

Triangle Water Supply Partnership

MEETING SUMMARY

August 2nd, 2019

OWASA

400 Jones Ferry Road, Carrboro, NC 27510

Action Items

- Jeff Adkins will reach out to Heather Keefer to see what is happening with 'Imagine a Day without Water' and report back to the group.
- Fountainworks will update the 5 year plan with the proposed financial changes for vote at the next meeting.
- Partners should contact Sydney Miller, Jeff Adkins, or Don Greeley if they would like to be on the Administrative Committee.
- TJCOG: The website and one-pager will be updated with the new logo.
- TJCOG: Future meetings to be scheduled from 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM, end time may be adjusted.
- Don Greeley may contact DEQ regarding completion of Jordan Lake allocation contracts in 2019.

Meeting was called to order at 9:05 AM.

Communication Discussion

Sydney Miller and Jeff Adkins introduced the logo selection result from the SurveyMonkey poll and announced a runoff between the selected logo and a similar one that was intended to be included in the poll. The group voted to use the logo selected by the SurveyMonkey poll. The website and one pager are both completed. Once the logo and the map are finalized, the website will be finalized.

Imagine a Day without Water

The Value of Water Campaign's *Imagine a Day Without Water* will be October 23, 2019. Sydney Miller said Vicki Westbrook wants to know if any other partners are interested a coordinated effort. Raleigh/Wake County did something last year, but don't know if they're doing something this year. Cary is not planning to take a lead. OWASA is not sure that they are doing anything. Chatham County and Apex are not doing anything. There was not any interest in a coordinated partnership effort. Heather Keefer with Wake Up Wake County is doing something; Jeff Adkins will follow up with her to find out more.

Action Items:

- Jeff Adkins will reach out to Heather Keefer to see what is happening and report back to the group.

- The website and one-pager will be updated with the new logo.

Technical Committee Update

Jeff Adkins stated the group met on Friday, July 12th at TJCOG. The current technical committee is not exclusive - more members can join. The committee will meet bimonthly in months where there are not full partnership meetings.

From the July meeting:

- Durham expects to have TJCOG under contract for management support by mid-August.
- The committee talked about projects and priorities. Proposed change to the 5 year plan: In the funding plan. See [slides](#) for details.

Action Item:

- Fountainworks to update the 5 year plan with the proposed changes for vote (requires a simple majority) at the next meeting.

Meeting Location Discussion

It was proposed that TJCOG could be a regular meeting location, but that any partner could offer to host a meeting at their location. The group discussed, and prefers that partners host at their locations, with an alternative option being TJCOG. Members expressed concern that those who are farther away may be discouraged from attending if meetings are always held at TJCOG.

To make it easier for partners who are farther away, the group set a new meeting time from 9:30 AM to 12 PM, although the end time may be adjusted for each meeting depending on the agenda. The members also noted that a conference line needs to be available at each meeting for those who can't attend.

Action Item:

- Future meetings to be scheduled from 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM.

Administrative Items

Approval of June Meeting Summary

A motion was made to approve the June 7, 2019 meeting summary. It was approved unanimously.

Management Support Update

Sydney Miller announced that Durham had a council work session last Thursday and the TJCOG contract will be on the council meeting agenda August 5. There is an expectation that it will be approved, go through the contract control process, and be executed sometime within the month.

Durham has delayed invoicing so that TJCOG can send the FY2020 invoices after they are under contract for management support. As a result, partners will be invoiced twice in Fiscal Year 2020, for FY20 and for FY21. The agreement specifies partners are to be invoiced by June 1 each year and payment is due by July 31st; this allows members to pay in either the current or upcoming fiscal year after they receive the invoice.

Administrative Committee

The administrative committee will include the Chair (Don Greeley), Vice Chair (Jeff Adkins), Administrative Agent (TJCOG/Jen Schmitz), and whoever else wants to participate. Participation by Sarah Braman was suggested for matters related to the website.

- The function is largely to develop the agenda for partnership meetings and to follow up on action items.
- After TJCOG is under contract as Administrative Agent, the committee will begin meeting biweekly either in person or by conference call. It has been Friday mornings at 9:00 which will likely continue.

Action Item

- Partners should contact Sydney Miller, Jeff Adkins, or Don Greeley if they would like to be on the Administrative Committee.

Jordan Lake Allocation Contracts

Jeff Adkins had an email exchange with Kim Nimmer, the main DWR contact for the contracts, on Wednesday. The attorney general's office is still in the lead for the review of the agreements based on comments that allocation holders provided. She said they're trying to work through it proactively and have final contracts ready in the near future. She wouldn't commit to contracts being completed in 2019, but she's hopeful. Sydney Miller will discuss with Don Greeley and possibly contact DEQ Secretary and/or staff to try to get the contracts executed by the end of calendar year 2019.

Action Item

- Sydney Miller will discuss with Don Greeley; Don may contact DEQ Secretary/staff.

