Meeting Summary
Natural Resources and Technical Systems Committee
March 17, 2015, 5:30 p.m.
OWASA Boardroom

Committee Members: Terri Buckner (Chair), Dave Moreau, Ruchir Vora, John Young

Board Members: None

Staff: Mary Darr, Pat Davis, Ed Kerwin, Ruth Rouse, Stephen Winters

Visitors: Kathy Walters, NCDENR

Potential Assistance From NCDENR's Utility Savings Initiative
Kathy Walters, a staff person from the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources' Utility Savings Initiative (USI), said that the USI team can provide free technical assistance as we develop and implement our Energy Management Plan (EMP). USI may be able to assist us in pursuing funding assistance for energy efficiency projects.

Review of Technical Memorandum
The Committee discussed the draft Technical Memorandum (TM) titled *Baseline Assessment of Energy Use; Overview of Energy Management Strategies to Date; and Potential Goals and Objectives for Energy Management*. The Committee requested that the following additional information be included in the TM:

- Show energy use by account, meter equivalents, or other appropriate metric;
- Show how energy use differs for University Lake and Cane Creek Reservoir raw water pump stations;
- Provide historical cost information, and normalize costs;
- Discuss the uses of natural gas at the Mason Farm WWTP (explain why we flare gas even though we have to purchase natural gas);
- Where applicable, show how energy use varies as temperature changes (heating degree-days and cooling degree-days);
- Provide general estimate of electricity use by major process/function at our treatment plants;
- Show carbon emissions associated with flaring of gas at the WWTP;
- Include information about our curtailable use and run-times for our generators; and
- Include estimates of cost savings realized as a result of our energy management efforts.

It was also suggested that we consider using the State's spreadsheets and forms for tracking and reporting on our energy use and savings (those forms are used by UNC and other State agencies and institutions).

The Committee suggested the following strategies be included among the many other alternative energy management strategies that we evaluate in the next phase of our work:

- Use of biogas for building space heating and hot water heating needs at the WWTP;
- Thermal and hydraulic energy recovery from the wastewater system; and
- Further deployment of real-time energy monitoring systems, such as for finished water pumping at the WTP.

Potential Goals and Objectives for Energy Management Plan
The Committee requested that staff prepare:

(a) recommendations for draft goals and objectives for the EMP. Examples are:
    - minimize energy use at reasonable cost;
    - undertake projects provided they have positive financial payback over the expected life of the measure; and
    - reduce energy use by 3%/year.

    It was noted that if we set specific goals and objectives, there is a responsibility to fund and implement the measures needed to accomplish those goals and objectives.

(b) a summary of the estimated range of energy savings expected if we implement the proposed projects included in the draft Capital Improvements Plan for Fiscal Years 2016 through 2020.

The above information will be discussed at the next Committee meeting.

Next Steps
The Committee will meet again to continue discussion on potential goals and objectives for the EMP, and to consider the revised draft TM. It was agreed that the Board should postpone the April 23rd discussion of the TM and potential goals and objectives so that the Committee can have additional time to review the information and develop recommendations for consideration by the Board.

Next Meeting
Staff will poll the Committee to determine the next meeting date and time.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:15 PM.

Prepared by:

Ruth C. Rouse

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Ruth Rouse, AICP
Planning and Development Manager