

Triangle Water Supply Partnership

MEETING SUMMARY

December 6th, 2019

Holly Springs - Holleman Room at Town Hall
128 S Main St, Holly Springs, NC 27540

Action Items

- Jen will incorporate map updates based on comments at this meeting.
- Jen will add updated map to website and change the bottom banner and the one-pager on website to reflect updated map and logo.
- Marie will verify where Orange-Alamance intake is located.
- Syd will reach out to Tony Young at the Army Corps regarding potentially presenting at the February meeting (or a future meeting).
 - If not available, Sarah will reach out to Rebecca Ward about the NC Drought Management Advisory Council's drought communication tools.

Attendance:

Sydney Miller, City of Durham
Simon Lobdell, OWASA
Ruth Rouse, OWASA
Sarah Braman, Town of Cary
Jamie Revels, Town of Cary
Kendra Parrish, Town of Holly Springs
Brandon Blakely, Chatham County
Larry Bridges, Chatham County
Jamie Revels, Town of Cary
Elizabeth Goodson, Pittsboro
Adam Pickett, Pittsboro
Vicki Westbrook, City of Durham
Marie Strandwitz, Town of Hillsborough
David Hardin, Town of Apex
Matt Echols, Apex
Chandra Farmer, Johnston County
Ben Mills, Town of Morrisville
Don Greeley, Durham
Adam Sharpe, HDR
Kevin Irby, CDM
Whit Wheeler, City of Raleigh
Maya Cough-Schulze, TJCOG
Andrea Eilers, TJCOG

On the conference line:

Howard Fleming, Orange County
Christopher Sandt, Orange County

Administrative Considerations

Approval of October Meeting Summary

Howard said he did not receive the final meeting minutes. Maya said the final meeting minutes may not have been sent out, but had incorporated minor changes that Syd, Ruth and Howard emailed. Will be sure to send out final minutes next time.

Discussion of action items from October meeting:

- Ruth spoke to Jill Weese of AG's office, who said that DWR has to pay federal govt within 30 days, so can't take the language out of the Round 4 contracts. Thus, TWP should foster relationship with the Corps.
- Most members have contacted Syd about the state of their distribution model; he will follow up with the few who have not.
- Other action items have been accomplished.

Ruth suggested that TWP could have a shared Google or other calendar which members could use to coordinate.

Syd moved to approve the minutes; Ruth seconded, which passed unanimously.

Invoice/finance

Durham transferred the funds to TJCOG for facilitation that the City had collected from Partnership member dues during FY 2019.

Interconnections map updates/finalization

Sarah shared that based on input at the last full partnership meeting, the Technical Committee decided to make two maps, one for interconnections between the partners only, and a regional map extending beyond partnership members.

Sarah reminded partners that the map shows ability to transfer water, not existing infrastructure. The lines represent local government connections, not actual locations of plants. Additionally, bulk sales are not included.

Requested changes to regional map:

- Elizabeth: Pittsboro cannot transfer water to Chatham yet; remove arrow.
 - Marie: Hillsborough can send water to Orange Alamance; reverse arrow.
 - Syd asked if Howard has a contact at Orange Alamance?
 - Howard/Chris: (919) 563 6212 –will get you to the office of Orange-Alamance Water System; speak with Faye Metcalf
- Marie: Orange-Alamance hasn't requested raw water in a long time; old agreement. Will check where their intake is located.

- Sarah suggested that she and Chandra further discuss what other interconnections should be included in Johnston and Harnett County. Chandra said that there are two private utilities in Johnston County; Sarah pointed out that the group has not decided yet whether to include private sales or Harnett’s arrangements with military. Sarah also noted that the current map only includes regular connections, not emergency connections, in Harnett.
- Sarah and Chandra identified the following interconnections to add:
 - From Smithfield to Johnston and Harnett. Con
 - Wilson, Benson, Fork Township, Wayne County WSD: bidirectional connections to Johnston County
 - From Dunn to Benson
- Adam Pickett said that Sanford supplies finished water to Goldston.
- Vicki/Howard requested to change the disclaimer to say that it reflects interconnections with neighboring municipalities that are not part of TWP.

