

## Triangle Water Supply Partnership

### MEETING SUMMARY

October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Triangle J Council of Governments  
4307 Emperor Blvd, Durham NC 27703

#### **Action Items**

- Jen will update interconnections map based on Sarah's map/Maya's notes
- Everyone should contact Syd Miller regarding the state of your distribution model, as information to include in RFQ (when it was last updated, what software it is in, any other important information)
- Ruth will ask Jill Weese about TWP member concerns with provision in Article 7 about paying for emergency repair and rehabilitation with the goal of getting consistent language in all contracts
- Larry and Elizabeth will reach out to Jill Weese asking for their contracts
- Any members who have not contributed swag for Warren should contribute it to Durham

#### ***Administrative Considerations***

##### *Approval of August Meeting Summary*

Ruth Rouse moved to approve the minutes, and Marie Strandwitz seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

##### *Approval of Five-year Funding Plan*

Syd moved to approve the plan; Sarah seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

##### *Election of Chair/Vice Chair*

Sarah moved to elect Don Greeley as chair, and Howard seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Vicki moved to elect Larry as vice chair; Kendra seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Maya asked the group to review the list of partnership contacts and alternates. She will compile all updates. She also showed the group the new website; Sarah noted that the map and one-pager will be updated. Logo was discussed; confusion over which was chosen (resolved after meeting.)

#### ***Interconnections map updates***

Sarah requested input on the interconnections map, noting that it is not intended to represent exact plant locations, but rather, sources and interconnections. Vicki pointed out the map's use in presentations to councils, and Sarah talked about how it guides TWP's decisions in interconnection model updates, to show the scope and status of connections and transfers. It was established that the map is not intended to be a repository where we are tracking all transfers and IBTs. (Syd mentioned there is also an inventory of all interconnections; Sarah added that this inventory included interconnection status—when last used, flow, capacity, tested/theoretical.)

*Requested updates to interconnection arrows*

- Larry requested to keep/include Siler City connection
- Steve indicated there should be a connection from Harnett to Johnson County (Harnett supplies Johnson County with 1.5-2 mgd)
- Kendra said Holly Springs has a connection to Fuquay (not transferring currently, but can transfer up to 2 mgd)
- Simon asked for clearer placement of arrow indicating Chatham to OWASA connection
- Marie: Hillsborough can send (both raw and finished) water one-way to Orange/Alamance
- Syd: Arrow from Cape Fear River to Harnett County
- Chris: Raleigh/Fuquay interconnect
- David Hardin: Cary has two-way interconnection with Holly Springs and one way to Apex (?)
- Kendra: Apex can send Holly Springs water but not vice versa
- Raleigh/Durham should be two-way

*Names to update on map:*

- Change name of Hillsborough Reservoir to West Fork of the Eno (multiple small reservoirs feed into Lake Ben Johnson.)
- Stone Quarry should be called Quarry Reservoir

*Including non-TWP partners on map*

It was discussed that the includes Siler City, Rolesville, other non-TWP-members; one strategy would be to gray out municipalities beyond partnership. Including non-partners would greatly expand the map. Howard suggested to include a footnote saying the map focuses on TWP water supply. Marie suggested that people looking at the map should still be aware of interconnects with municipalities outside the partnership. Sarah suggested that a future map could include more non-partnership connections.

Action Item:

- Sarah will compile updates on map and Maya will convey all comments; Jen will update map

***Report out from Technical Committee***

Technical committee met last month; it meets on months between full partnership meetings. It is moving ahead with developing RFQ for whole interconnections model. Syd will contact members regarding the state of everyone's distribution model—when last updated, what software it is in, etc-- look for an email from him!

The question was raised whether the full group should be asked if in agreement that the group should move ahead with the RFQ. Syd noted that to do so is consistent with our 5 year funding plan; if pursue a different project, will need to change five year plan. Steve moved to go ahead with development of RFQ for model update; Sarah seconded. No one expressed a preference to move ahead with another project and motion passed unanimously.

Syd noted that Tech Comm isn't exclusive; nor is RFQ. Everyone should join and/or work on it! The intention is to get the RFQ out before the end of the year.

#### Action Item

- Everyone should contact Syd Miller about the state of your distribution model—when it was last updated, what software it is in, etc—to include this information in the RFQ.

