Meeting Summary
Natural Resources and Technical Systems Committee
May 7, 2014, 5:30 p.m.
OWASA Boardroom

Committee Members:	Terri Buckner (Chair), Steve Dear, Michael Hughes, Heather Payne, Will Raymond, Amy Witsil, Alan Rimer, John Young
Staff:	Mary Darr, Ed Kerwin, Ruth Rouse, Pat Davis, Todd Taylor
Visitors:	Greg Characklis, Chris Belk, Jeff Cruickshank

Major Items Discussed

Dr. Greg Characklis, a professor with UNC-Chapel Hill's Department of Environmental Sciences and Engineering, presented information regarding his modeling which examines water supply, future demands, and hydrologic conditions for the Town of Cary, City of Durham, City of Raleigh, and OWASA. His work has been funded by the Urban Water Consortium (OWASA is member), the NC Water Resources Research Institute, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The National Science Foundation recently awarded a major grant to continue this work. Dr. Characklis' team includes Dr. Patrick Reed from Cornell University, who specializes in decision analytics, uncertainty analysis, and data visualization for complex systems, including sustainable water management.

Model scenarios are run to evaluate the impact of water transfers (purchases), conservation, and holding emergency financial reserves on the reliability of water supply, frequency of restrictions, and financial impacts on communities. The highest reliability occurs when all three strategies (purchasing water, conservation, and emergency reserves) are in place.

Dr. Characklis noted that OWASA's water supply risk is low when compared to some other Triangle communities, and that our drought surcharge and rate/revenue stabilization reserve funding strategy reduce our financial risks compared to the other utilities.

Dr. Characklis said that at the appropriate time, he would be glad to attend future Committee meetings and share the results of the next phase of modeling work.

Next Meeting

The next NRTS Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 4, 2014 at 5:30 PM in the OWASA Boardroom to discuss a draft charter for the development of an Energy Management Plan (Strategic Initiative 5). No meeting will be held in July.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:00 p.m.

Prepared by:

Ruth C. Rouse

Ruth Rouse, AICP
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