Action item:

- Jen will update map with the above requested changes.

Report out from Technical Committee

Syd said that the November Technical Committee meeting discussion focused on the map, logo, and AWIA requirements. Additionally, the committee is working on an RFQ for updating the regional interconnection model.

Syd said it would be beneficial for someone from Johnston and Harnett Counties to join the Technical Committee, as model development will involve adding them. Additionally, anyone is welcome to join the Technical Committee; those who would like to join should reach out to himself or Sarah.

Syd confirmed that though a consultant will operate/maintain the model, it will be owned by partners, who will be able to obtain copies and perform model runs and analyses.

Kendra asked when Hazen updates Holly Springs’ model, is that similar to what Holly Springs will need to do under the regional interconnections model? Syd responded that not everyone uses Hazen for their individual distribution model; what each partner will have to do may vary. Syd pointed out that part of the reason he wants to discuss partners’ individual models with them one on one is so everyone understands how much time and effort it will take to update the regional model.

Ruth asked whether the whole partnership would have a chance to review the RFQ. Syd confirmed that the Technical Committee would do the first pass, then share it with the full partnership.

Don asked whether the Technical Committee is focusing on any other projects this year. Syd said no; the next big project next year will be the regional water supply plan.

Roundtable about AWIA requirements

- Durham reported out that they are contracting with AECOM for risk and resilience, emergency response and source water protection plans. The state is changing rules such that regional risk and resilience assessment and emergency response plan satisfies requirements of SWPP. Durham's Risk and Resilience Assessment is due March 31, 2020.
- Apex is contracting with Merrick and Company for both plans; their deadline is Dec 2020.
- Cary in the final stages of getting risk & resilience plan done through contract with Dewberry. Syd asked whether their SWPP plan was included; Cary is doing SWPP as separate effort and may do in house.
- Holly Springs is at RFQ stage for their plans and has a later deadline.
- OWASA selected AECOM; previous studies/reports satisfy many requirements, so may be able to compile executive summaries of these reports. Allison Spinelli is spearheading. Plans due December 2020.
- Hillsborough has started budgeting process and will then issue an RFQ. Due June 2021; need to consider how much to budget.
- HDR has been reviewing existing documents for Raleigh and conducting a gap analysis; will meet next week regarding any gaps.
- Johnston County has a contract with Dewberry for March 2020 deadline.
- Chatham has started budget talks and is planning to estimate cost high to be safe; deadline in 2021.
- Cary provides Morrisville with water, so their requirements are taken care of.
- Pittsboro's deadline is later, so appreciate being part of this conversation to learn from partners.

Partner Updates and Problem-Solving

Problem-Solving

Marie referred to her question last meeting about charging outside contractors for damage to utility infrastructure: Can you charge them for equipment time? All confirmed that you can; Whit said to charge FEMA reimbursement rates.

- The same contractor was caught stealing Hillsborough water; suspects it has happened for a while. Marie asked whether anyone has succeeded in making anyone pay when you don't have a photo? Vicki said it's hard, but you could add it as a fine to their bill.

Marie asked whether others would allow a citizen to strap a private leak detection sensor onto city water meters and get info about their water use via an app? This came up at a Hillsborough water and sewer advisory committee meeting last night; one person expressed strong interest in purchasing private leak detection devices made by Flume. Marie expressed concerns about a homeowner damaging a city meter, device interfering with drive-by reads, and/or city staff damaging Flume devices.

- Syd said that Durham considered piloting Flume sensors as an intermediate step to AMI; did not end up going down that road, in part due to cost.

- David pointed out that meters could complicate matters for finance staff, as metered amounts will never line up exactly, which will create arguments about bills.

Kendra asked whether anyone has participated in partnerships with private entities for water projects? This was spurred by a conference discussion of PPPs for water and wastewater projects.

