Orange Water and Sewer Authority
Natural Resources and Technical Systems Committee
June 7, 2011 8:00-10:00 a.m.
OWASA Boardroom
Meeting Summary

Members Present

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

Other Board Members Present

John Young

Staff Present

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

Visitors Present

Glen Bowles, Orange County Planning and Inspections Department
Robert Hetterly, Orange County Resident that lives in the vicinity of Thunder Mountain Road

Items Discussed:

Orange County's Master Telecommunication Plan Map: Staff presented information regarding the map recently approved by the Orange County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) that identifies locations for additional cell towers so that county-wide cell phone coverage is improved. Orange County is taking this action to improve both public safety (improved 911 response) and for economic development reasons.

Staff emphasized that the staff level support expressed to date was due to Orange County's request that OWASA participate and the fact that their request was based on the overall public benefit that will be achieved if the initiative is allowed to move forward.

Glen Bowles with Orange County Planning indicated that OWASA will be invited to participate as part of the County's overall process. He also indicated that if OWASA does participate with the County, that their efforts will include public hearings, notice to residents within 1000 feet of the proposed site in conjunction with a balloon test.

Staff then outlined their recommendation that if OWASA is to participate that it be in conjunction with the County's efforts.

No action was taken at the meeting, but the Committee expressed general support for the initiative and directed staff that if a formal request is made by Orange County for OWASA to participate, that this request is to be presented to them at an upcoming Board meeting.

Rogers Road: Staff provided a summary of OWASA's involvement in this initiative since first responding to requests for information in early 2007.

OWASA Counsel then described the process for an assessment project and discussed OWASA's role in the initiative in light of recent discussions by the Orange County Commissioners and others.

Staff then closed discussion on this topic by highlighting to the members of the Committee that if a decision is made to provide sewer service to the Rogers Road area that it would recommend that a gravity system be used if it is technically feasible to do so.

Upper Neuse Clean Water Initiative (UNCWI): Staff provided information in advance of a presentation to the full Board (date still to be determined) by partners of the UNCWI.

The Committee expressed that they very much look forward to a presentation from the UNCWI at a future OWASA Board meeting and that OWASA staff and the Board will need to closely analyze the benefits of the UNCWI for OWASA's customers relative to the other requirements, including potential investment in other environmental stewardship-focused programs, that OWASA faces.

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 9:10 a.m.

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