Meeting Summary
Natural Resources and Technical Systems Committee
January 8, 2013, 5:30 p.m.
OWASA Boardroom

Committee Members:	Terri Buckner (Chair), Stephen Dear, Michael Hughes, Heather Payne, Will Raymond, Alan Rimer, Amy Witsil, John Young
Staff:	Mary Darr, Kenneth Loflin, Ed Kerwin, Johnny Riley, Todd Taylor, Pat Davis, Ruth Rouse
Visitors:	Joel Bulkley, Alan Tom

Major Items Discussed

Recreation at University Lake and Cane Creek Reservoir

Ken Loflin presented information on lake use fees and recreation opportunities at other reservoirs in nearby counties (Durham, Wake, Alamance, Guilford, Caswell). Most other lakes charge flat fees, rent kayaks, but do not rent trolling motors. OWASA's boat fees are similar to other reservoirs for county residents; Wake County (Lake Wheeler) charges $30 for motor rental. It was pointed out that lakes owned by local governments also have a recreation mission.

To break even on costs, OWASA would need to raise lake fees approximately 83 percent.
It was noted that the lake recreation survey discussed at December NRTS meeting had limited value and staff should consider developing a better survey.

Staff also evaluated kayak prices further. Open top kayaks are used at other lakes and this is what OWASA would purchase for safety reasons. It would cost approximately $600 to purchase each kayak with paddle and personal floatation device.

Staff recommended maintaining the 2014 schedule and purchasing 12 kayaks to split between the two lakes. Assuming current boat rental charges ($9 for Orange County resident and $13.50 for out-of-county residents) and assuming that one half the rentals are from Orange County residents, each kayak would have to be rented 54 times to break even. Staff also recommended having a kayak fee of $15 for Orange County residents and $20 for out-of-county visitor which would improve the payback to 35 rentals per kayak.

Hiking at Cane Creek Reservoir was discussed. There is private land surrounding reservoir. Question was asked about the proposed Mountain to Sea Trail that may be near Cane Creek; portions of this trail would cross private land. Staff recommended that current nature trail at Cane Creek Reservoir (approx ¼ mile) be regularly maintained.

After discussion, the Committee decided to recommend purchase of kayaks with current funds so they would be available for the entire 2014 recreation season. A majority of the Committee also recommended additional Friday hours at University Lake limited to the historic highest use months. A majority of the Committee recommended that recreation fees remain the same in FY15. One Board member thought that fees for out-of-county residents should be raised and one Board member thought we should increase recreation at Cane Creek Reservoir.

Next Steps:
Staff will develop a resolution for the full Board to consider at a future meeting.

Staff will evaluate whether we should develop a future survey, and if so, what information would we like to get from it. The desired information would determine the survey questions and method.

Update of Long-Range Water Supply Plan

Ruth Rouse provided a short update on the Jordan Lake Round 4 Allocation Application process. The application is largely drafted, but still needs cost information. The City of Durham has hired Hazen & Sawyer to develop a planning level cost analysis for a new intake and water treatment plant on the west side of Jordan Lake; the costs will be based on including Durham, Chatham County, Pittsboro, and OWASA water supply needs.

Ruth will present the information on the Long-Range Water Supply Plan (LRWSP) update at the February 5 NRTS along with some information on schedule. Staff suggested that NRTS discuss Task 1 of the LRWSP update at its March meeting.

Next Steps
Board members should review the LRWSP information provided for the January NRTS meeting and send any questions or comments to Ruth so staff is ready to address them at the February NRTS meeting.

Staff will provide a draft schedule to update the LRWSP as part of the February 5 NRTS agenda package.

Next Meetings

The next NRTS Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 5, 2014 at 5:30 PM in the OWASA boardroom to discuss the update to the LRWSP tasks and schedule.

Task 1 of the LRWSP update will be discussed on Wednesday March 5, 2014 at 5:30 PM in the OWASA boardroom.

Board members had requested that IT be discussed at a NRTS meeting. Alan Rimer and Terri Buckner will talk to determine what information they would like to hear from staff on IT issues and when it should be discussed at NRTS.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:55 p.m.

Prepared by:

Ruth C. Rouse

Ruth Rouse, AICP
Planning and Development Manager