Orange Water and Sewer Authority
Natural Resources and Technical Systems Committee
November 29, 2011 3:30-5:00 p.m.
OWASA Boardroom
Meeting Summary

Members Present

Alan Rimer (Chair), Terri Buckner, Will Raymond, William Stott, Amy Witsil, Gordon Merklein (*ex-officio*)

Other Board Members Present

John Young, Dana Stidham

Staff Present

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

Visitors Present

Kevin Brice (Triangle Land Conservancy)
Bo Howes (Triangle Land Conservancy)
Mac Clarke

Items Discussed:

1. Water and Sewer Management, Planning and Boundary Agreement (WSMPBA):

Staff presented information on a proposed ***Drought Response Operating Protocol*** that was developed after the OWASA Board's Chapel Hill appointees met with Chapel Hill Council Members Jim Ward, Gene Pease and Penny Rich on October 24, 2011.

The Committee, in general, agreed with the protocol and will report accordingly to the full Board at its December 8, 2011 meeting.

The Committee also directed staff to schedule a follow-up NRTS Committee meeting as soon as possible after the December 8th Board presentation by Mr. Tom Fransen (NC Division of Water Resources) so that the Committee can discuss the next steps to be taken so that a final decision regarding the proposed WSMPBA language change can be obtained from Carrboro and Chapel Hill.

2. December 8, 2011 Discussion with Mr. Tom Fransen, Deputy Director, NC Division of Water Resources and Water Resources Management Section Chief:

In preparation for the Dec 8th Board meeting, the Committee discussed how the discussion with Mr. Fransen should be structured to make the best use of Mr. Fransen's time, as well as any members of the public that are in attendance.

The Committee directed staff to request that Mr. Fransen read the questions provided to him previously and then answer them as concisely as possible; and that staff prepare a full transcript of the question and answer session that is to be promptly posted on the OWASA web site.

3. Upper Neuse Clean Water Initiative (UNCWI): The Committee discussed the April 13, 2011 letter from the UNCWI partners that requested that OWASA and others (Raleigh, Durham and Cary) charge customers an additional $0.01 per 100 gallons of drinking water to generate a reserve fund for acquiring property and/or conservation easements to protect drinking water supply reservoirs. Also discussed and considered was the July 28, 2011 Board presentation at which the Director of State Policy of Duke University's Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy and the President of the Triangle Land Conservancy requested that OWASA consider participating in a similar program as part of FY 13 budget development and rate setting deliberations.

In light of new information that the Triangle J and Piedmont Triad Councils of Governments have recently received grant funds to conduct a screening level project to identify critical watersheds in the Upper Caper Fear (i.e., Haw/Jordan + Deep River) Basin, the Committee postponed a decision until information from this and perhaps other studies could be evaluated to determine the merits of OWASA making additional investments in watershed protection.

Next Meeting

Staff has scheduled a follow-up NRTS Committee meeting on December 16th at 8:00 AM in the OWASA Boardroom. Topics to be discussed will include information gained from Mr. Fransen's presentation and the next steps that should be taken so that a final decision regarding the proposed WSMPBA language change can be obtained from Carrboro and Chapel Hill

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:25 p.m.

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