Western Intake Partners Update

Sydney Miller stated that the Western Intake partners executed an agreement July 19th and are scheduled to meet August 16th. At that meeting the group will decide which projects to undertake first and how to accomplish them. The group expects to issue an RFQ or RFP for different tasks and hopes to get something started before the end of the calendar year.

Jordan Lake One Water

Jen Schmitz (TJCOG): Some elected officials and advisory committee members met with Secretary Regan, Linda Culpepper and other staff on July 16th. Support from DWR has ramped up in the last couple months; they've said this is how they envision the rules re-adoption happening –the process will be whatever the Jordan Lake One Water group comes up with. Secretary Regan's support is critical to the group. The Jordan Lake One Water representatives gave DEQ an overview of what the group is doing and Secretary Regan had great feedback and questions; he asked Sheila Holman (Assistant Secretary) and others on his staff to bring him projects he can work on in the interim while the Jordan Lake One Water group comes up with a framework. DWR has basically said they're here to help, the eggs are in this basket. Jordan Lake One Water working groups are going to come up with recommendations; the working groups meet quarterly and TJCOG will be sending out a sign up for working groups, probably in January. The next meeting is not set up since TJCOG needs to find a space that holds 60-70 people. Several Partners offered suggestions.

Partner Updates and Problem Solving

Problem Solving

City of Durham: Durham is in the process of trying to make Teer Quarry a more regular part of water supply. A small berm could increase storage to about 1.5 billion gallons. Durham has an agreement with DEQ on an operating scheme that allows refilling the Quarry from existing reservoirs or from the Eno River. Durham has a location for an Eno River intake but is looking at a new location about ¾ mile upstream, closer to the Quarry. Designating new water supply (intake point) requires establishing a water supply watershed, critical area and protected area. Sydney Miller is meeting with a city-county planning committee next week to talk about this. A new water supply watershed critical area has land use requirements which are more significant than for a water supply watershed protected area. The new intake location would extend the Orange County protected area by about ¾ mile, and the protected area would touch Hillsborough at the most eastern part where there is currently some development. Question for Orange County & Hillsborough: How do you want Durham to work with your staff? The process requires getting resolutions of support from any affected jurisdictions.

- Hillsborough: Would like to review the map - it could be as simple as Hillsborough's land use plan not showing growth in a particular area.
- Orange County: Requested an introductory letter on the issue.

Hillsborough: Has anyone supplemented another utility's water supply under a non-emergency situation? Do you just make them a routine customer in the case of normal sharing?

- Cary/Chatham County (raw water) & Raleigh indicated regular supply is usually done with a special agreement with a special rate and billed separately.
- Cary: Daily transfers to Durham have been on a mutual aid basis and billed at the lowest residential tier.

- Sydney Miller: The draft mutual aid agreement write-up that has been presented in the past includes all the rates and terms that are in various partners' mutual aid agreements. There are a lot of good reasons for charging at the lowest residential tier since it is a limited mutual aid situation. When providing regular supply with committed capacity, charging a volumetric rate might not make sense; a capital component should be considered for reserving capacity.
- Hillsborough said this utility wants to regulate flow to manage their clear well. Whit Wheeler commented that in this case Public Water Supply will need to be involved to look at water quality.
- OWASA has a rate structure that includes service availability fees for large meters along with monthly charges. Simon Lobdell recommends including a capacity fee in any arrangement and a water meter for billing. An interconnect meter is not the same as a billing meter.

Raleigh: New rules for public water supply are taking effect in 2020 and there are a lot of changes to the cross connection rules. Anytime there is a new service or existing update or a change of hands there is requirement that they're in complete compliance with cross connection rules and standards. Does anyone know if there is any grandfathering of existing facilities? Jeff Adkins said he thought that Donald Smith/Cary has looked into this so will check with him and pass on relevant information.

General Updates

Hillsborough: Hazen is updating Hillsborough's water distribution model looking specifically at the location of transfer facilities to/from OWASA. At the Durham pump station, they are replacing the meter for flow from Durham to Hillsborough, redoing the bearings on a pump, and getting a standby generator. They will be contacting Durham (James) to check on calibration testing of the Durham to Hillsborough meter. Emergency preparedness is one of the Hillsborough utility's top priorities for this budget year.

Raleigh: Raleigh has been studying corrosion control strategies. They currently use a different product than most neighboring utilities and are considering moving back to using the same product as others. After discussions with others about Raleigh's pH of 8.5, the transition looks promising and they are proposing a pilot to the state to implement the change in a small section of their system to see how it performs and then will hopefully move on to full transition.

Cary: The Cary distribution system currently has limitations on how much water Cary can provide to Raleigh. Yesterday the Town completed a waterline reinforcement near the water plant to ease restrictions in the central pressure zone, which will allow providing larger amounts of water to Raleigh. Cary will be scheduling tests of the interconnections.

Cary: Cary is working on a risk and resiliency AWIA study (in 1st group required) and will be coordinating with Apex (in 2nd group) and Chatham County (in 3rd group) who are on a later schedule.

