Meeting Summary
Natural Resources and Technical Systems Committee
January 13, 2015, 5:30 p.m.
OWASA Boardroom

Committee Members:	Terri Buckner (Chair), Heather Payne, Dave Moreau, Ruchir Vora
Board Members:	Michael Hughes
Staff:	Mary Darr, Kenneth Loflin, Ed Kerwin, Johnny Riley, Todd Taylor, Ruth Rouse
Visitors:	Will Rickman, Stephen Smith, Joel Bulkley

Major Items Discussed

Ken Loflin provided a brief overview of recreation on the lake. OWASA has had agreement with UNC crew team to use University Lake.

Bob Epting provided a legal perspective on the use of University Lake by UNC. OWASA has a 40-year lease agreement with UNC for University Lake and 100 feet of land around the perimeter of the lake. This lease allows for use of the lake by UNC. Bob indicated that staff did check, and that the UNC Bass Fishing Team is sanctioned by UNC. The lease agreement requires us to work with the team, but it does not outline how frequently they could access or the conditions. Conditions to protect the lake as a public water supply and the safety of other users can be included in any license agreement that OWASA enters into with the petitioners.

Bob recommended that the Committee recommendation to the Board of Directors should be to direct staff to work with the petitioner to develop a mutually acceptable agreement, which is the normal petition process. This license agreement would then be brought back to the Board of Directors at a later meeting, which could be the next business meeting.

Committee members asked the representative of the bass fishing team questions. He provided the following information:

- Bass fishing is becoming a big sport and some team members plan to make a career out of it.
- They will practice catch and release.
- They would primarily use the lake during weekdays when the lake is not open to the public; on weekends, they would expect to be treated as anyone else from the public. In other words, they would not expect to pose a problem with the number of vessels allowed on the lake (21 allowed at one time).
- They would agree not to trailer their boats to the lake; they would use only their trolling engines. However, they would like to be able to store their full-size tournament boats and trailers at University Lake to help control costs.

- Team will use Jordan Lake to practice in an area more similar to tournament fishing, but would like some use of University Lake. They understand OWASA's concerns and can be flexible on how they use University Lake.
- Team would be open to performing service activities such as providing data on the fish they catch or picking up trash. The Committee members requested that OWASA's lake warden develop suggestions for service activities.

Discussion about the bass team petition outlined the following issues which should be addressed in the license agreement:

- Staffing – OWASA would not need additional staff if the team uses their own boats and crew docks.
- Conflicts with other users – This could be addressed by having scheduled practices when the lake is closed to the public (as stipulated above).
- Aquatic weeds – OWASA has concerns about the use of trailered boats; boat trailers often carry nuisance aquatic weeds, and this would need to be addressed.
- Gas motors – Gas motors will not be allowed on the lake, even if not being used

Next Meeting

Andy will send out a doodle poll for the week of February 16 for the next NRTS Committee meeting to discuss OWASA baseline energy use and goals for the Energy Management Plan.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:25 PM.

Prepared by:

Ruth C. Rouse

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Ruth Rouse, AICP
Planning and Development Manager