#### ***Legislative updates***

NCDEQ is issuing letters to WWTPs requiring corrective action plans for 1, 4 dioxane (voluntary plan at present; debate around authority)

- Fayetteville PWC issued letter; see attached email Sarah received from Mick Nolan and list of 25 utilities potentially affected
- Steve Ward: Harnett's wastewater plants are affected. Have been sampling on voluntary basis for years; have seen some upward spikes recently. Disheartened that a lot of point sources have been identified but DEQ hasn't done a lot about it
- Sarah: Public forum run by Haw River Assembly happening in Pittsboro in October. Speakers include Heather Stapleton and other toxicologists.
  - Elizabeth: We were just informed of this, but they didn't work with us. Heather Stapleton presented at past at Pittsboro board meeting last month. A little tricky how to navigate; various things happening independently, not through town
  - Discussion over whether anyone is planning to go (individually, not as TWP)
    - Steve: any partners from Western Wake reclamation facility attending? Haven't decided

Governor Cooper vetoed S320 which was the Rates Agreement Requirement bill for the Kerr Reservoir water contract holders and subsequent subcontracts/water sales. (A dispute between Franklin County and the City of Henderson was fed into a bill—would have meant that to get SRF funds, you would have to work out your rate with everyone who buys water from you before you take the SRF money.)

- Good that governor vetoed as it would be bad to set a precedent of solving local problems in statewide bill.

DOT Utility relocation bill (S68) will probably help utilities---DOT will pay more cost share for larger utilities

Ecological flows may gain traction with this EMC; good to keep an eye on this as it would impact water supply

- Syd: Negotiating use of Teer Quarry did not require anything explicit about ecological flows in operating rules, but it was a basis for how much Durham was allowed to take from the Eno River—could only withdraw flows from Eno when flow is above median, and can only withdraw 10-20% of flow based on ecological flow recommendations.

### ***Allocations/Contracts Updates and Discussion***

Contracts have been emailed to most members; they may have track changes included. Kim Nimmer will send formal contracts shortly. Ruth Rouse talked to AG's office, who said that everyone's contracts would look pretty similar, except for Cary's because they have an intake on Jordan Lake.

- It was discussed that some members' contracts were sent to their attorneys; some were sent to other places.
- Chatham and Pittsboro haven't received their contracts yet at any of their offices. Larry, Elizabeth will reach out to Jill Weese and ask for contracts.

### ***Concerns with contracts***

Howard expressed concern with two parts:

- Articles VII (A) (2), (D) Major Replacement Costs & (E) Major Rehabilitation Costs (note article number may vary between members' contracts): requires payment within 30 days. No member could remit for surprises without advance warning; would need to budget for it. State didn't respond to Howard's comment.
  - Syd noted that the state is passing through to members provisions of their contract with the Corps
  - Howard would like to propose TWP takes a joint stance taking issue with payment provision. Maybe suggest utilities can pay the following year, once they have budgeted for it?
  - Ruth asked: Wouldn't the Corps also know when they're going to do a major project? Assuming they have to put it in their CIPs, should they have to share that with the state and us? There should maybe be a separate agreement with Corps, State, and allocation holders when Corps has a major project planned, so allocation holders can plan/pay for it.
    - Syd: This would make it more likely for state to get paid.
- Ruth had issue with Article 10. Western intake partnership might be a new entity that isn't an allocation holder. State said they considered our suggestion to change the language but were concerned that modifying the language may not protect our allocations. State's attorney suggested that we could do an amendment to our individual contracts if this became an issue. OWASA can accept the language as written in the contract.
  - Syd: May not need to amend; could just track withdrawals from Jordan Lake and assign

### ***Next steps***

OWASA attorneys said they should put contract on consent agenda through council for transparency (will hold off until everyone has a contract they are happy with.)

- Durham's contract has to go before council because ~\$400,000
- Cary attorneys said didn't have to go thru council

Ruth will ask Jill Weese about Howard's concern when she calls about another question. Consistent language would be helpful for everyone. Syd noted that if we don't get clarity from Jill, could ask Linda Culpepper about a formal mechanism for managing costs of rehabilitation

Action items:

- Ruth will ask Jill about concerns with provision in Article 7 about paying for emergency repair and rehabilitation
- Larry and Elizabeth will reach out to Jill asking for their contracts

***JLOW Update***

Andrea provided JLOW updates from Jen. Following One Water Summit in Austin, Linda Culpepper held meeting with heads of sections and divisions in DWR to discuss takeaways and implementation options in our state/region; more to come on that. JLOW advisory committee meets next week; will prepare workplan through December 2020. Next full JLOW meeting will be led by DWR at Chatham County Ag Center on Oct 30<sup>th</sup> from 9:30-11:30am. They will discuss the proposed integrated water management framework for Jordan Lake Rule Readoption and encourage stakeholders to put forth what they need out of a regulatory strategy to meet their individual environmental and economic goals.

***Partner Updates and Problem-Solving***

*Problem Solving*

Cary had a request from a parent to test for lead in a Wake County School; is referring them to County. Has anyone else encountered this?

