Meeting Summary
Natural Resources and Technical Services Committee
February 26, 2018, 5:00 p.m.

Committee Members:	John Young (Chair), Heather Payne, John Morris, Ruchir Vora
Other Board Members:	Jeff Danner, Ray DuBose
Staff:	Mary Tiger, Mary Darr, Ed Kerwin, Ruth Rouse
Public:	Greg Characklis, David Gorelick, A.R. El-Khattabi

The Natural Resources and Technical Services (NRTS) Committee met to review the existing Drought Response Operating Protocol (DROP) and discuss potential changes that could provide greater flexibility to respond to extended drought conditions. John Young opened the meeting.

Ruth Rouse provided a brief overview of the DROP as outlined in the agenda package. Table 1 summarizes some of the advantages and disadvantages of keeping the existing policy which allows OWASA to purchase water from neighboring utilities or access our Jordan Lake allocation only when we have reached a Stage 1 water shortage trigger as depicted in the figure below.

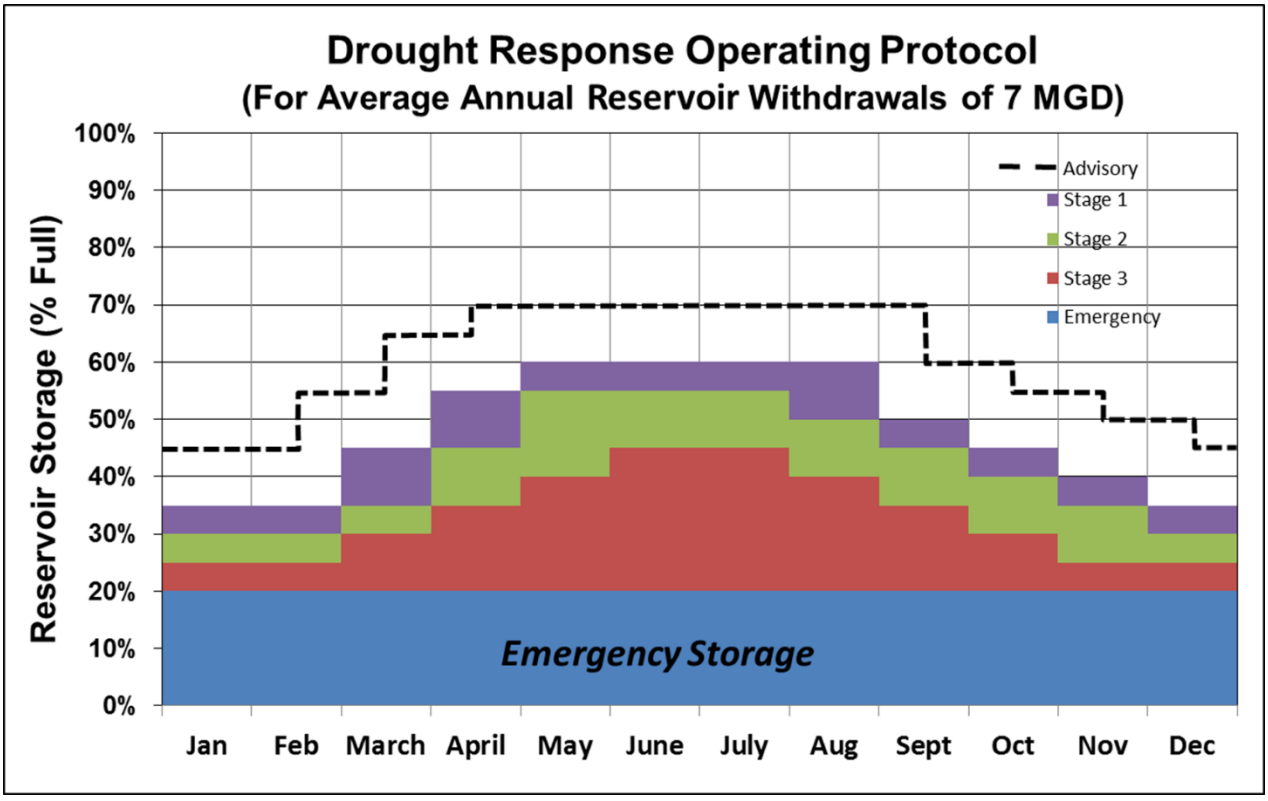


Table 1: Advantages and Disadvantages of Accessing our Jordan Lake Allocation or Purchasing Water Only When Supply Drops below Stage 1 Water Supply Shortage Trigger

