Meeting Summary
Natural Resources and Technical Systems Committee
April 28, 2015, 5:30 p.m.
OWASA Boardroom

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

Other Board Members: Steve Dear

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

Visitors: None

Review of Technical Memorandum
The Committee discussed the revised 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 agreed that the revised draft TM is ready to submit to the Board of Directors, subject to revisions to the goals and objectives as summarized below. The Committee does not intend to meet again to review those revisions.

Some additional comments were:

1. The draft TM should be revised to include third-party energy use for contract services we receive, such as for the biosolids management program.
2. We have made important progress and have a positive story to tell – so let's tell it through news articles, guest columns, and other means.
3. Assess and document the energy savings associated with water use efficiency and conservation by our customers.
4. The technical evaluation of alternative energy efficiency and renewable energy strategies will provide us information about the technical potential to achieve goals and objectives. Once that evaluation is completed, we may decide to modify the draft goals and objectives shown below.

Potential Goals and Objectives for Energy Management Plan
The Committee discussed the draft goals and objectives offered by staff and decided to recommend the following for the draft plan:

1. Reduce use of purchased electricity by 35% by the end of Calendar Year 2020 compared to the Calendar Year 2010 baseline. *(The Committee believes that this "stretch" goal will encourage OWASA to identify and evaluate alternative strategies that might not normally be considered in the absence of such a goal.)*
2. Reduce use of purchased natural gas by 5% by the end of Calendar Year 2020 compared to the Calendar Year 2010 baseline.
3. Beneficially use all WWTP biogas by 2022, provided the preferred strategy is projected to have a positive payback within the expected useful life of the required equipment.
4. Formally engage local governments and partners in discussions about potential development of a biogas-to-energy project at the WWTP.

5. Seek proposals for third-party development of renewable energy projects on OWASA property, such as rooftop solar at the Administration Building.

The Committee also suggested that programmatic goals and objectives be established on an annual basis as part of the plan implementation process; the specific measureable energy efficiency and renewable energy goals for 2020 would not be modified annually. The annual programmatic goals and objectives could include the identification and evaluation of potential energy savings opportunities on a subset of the proposed capital improvements program projects.

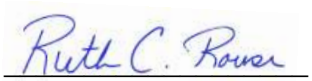
Next Steps
The Committee agreed that staff should present the draft TM and potential goals and objectives to the Board of Directors at its May 28, 2015 meeting. Staff will revise the draft TM as necessary to address the questions, comments, and guidance from the Board. The next major technical task will be to evaluate the benefits and costs of alternative strategies for reducing energy use and increasing our use of renewable energy.

The Committee also agreed to propose that at the May 14, 2015 Work Session, the Board discuss community engagement strategies for the Energy Management Plan project, including the possibility of holding (a) a meeting with local elected officials and representatives from potential partner agencies (such as the Affordability Outreach Partnership approach), and/or (b) a broad community meeting with customers, interested stakeholders, local officials, etc. to receive questions, comments, and suggestions early on in our energy management planning work.

Next Meeting
The timing of the Committee's next meeting to discuss energy management will be determined once staff has completed the technical evaluation of alternative strategies, which is expected to be around late summer/early fall.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:10 PM.

Prepared by:



Ruth Rouse, AICP
Planning and Development Manager