Meeting Summary
Natural Resources and Technical Services Committee
May 8, 2018, 4:30 p.m.

Committee Members:	John Young (Chair), Heather Payne, John Morris, Bob Morgan (ex officio)
Other Board Members:	Yinka Ayankoya
Staff:	Katie Harrold, Ken Loflin, Mary Tiger, Mary Darr, Ed Kerwin, Todd Taylor, Ruth Rouse
Public:	None

The Natural Resources and Technical Services (NRTS) Committee met to discuss source water protection efforts. John Young opened the meeting.

Ruth Rouse provided a brief overview of current source water protection efforts as outlined in the agenda. Much of the discussion centered around monitoring, biosolids application in Cane Creek Reservoir watershed, and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). Discussion included the following:

- Review of previous watershed studies conducted by OWASA. These centered around nutrient loading to the reservoirs.
- OWASA samples for a wide suite of compounds in our drinking water including pesticides at different intervals depending on the compound. For example, pesticides and other synthetic organic compounds are monitored in two consecutive quarters every three years.
- Dr. Detleff Knappe of NC State has done some monitoring for PFASs in the Cane Creek Reservoir watershed; concentrations are higher downstream of fields that are used for Class B biosolids application.
- It was noted that biosolids are not the source of PFASs, but may be one carrier. The source is the household and industrial items that are used that contain these compounds. Environmental concentrations of some PFASs are declining as EPA restricts the use of certain chemicals. However, it is easy to change a given compound slightly to create a new compound.
- Staff has reached out to Burlington to obtain its data on biosolids in Cane Creek Reservoir watershed. They do not test for PFASs in their biosolids (OWASA does not either); there is no approved method for monitoring PFASs in biosolids.
- There are many unregulated compounds; EPA identifies which ones to monitor and requires all large water providers and some small and medium sized providers to monitor for them through the unregulated contaminants monitoring rule (UCMR); OWASA participates in this monitoring, and is scheduled to perform its fourth round (UCMR4) in 2019-2020.

NRTS Recommendation

The NRTS Committee requested that staff provide the following information:

1. Information on the locations, magnitude, and timing of application, as well as known quality, of Class B biosolids applied in the Cane Creek Reservoir watershed.
2. Initial sampling plan to characterize perfluorinated compounds in creeks feeding Cane Creek Reservoir and a cost estimate to implement the sampling.

In addition, staff will provide the following information:

1. Include the dollar amount that OWASA has spent on land protection in our watersheds in the Land and Easement Purchases for Water Supply Protection that staff updates annually.
2. Include the streams on map showing conservation land in our watersheds in future information (Figure 1 in agenda)
3. Research whether there are any differences in allowances for biosolids applications in a WS-II versus WS-III watershed.
4. Research riparian buffer requirements for biosolids application.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:35 PM.

Prepared by:

Ruth C. Rouse

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Ruth Rouse, AICP
Planning and Development Manager