Orange Water and Sewer Authority
Natural Resources and Technical Systems Committee
December 16, 2011 8:00-10:00 a.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

Staff Present

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

Visitors Present

Mac Clarke

Items Discussed:

1. December 8, 2011 Discussion with Mr. Tom Fransen, Deputy Director, NC Division of Water Resources (DWR): The Committee discussed information gained from Mr. Fransen's discussion with the Board, and its impact on OWASA's ongoing efforts to retain and gain access to its Jordan Lake allocation. Several of the mains points discussed included:

- DWR staff consider drought management planning to be a legitimate "use" of a Level I Jordan Lake allocation.
- Although the conversion from a Level II to a Level I allocation can be initiated via a simple letter to DWR, the actual decision to allow that conversion is made by the Environmental Management Commission; therefore, it is inherently a political (policy level) rather than an administrative determination. As a result, the speed at which past (fairly straightforward) conversion requests were acted on may not be a good indicator of how things would unfold today or in the future.

2. Drought Response Operating Protocol: The Committee discussed the proposed *Drought Response Operating Protocol* and proposed next steps that will be presented to the full OWASA Board for further discussion at its January 12, 2012 meeting, and later presented to the Chapel Hill Town Council's "OWASA Committee" in early 2012.

There was general consensus among the Committee and the other Board member present on:

- Revisions should be made to the proposed *Drought Response Operating Protocol* graph (trigger chart) that was included in the Committee's agenda materials to return the Stage

1 triggers (purple block) to its original location. In other words, lower the recently proposed (purple) Stage 1 block by 5% to the currently adopted levels (as published in OWASA's State-approved *Water Shortage Response Plan*).

- Prompt action should be taken to request a conversion of OWASA's current Jordan Lake allocation from Level II to Level I. It was also suggested that action should perhaps occur after the Board has approved the *Drought Response Operating Protocol*.
- OWASA staff should initiate discussions with Cary and Durham to determine the potential terms and conditions that those jurisdictions are likely to require under any modified or new agreements that commit them to essentially "guarantee" OWASA's access to its Jordan Lake allocation during water shortages due to drought or other emergency.

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 10:30 a.m.

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