- Elizabeth asked if scope of PPPs discussion was confined to developers upsizing for possible future need?
 - Kendra said the discussion centered on finding a private investor and finding projects.
 - Matt Echols asked how investors would be paid back—impact fees?
 - Kendra said she wasn't sure of exact arrangements; idea was to seek funding with less interest than WIFIA; curious to learn more.
- Simon shared a solar power development example. Developer was able to take advantage of tax incentives, and OWASA has a buyout clause in 5 years. He noted that OWASA has some opportunities that municipalities don't.
- Simon also mentioned an opportunity to learn from: Durham County tried to arrange private operations strategy for public assets (contracted out operations of plant).
- Kendra asked for input from the consultants in the room
 - Kevin Irby said he could put Kendra in contact with someone who might know.
 - Adam Sharpe gave the example of the \$40 million WWTP Novo Nordisk paid for, then transferred to Clayton. However, Novo receives a direct benefit; will be an allowable pretreatment facility to handle nutrients produced by its ingredients site.
 - Chandra confirmed that the town managed selection of who designed/constructed it.
- Kendra said that so far, Holly Springs has only had developers build pump stations
- Elizabeth said that likewise in Pittsboro developers are oversizing pump stations and utility lines. A challenge Pittsboro is facing is that the developer/third party will own and operate plant but the lines to and from the plant will require discharge to town. This is currently a hurdle from permitting side.

General Updates

Apex has selected an AMI vendor, Sensus, and is starting contracts now. Will also have a new Water Resources Director in next week or two.

Durham (Syd): City Council approved Jordan Lake allocation contract; in process of getting signed. Construction ongoing at Mist Lake facility; Phase 1 will be done by summer of 2020. New compliance services building to house lab will be adjacent to South Durham Water Reclamation facility.

Currently compiling data for long-range Water Resource Plan; saw unusually high demand in Oct. Analyzing existing water efficiency and conservation programs; will collect last of data by Jan. Tetra Tech is part of team; currently in progress are the incorporation of climate variability studies using global circulation models for precipitation and temperature, to feed into SWAT model to develop runoff, which

serves as input for OASIS hydrologic model of impacts on water supply. Hope to have initial demand projections sometime in 2020. Also scoping and contracting with Triangle J for Community Viz, which will be basis of demand projections.

Western Intake Partnership: recently released RFQ, selected HDR to manage. Scoping contract, working with Adam Sharpe and Jeff Adkins. Hope to have something in next few weeks to share.

Durham (Vicki): For those not at NCAWWA conference, Durham won best tasting water contest! Trying to reinforce use of tap water at city meetings/events. Drafting policy to roll into sustainability practices forbidding use of bottled water for events or stocking them in vending machines on city property. Alternative: Large dispensers that city can loan out for events. Also won award at ACACE conference for water abatement project for utility engineering project coordinating with water and sewer maintenance for flushing process. Cut down on water use of about 21%, as well as cost and manpower reductions.

Durham (Don): Williams Water Treatment plant online. Large upgrade expansion, \$100 million. Wastewater upgrades—currently permitting phase two. Solid waste dept partnering on solid waste; 3rd party private company doing composting. Completed water infrastructure replacements downtown; will be tearing up streets around ballpark next.

Raleigh: Kevin Irby described how HDR is supporting Raleigh on East Neuse Regional Pump Station. 3 bidders for the \$51 million project. Construction starting as we speak, continues through next 24 months. Using Clemson labs to model self-cleaning well, an innovative design to minimize maintenance. Whit noted that Raleigh is evaluating their cross-connections, reviewing existing accounts, and doing backflow testing. If anyone's been through this, let's touch base on what this entails, especially for old legacy facilities.

Holly Springs: Updating hydrologic model. New land use plan shows Town will need more water than projected at buildout. Discussing with Sanford maybe getting water from them. Alternatives analysis to consider options, direction to pull from.

Cary (Jamie): Beginning outreach to dental offices under EPA's dental amalgam rule, to show their compliance. Kendra asked for more info about this; David Hardin said pretreatment should be able to speak to this. Additionally, bid is opening for aeration improvements program in North Cary. Bids came in a bit over budget, so looking for additional money.

