggers outlined in the plan.

The Committee requested that the plan be revised to emphasize the OWASA Board's continued involvement in rescinding mandatory water use restrictions and requested that staff initiate the public review and feedback process for the plan, prior to it being considered at a future meeting of the full OWASA Board of Directors. (Note: Staff intends to present this item to the Board for formal approval at its November 11, 2010 meeting, and will provide a two week public review period of the WSRP in advance of the meeting.)

2. Clarification of the Water and Sewer Management, Planning and Boundary Agreement (WSMPBA).

Staff and OWASA Counsel presented their opinion that certain language in the WSMPBA needs to be clarified to avoid constraints on OWASA's access to its Jordan Lake storage allocation.

The Committee directed staff to develop a one-page information paper on the topic for use in future discussions and requested that the item be scheduled for further discussion at an upcoming Board meeting.

3. Biosolids Outreach.

The Committee and staff discussed OWASA's outreach efforts in educating the public and key stakeholders about OWASA's biosolids recycling program. The discussion included a review of outreach activities recently accomplished (including the tours held recently for the Board of Orange County Commissioners) and those planned for the future.

The Committee was in general agreement with the pending outreach efforts identified by staff, but suggested that in the future various forms of social media might be another appropriate way to reach citizens. Staff was directed to provide the full Board the document that was included in the NRTS Committee agenda so that individual Board members can provide staff with any additional recommendations they might have concerning future biosolids outreach activities.

4. Forest Stewardship.

Staff provided a 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.

The Committee requested that staff present the draft forest stewardship plan to the full Board at its November 11, 2010 meeting and that a community meeting be scheduled sometime thereafter to ensure that the public is aware of and has the opportunity to comment on the plan before its final approval is considered at a future Board meeting.

5. Mason Farm Wastewater Treatment Plant Hydraulic and Treatment Capacity Study.

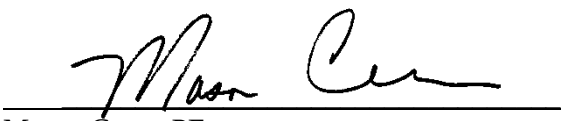
Because of time constraints, the Committee directed that staff provide an update on this study at a future Board meeting.

Next Meeting

Time and agenda items for the next Committee meeting will be determined at a later date in consultation with the NRTS Committee Chair.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:55 a.m.



Meeting Summary Prepared by: Mason Crum, PE
Director of Engineering and Planning