Advantages	Disadvantages
• Makes maximum use of OWASA's locally-controlled reservoirs (Cane Creek Reservoir, University Lake, and Quarry Reservoir) • Provides maximum incentive for OWASA customers to conserve • Reduces drought-related costs to OWASA customers in the event drought is of short duration, as less money is spent on supplementing the local supply	• More likely to result in more severe water shortages • More likely to result in earlier implementation of mandatory conservation measures and related drought surcharges • More likely to result in mandatory restrictions and drought surcharges being in effect for longer periods • More likely to result in more frequent, earlier, more severe, and more extended periods of adverse impacts to customers due to enactment of water use restrictions and drought surcharges • More likely to constrain our ability to obtain supplemental water supply in the amounts we need and when we need it later on during a severe drought, as regional interconnection capacities may not be adequate to meet our needs while also meeting needs of other utilities also affected by that drought • Implementation of more frequent, more severe, and more prolonged water use restrictions has potential to reduce water and sewer operating revenues (however, our drought surcharges and reserve fund policies help reduce the adverse effects of restrictions on our revenues)

Discussion centered around the following items:

- The DROP is a balancing act between supporting the ethos of sustainability in the community we serve and avoiding water restrictions. Modifying the DROP provides greater flexibility in managing our water supplies, but the Board has an obligation to thoroughly evaluate risks and trade-offs before modifying an existing policy.
- In light of the above, the Board needs to fully understand how often the DROP would apply, and when staff would recommend that the Board take action and request that we purchase water from our neighbors or access our Jordan Lake allocation.
- Board members and staff generally agreed that it is good to retain a community advisory period prior to accessing our Jordan Lake allocation. Attendees recognized that if drought conditions were rapidly changing, that period could be relatively short.

- Some Board members thought that the community believes Jordan Lake water quality is poor and may have risks; one member referenced an upcoming trends analysis report that USGS will be publishing in near future that may provide further information.
- The DROP could be considered in conjunction with the Long-Range Water Supply Plan update, but Committee members recognized that if the climate forecast for drier weather resulted in drought, earlier action may be needed. Committee indicated they would defer to staff on when to discuss DROP further.
- Some Board members said that one of the most important factors in considering policy for accessing Jordan Lake is the potential limited interconnection capacity during times of high interconnection demand, such as during a drought.
- Attendees thought it was important to have a dialog with the community as changes are considered.

NRTS Recommendation

The NRTS Committee requested that staff develop and recommend specific DROP changes including changes to the accompanying graphic. Staff should also provide information to back up their recommendations for changes to the policy and graphic. The Committee members requested that the following be included to support staff's recommendation and communication regarding the DROP:

1. Staff should show historic supply levels and how they would fall on the Water Shortage Trigger graphic.
2. Graphics should show when staff would recommend accessing our Jordan Lake allocation. This can be depicted with uncertainty bars or shading.
3. Staff should evaluate different ways to express a water shortage advisory; this could continue to be a line on the graphic or some other manner to depict it.

   Note: Staff stated that we may need to use graphics other than the Water Shortage Trigger graphics to portray some of this information.
4. Staff should also check language (purchase water/transfer water) and be consistent where possible. We should see if we can be consistent with the Water and Sewer Management, Planning and Boundary Agreement.

The Committee also recommended that staff review the USGS trends report when it is available and include any relevant water quality data on Jordan Lake from that report in future DROP materials.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:30 PM.

Prepared by:

Ruth C. Rouse

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Ruth Rouse, AICP
Planning and Development Manager