Cary is framing the final deliverable. Holly Springs asked, relative to risk and resiliency – what consultant are folks using? Holly Springs thinks there is benefit to forming a subgroup for sharing experiences with the AWIA. Durham just advertised RFQ this week and has 13 requests for RFQ so far (includes risk and resiliency, source water protection, emergency response plan all included); they will make a selection in September. Cary is using Dewberry/Merrick (John McLaughlin w/Merrick) for risk and resilience (will do source water later) and would be glad to be part of subgroup.

Durham: Still under construction at all four plants, but winding up at Williams.. Mist Lake construction started, with clearing and grubbing and earthwork/demolition. Working with Chris Phelps/Raleigh on developing an interconnection SOP.

OWASA: Water treatment plant capacity is about 20 % down; will do a half plant shut down again this winter, so will reach out in Nov-Dec to arrange mutual aid water supply from partners. Starting some hurricane season prep - siting extra diesel tanks around the system and deciding how to stage mobile generators. Relative to the Long Range Water Supply Plan, demand projections are done; staff will be meeting with the Towns of Chapel Hill and Carrboro, schools, UNC, and UNC Hospitals to talk about ideas for reducing demands in the future and expects to present to the OWASA board in September.

Orange County: Work in the Buckhorn-Mebane-Efland Economic Development District (EDD) is wrapping up. They have developed protocol and price (maybe \$200k) for repurposing sewer force main which looks like it will move forward since abandonment would be more expensive. Related to Hillsborough EDD (old 86/40 SW corner), there is interest in the property but lots of crystalline rock under I-40 so crossing would be too expensive – they are on pause to re-evaluate and explore other crossing locations. In the Eno EDD (eastern Orange Co adjacent to Durham sewer) they are trying to get back on track to recoup investment; snags w/developers caused a delay so ILA with Durham expired.

Chatham County: Working on Countywide Comprehensive Water Sewer Master Plan in conjunction with Siler City and Pittsboro. Plan has been presented to our board and now waiting on the final deliverable which will include a real-time dashboard we can manipulate for CIP planning or to evaluate impact of big projects. Looking at demand projections and future supplies. The County will start at the end of this calendar year or at the beginning of January to redo our UDO. Following Dan LaMontagne's move to County Manager, the Assistant County Manager role was filled by Bryan Thompson who started a couple of weeks ago.

Apex: Apex has been receiving proposals for AMI metering. Since Apex is an electric city metering will be both electric and water. Staff have settled on 3 potential suppliers (Ferguson, Itron and Sensus) and each one is a leading contender because each has a uniqueness that different staff likes. Apex was the first town to be required by new corrosion control rules to do a corrosion control study when population reached 50,000. Cary operates the plant but Apex did the corrosion control study. Apex has received the draft report.

Holly Springs: Town is updating hydrologic model and is in the midst of a Land Use Plan update. Draft is out now and has population forecast going from 100K to 150K, which changes the Town's water demand at buildout. Currently, Holly Springs has contract for 10 mgd from Harnett County, as well as 2.2 mgd allocation from Jordan Lake, so they are starting to look at different sources and will be going through a study. They are working on a few system upgrades and will be looking with Harnett County - currently, they need to add additional pumps and equipment at the booster station to get our instantaneous up.

TJCOG: Jen Schmitz mentioned that they had talked with the Division of Water Infrastructure about merger regionalization feasibility grants, which have a maximum of \$50K. They are kicking one off in Eastern Johnston County in a couple of weeks. Goldston is doing the same but also for wastewater. What is the appetite for this group to apply or to self-fund similar studies if there are neighboring communities in this region who could benefit from tying into some of your existing communities? Chatham County said they have had some discussions.

State Water Infrastructure Authority: Leila Goodwin (Authority member) said that while the cap for single grants is \$50,000, there isn't a cap on the total amount of funding available for the merger regionalization feasibility studies. She said that she thinks, with a few exceptions that had to do with specific applications, the SWIA has funded everyone who applied. The SWIA would like to see more applications. The whole idea of the grants is that small communities don't have the funds and the larger communities don't have the incentive to study merger/regionalization.

Fountainworks – Fountainworks has been talking with TJCOG to transfer all the files over. Jen Schmitz and Warren Miller will meet again this month to complete final transition.

Meeting adjourned at 10:38 AM.

Attendance:

David Hardin – Town of Apex
Jamie Gregg – Town of Apex
Jeff Adkins – Town of Cary
Larry Bridges – Chatham County
Brandon Blakley – Chatham County
Sydney Miller – City of Durham
Marie Strandwitz – Town of Hillsborough
Howard Fleming Jr. – Orange County
Ruth Rouse – OWASA
Simon Lobdell – OWASA
Whit Wheeler - City of Raleigh
Warren Miller – Fountainworks
Leila Goodwin – Fountainworks
Tara Nattress – Fountainworks
Jen Schmitz – Triangle J Council of Governments

Maya Cough-Schulze – Triangle J Council of Governments
Kevin Irby – CDM