- Chris: Raleigh had a similar request and referred them to Wake County; can share a contact.
- Steve Ward: Had a complaint like this in Harnett County; overactive school board contracted with a private contractor to test for lead. Old building had potential hotspots. Harnett Regional Water had to test at the meter, found nothing, had to explain to school board. Found out contractor wasn't even certified in NC. School board didn't communicate with Harnett Regional Water. There seems to be new move from parent groups to test for lead in schools.
- Simon: OWASA will sample for lead and share results; have sampled schools and daycares.
- David Hardin: Went onto Wake County real estate site to look at anything after 1990 and made a list of schools/daycares that might be hotspots based on age. Haven't done anything yet.
- Vicki: Collaboration with Durham public schools: schools pick sites they want to sample; Durham trains staff to sample, does analysis and gives them the results (which have been good this year.) One parent contacted Vicki. Two years ago, there was more of an increase in attention on this.

OWASA: Google Fiber is coming through and is highly uncoordinated; they haven't had any control over their contractors, who punch holes anywhere and then go bankrupt. Despite this, Google Fiber people are good to work with, but definitely need location support and workflow help. They want to put

100,000 lf/month in Chapel Hill but there has been no review of their drawings, where or at what depth they plan to put in Fiber. OWASA will be pulling together a team of local utility leaders in Orange County--gas, electric, fuel oil, DOT, Town of Chapel Hill people working in ROW, USIC 811--to tell Google an appropriate way to work with them.

- Sarah asked: isn't 811 supposed to do this? Simon: Yes, but they're swamped; don't have time. All cities benefitting from Google Fiber's work; we have to help them do their job right.
- Email Simon if interested in being involved.
  
- Marie said Hillsborough had a similar issue with Verizon; they hit a 12" water main. Question to all: How do you backcharge contractors when they hit a main?
- Kendra said she could share forms, advice.

Hillsborough (Marie) would like to learn about any forums/listservs for utility director, as she is a new utility director. Does anyone in this group know of any forums for asking questions? Regarding pump station crews; bulk water policies; many other things.

- Vicki suggested investigating SOG listservs. If an existing one does not suffice, could start one.
- Syd suggests ncwater might be useful--very broad; but does include questions about all water utility issues.
- Syd asked if some directors were meeting quarterly in past? Vicki noted that Raleigh, Cary, Durham were, but this hasn't happened in a year; she will look into it.
- Sarah suggested AWWA conference in November might be a good forum for scoping out interest, perhaps in a once-a-year forum. It would be good to build off something existing rather than creating something new.
- Jamie noted that Rural Water has very active tech support capabilities
- Simon said Norma Huston at SOG is very available and helpful on any law question.

### *General Updates*

Apex is starting up a drone program; town will buy one to look at flooding, infrastructure, ROWs, sediment and erosion program.

Hillsborough is under a voluntary water restriction for low flows in the Eno. On the flip side, Marie recently saw a presentation from Verizon recently about emergency response, noted that they offer wireless battery-operated cameras that can be used to monitor flooding.

Durham: Building off Marie's comments on drought, Vicki raised a question for the group regarding whether everyone's reservoirs have been dropping (Durham hasn't had significant rain in a month.)

- Consensus that yes, Falls and Jordan are both down.
- Steve Ward: Eastern Harnett got many inches of rain.
- Vicki: Little River Reservoir is 12' below full. Taking too much from there, not enough from Lake Michie due to constraints on piping.

Durham (Syd): Construction continues at all four plants, as well as Mist Lake facility, which is one reason Durham won't be able to host meetings. Recently selected AECOM for Risk, Resilience, Emergency response and Source Water Protection Plan (had 7 proposals.) Long range water resources plan continues; in data collection phase; building database; will analyze water efficiency programs which will result in library of water efficiency and conservation measures we can implement.

Durham (Vicki): Water Efficiency team received Water Sense excellence award from EPA for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year running for their education/outreach. October 23<sup>rd</sup> is Imagine a Day Without Water; approached to work on a Water Summit with Durham Sierra Club. Will also partner with Nicholas School of the Environment.

OWASA: Water plant partial shutdown still planned for this winter—will be at half capacity from mid-November till beginning of year. Also reduced capacity at University Lake; so, will have both raw water and finished water limitations, but will be able to meet own needs. In the early stages of considering assessment of Cane Creek water main. On the water quality side, seeing geosmin creeping up in water supplies. Also working on long-term water supply plans; the board approved our list of supply and demand management alternatives that we'll be evaluating in the plan.

Cary: Jeff Adkins moved to HDR, and the Water Resources group is now in the Utilities Dept so Jamie will be joining Sarah at TWP meetings going forward. Cary has had some discoloration issues. Cary has a new tank off highway 55. Cary is also seeing some increase in Jordan Lake in MIB and geosmin and aggressively treating for it right now.

