

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

**Committee Members:** John Young (Chair), Bruce Boehm, Jody Eimers, John Morris, Yinka Ayankoya (ex officio)

**Other Board Members:** Ray DuBose

**Staff:** Katie Harrold, Ken Loflin, Mary Tiger, Mary Darr, Ed Kerwin, Todd Taylor, Ruth Rouse, Linda Low

**Public:** None

The Natural Resources and Technical Services (NRTS) Committee met to discuss source water protection efforts with an emphasis on per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). John Young opened the meeting. Todd Taylor briefly summarized the information in the [agenda package](#). General discussion points included the following:

Background

- It is difficult to compare OWASA's biosolids data to that of other utilities since the percentage solids can vary; all biosolids must be applied at permitted agronomic rates.
- Staff is aware of research on the fate and transport of PFAS through soil to groundwater, but is not aware of research on fate and transport through soils to surface water.
- The charge given to the North Carolina Policy Collaboratory (Collaboratory) from the General Assembly was very specific for this phase of their PFAS study. We have shared our PFAS data with the Collaboratory research team and let them know that OWASA is a willing participant in any future studies.
- There is a lot of ongoing research on PFAS:
  - EPA has developed a 4-step action plan that includes policy and research
  - The North Carolina Division of Water Resources (DWR) is monitoring PFAS in Falls and Jordan Lakes
  - The Collaboratory is testing PFAS in all public water supply sources, evaluating air emissions, developing models to predict which private wells are at greatest risk of contamination from PFAS, assessing the impact of PFAS on public health, and testing the effectiveness of different technologies to remove PFAS
  - The Triangle Area Water Supply Monitoring Program (OWASA is a member) is considering monitoring for PFAS
- Staff will continue to keep abreast of this research and other work on PFAS.
- There is a standard method (EPA Method 537) for analyzing 14 PFAS in drinking water, but not for the majority of them. Having comparable data (using same methods) to Collaboratory and DWR would be beneficial. Staff will consider method selection to compare data to the Collaboratory, DWR, and neighboring utilities.

### Potential Monitoring in Cane Creek Reservoir

Todd Taylor briefly summarized the three sampling options outlined in the agenda package:

1. Quarterly sampling at the Cane Creek Reservoir intake and in treated drinking water – provides seasonal data
2. Monthly sampling at the Cane Creek Reservoir intake and in treated drinking water – increases the resolution of seasonal data
3. Quarterly sampling at the Cane Creek Reservoir intake, at three tributaries, and in treated drinking water – provides comparison of PFAS levels from a control site and sites with recent and past biosolids applications

Discussion around the sampling included the following:

- Research is not OWASA's goal.
- There was discussion on what actions could be taken if we performed the tributary sampling. For example, would we think about how we might apply information learned to our biosolids management program?
- If we want to apply data to our biosolids program, we should develop a study that would look at PFAS in tributaries and wells where we apply biosolids.
- If we monitor at the Cane Creek intake, what would we do if we saw increases in PFAS concentration? Our actions would depend on how much it is increasing, whether there are fluctuations throughout the year, and how levels in the treated drinking water samples are impacted by our current treatment process.
- Sampling at the intake provides data on the quality of the water we are treating and whether our treatment process is effective at removing any PFAS in the source water.
- If we start with quarterly sampling, we could increase the frequency at a later date if we felt that would provide better data to make decisions.

### NRTS and Staff Recommendations

1. Staff should begin quarterly sampling at the Cane Creek Reservoir intake and in treated drinking water at the Jones Ferry Road WTP.
2. Staff should provide the data to the Board after four quarters of data have been collected and analyzed.
3. In future, Board could decide to perform additional monitoring.
4. Staff will stay updated on the state of the science and regulatory arena regarding PFAS.

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The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:15 PM.

Prepared by:

*Ruth C. Rouse*

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Planning and Development Manager