Meeting Summary
Natural Resources and Technical Systems Committee
June 4, 2014, 5:30 p.m.
OWASA Boardroom

Committee Members: Terri Buckner (Chair), Steve Dear, Michael Hughes, Heather Payne, Will Raymond, Amy Witsil, Alan Rimer (Ex-Officio), John Young

Staff: Mary Darr, Ed Kerwin, Ruth Rouse, Pat Davis, Todd Taylor

Visitors: None

Topics for Future Meetings

The meeting began with a discussion about topics Committee members would like to consider at future meetings. Staff said the Committee's current list includes:

- Capital Improvement Program (CIP) update
- Biosolids Management Plan
- Advanced Meter Infrastructure (AMI) project
- Update on activities of the Jordan Lake Partnership
- Activities on the update to the Long-Range Water Supply Plan and the accompanying Water Conservation Plan

Committee members requested the following additional topics:

- Have Greg Characklis make a presentation on his National Science Foundation-funded modeling project, and have Jeff Cruickshank (Hazen and Sawyer) present on the regional water systems interconnection modeling work for the Jordan Lake Partnership
- Updated modeling to estimate water supply yield, including consideration of potential climate change impacts on yield
- Information on DENR's Cape Fear – Neuse Hydrologic model
- Update on the western Jordan Lake intake/water system facilities discussions
- Working with local partners on joint management of watersheds and easement maintenance
- Long-term management of lands, including potential for OWASA to generate revenues by selling carbon credits associated with maintaining our forest lands
- Climate change – how we should factor climate change into decisions moving forward
- Interrelationships and logistics regarding OWASA's community engagement efforts

Terri Buckner said she would poll Committee members as to their priorities for the above topics. Staff will work with the Committee Chair to schedule the priority topics for upcoming meetings.

Draft Charter for Energy Management Plan

Pat Davis, Sustainability Manager, presented a draft charter to the Committee. He mentioned that two key elements are still under development:

- Schedule – the project schedule will be determined once the Board and staff have discussed the priorities and proposed workplans for other Strategic Plan and operating initiatives
- Goals and Objectives – one important step will be to develop measurable goals and objectives for reductions in energy use, use of renewable energy, etc. This will be an iterative process. For example, the Committee may suggest a goal and staff will evaluate against financial and other measures. Based on that information, the Committee may decide to revise the goal.

Major discussion items included:

- Overall, the Committee liked the charter
- Committee likes the mix of social, environmental and financial performance goals; will need good data and information from staff to help to guide decisions and policy
- Financial considerations may not be primary driver in deciding what strategies we pursue
- Staff should consider adding other Partners in Section I (foundations, groups at EPA, UNC's Energy Management, Rocky Mountain Institute, etc.)
- OWASA should publicize that we are starting this initiative
- Need to be clear to public about what we are, and what we are not, considering
- Charter (or appendix to it) should outline how OWASA currently uses energy; could include some general language in main document to provide perspective on how OWASA uses energy
- Baseline energy use
    - Consider using 2005 as baseline year, as that would match EPA's approach for the newly proposed carbon pollution emission rules for existing electric utility generating units
    - Convert various types of energy use to common equivalents (such as Btus or kWh)
    - Show Energy Use Intensity (use/unit of production; use/sq. ft. of building space; etc.)
- Add foundations as potential funding source in Objective 9 in Section B
- Staff will incorporate the suggested changes into the charter and circulate it through email to the Board for review and comment

Next Meeting

No meeting will be held in July. The next NRTS Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 6, 2014 at 5:30 PM in the OWASA Boardroom.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:30 p.m.

Prepared by:

Ruth C. Rouse

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