Holly Springs: Drone program has been up and running for a year; looks at flooding, drainage complaints, NPDES, traffic around town. First location for pilot program for drone food delivery. Council passed land use plan, original was for 100,000 at buildout; now 150,000, which constitutes a Long-Range Water Supply Plan update. Changing development software to CityView. Fire Department has an ISO rating of a 1, which means insurance savings. Scored high because of water supply (thanks Harnett County!) This presented a good opportunity to educate Holly Springs Council about water supply and hydraulic models.

Steve Ward: Growth from southern Wake County is making its way into Harnett--5500 residential lots north of the Cape Fear close to Wake County. This will require \$20 million in water improvements in next 5-7 years (distribution/storage, not water plants.) Starting 2 phase AMI project: 40,000 meters in system currently; looking at going with AMI across the board (Meter Sense doing the work for them.) Challenging because spread out across county; will cost \$15 million. Withers Ravenel is doing Risk & Resilience study for Harnett Regional Water.

Chatham has finished a final version of countywide water sewer comprehensive plan; it's an interactive dashboard tool Chatham, Siler, Pittsboro and Goldston will be able to use for demand projections, future supply, CIP projects coming down the pipeline. County has also hired someone to do an update of UDO around the end of the year.

Morrisville is looking for Town Engineer so that Greg can go back into retirement. Starting a major project—Morrisville Carpenter Road—widening to relieve traffic on 54. An aquatic center is under construction that will use a lot of Cary water.

Orange County: No significant updates in the past two months.

Raleigh: Working on a raw water main assessment project—condition assessment of Falls Lake to Johnson Plant. The 36' mains were put in in 1965, and 54' in 1980s, so they're all PCCP and there's some issues there. Depending how the shutdown of mains work, could affect capacity, but will try to do condition assessment in winter. Would also like to work with Durham on testing Highway 70 interconnect this winter (after it rains.) Raleigh installed a large flushing location out there, so it takes 30 minutes.

Pittsboro is experiencing lots of development from Chatham Park and other developments. Posted position to help her; meanwhile, getting help from consultants. Chatham is participating in a big master plan, and Town of Pittsboro undertook a big water supply and treatment plant expansion evaluation which has just wrapped up. Continuing to work on a force main to Sanford; currently getting approvals to do construction to address wastewater needs.

### ***Meeting Wrap Up***

Everyone should have received invoices. Warren will be presented with a plaque at the December meeting. Those who have not contributed swag should contribute it to Durham. The partner host sign-up sheet went around with the note that TJCOG is always a backup location. Kendra volunteered Holly Springs to host December. Sarah suggested putting signup sheet online.

Potential topics/speakers at the December meeting were discussed:

- A speaker on 1,4 dioxane from DWR was deemed the most timely topic. It would be great to get Linda Culpepper if she's available; let her suggest an alternate if she's not.
  - o Sarah: There used to be a quarterly 1,4 dioxane call which isn't happening currently, but Mick said there may be one in early November. This call may provide clarity on who from the state is making decisions.
- For a future meeting: Ruth suggested Greg Charaklis or Dave Gorelick would be a good speaker on water supply and optimization of regional sharing. Presented at a meeting a long time ago.
- Sarah also suggested CAMPO/MPOs speak about transportation planning, and Ruth asked if when meetings are held here the COG can include in the agenda a brief update of regional transportation model demand forecast. Would be helpful to use some of that work to update water supply plans. Could have 1-2 bullets update each meeting just to note their best/worst case scenarios. Kendra is on CAMPO for Holly Springs; they are starting to gather employment data for all communities and collecting data in CommunityViz.

Sarah Braman asked which logo was selected since she was not present at the August meeting. Sarah will follow up with Jen and the logo will be updated on the website if needed.

Meeting adjourned 11:40am.

***Attendance:***

Sydney Miller, City of Durham  
Simon Lobdell, OWASA  
Ruth Rouse, OWASA  
Sarah Braman, Town of Cary  
Kendra Parrish, Town of Holly Springs  
Steve Ward, Harnett Regional Water  
Brandon Blakely, Chatham County  
Larry Bridges, Chatham County  
Jamie Revels, Town of Cary  
Howard Fleming, Orange County  
Chris Phelps, City of Raleigh  
Elizabeth Goodson, Pittsboro  
Vicki Westbrook, City of Durham  
Marie Strandwitz, Town of Hillsboro  
David Hardin, Town of Apex  
Greg Turner, Town of Morrisville  
Adam Sharp, HDR  
Reid Barton, CDM  
Lisa Zak, Troutman Sanders law firm