Sarah mentioned the soft launch of 311 call center for what people previously called customer service/billing; hard launch will be in the new year. She also recently talked to venture capitalists at a water conservation conference in Tel Aviv. Spend 4% of GDP on R&D. Different climate for innovation, technology.

OWASA: Ruth advised partners to learn from OWASA's mistake in signing Jordan Lake Allocation contract--because the signature page didn't have notary language on it, they must resign. Recommends

partners ensure they have notary language and that a notary sign contract. Additionally, OWASA will be updating Board of Directors next week on long-range water supply plan. Also conducting quarterly monitoring (including at WWTP effluent) for PFAS.

Simon reported that plant has been at half capacity for last month; will be finished before Christmas. Limitation on raw water from University Lake. Emerging issue: spiral effect on solids—interested to know about any alternative streams for washing plant solids. Talks in past of regional biosolids facility? Belt filter press operations not as simple as they used to be; very expensive.

Hillsborough: Marie reported their reservoir project is almost complete; they are going out to bid to raise two NCDOT roads associated with project. The project will be permitted through encroachment agreement. Reservoir is 9' less than normal goal. Water withdrawal restrictions are lifted; however, keeping voluntary restrictions in place. Saw 1.5' increase in past months. Hazen updating water model. Jordan Lake Allocation contract signed.

Johnston County: Chandra-- relocating WWTP near landfill, getting out of harm's way. Coupling with projects in CIP spring 2020. One CIP project: 2 mgd upgrade to WWTP. Concerned won't last long since approving 200-300 new lots/month and potential new industrial expansions. Long-term water supply study shows Johnston County will need an additional 15 mgd in next few years. If you have excess water, talk to Johnston County! Have some concerns that due to their run of river intake, new ecological flows issue may impact them.

Chatham: Larry has had contract signed and is looking for a new assistant director. County contracted with company to redo UDOs, but this has been put on hold.

Morrisville: Ben reported that their allocation contract has been signed.

Pittsboro: Elizabeth noted significant community discussion on PFAS. Board established water quality task force, so she is interested to learn from Hillsborough's water and sewer advisory board experience. Good that the public is involved, but some have more knowledge base than others. Adam will be main point person. Sarah noted that the annual WRRRI conference out of NCSU will have at least a portion focusing on PFAS; this may be of interest to all partners.

Orange County: Howard Fleming is retiring in January; Chris Sandt will be attending Partnership meetings on behalf of OC. Howard informed Marie that Lake Orange is filling up, 3" below flashboards, so will be contributing to Eno soon. A hurdle for contract signing: admin group had to move out of building because of mold emergency; paperwork was lost, still trying to find it.

JLOW update: Syd said that the workgroups plan to develop recommendations to inform JL Rule readoption in the coming year. Moving in a positive direction; many local government members. Sarah recommended that anyone interested in learning more look at the website to learn more about what subgroups do and their timeline.

Meeting wrap up

Suggested speakers for February meeting

Sarah suggested that someone from the Army Corps could be a good speaker since we want to establish a relationship with them per Jordan allocations. Syd suggested checking whether Tony Young can come talk about Jordan Lake maintenance and operation. Mentioned that group has had potential concerns that Corps has never done a major rehab project. Could seek Tony's input at future meeting if not available in Feb; could talk about Falls projects too.

Sarah pointed out that the State Climate Office has wrapped up drought communication projects; have a comprehensive weekly drought map. Could be interesting to have them update partnership on how to talk about drought. Check with Rebecca if they'd be willing to come.

Sarah put in a plug to members: If budgeting for conferences, at the Confluence Conference in Asheville in May the UNC Policy Collaboratory will lead discussion about emerging contaminants. AWWA sponsored conference for NC, SG, GA. Mary Walker, EPA regional administrator is scheduled to be one of the speakers.

Recognition award for Warren/FountainWorks

Don thanked Warren for his ten years of service to the Triangle Water Partnership. This group has been successful due to his help solidifying relationships. Don and Vicki presented a signed photo of Jordan Lake and swag from municipalities as tokens of the partners' appreciation. Warren thanked the partners and TJCOG for their involvement.

The meeting adjourned at 11:37am.