**Triangle Water Supply Partnership**

**MEETING SUMMARY**

April 5th, 2019

Apex Public Works

105-B Upchurch St. Apex, NC 27502

**Action Items**

* + Partners to review the FY20-24 Five-Year Project and Funding Plan periodically to review funds and keep the group on the same page.
  + Partners expressed interest in establishing a permanent working group (Technical Committee). The permanent working group will initially include:
    1. Ruth Rouse
    2. Sydney Miller
    3. Sarah Braman
    4. Jeff Adkins
    5. Matt Echols
    6. Whit Wheeler
    7. Larry Bridges

One of the first projects for the Technical Committee will be to investigate the source water protection rules in more detail.

* + Fountainworks to check in with the DEQ about any guidance for the source water protection plans.
  + Partners to bring in comments about Jordan Lake Allocation Round 4 Contracts for discussion and to keep communication open about where everyone is in the process.
  + Partners to submit feedback to Sarah Braman via email on the website (text, context, layout), one-pager, and logo by next meeting.

***Discussion of Adopting the FY20-24 Five-Year Project and Funding Plan***

Leila Goodwin reviewed the 5-Year Project and Funding Plan and discussed the budget spreadsheet and upcoming projects for partner approval. To date the TWSP has collected all its dues and has no expenditures on small projects expected before the end of the fiscal year. The project status at the end of the fiscal year could carry over $215,195.

Confirmed that there is no need to change the dues from the previous MOA. Sydney Miller commented that two of the big projects are the Water Supply Plan and the Regional Distribution Model and wondered how the timing should work and in what order to undertake those projects.

Action Items:

* Look at the budget a couple of times a year and periodically review the money so that everyone is on the same page about where we are.

***Source Water Protection Rules***

Ruth Rouse led discussion on source water protection rules and stated that each of the partners has to develop a source water protection plan. There is interest in working with the other partners to say what goes into these plans. It would be helpful to have some consistency between them. The rule doesn’t require submittal, just certification that it is done. Partners expressed interest in creating a small working group for this issue.

Action items:

* Partners expressed interest in establishing a permanent working group -Technical Committee. The permanent working group will initially include:
  + Ruth Rouse
  + Syd Miller
  + Sarah Braman
  + Jeff Adkins
  + Matt Echols
  + White Wheeler
  + Larry Bridges
* One of the first projects for the Technical Committee will be to investigate the source water protection rules in more detail.
* Fountainworks to check in with the DEQ about any guidance for the source water protection plans.

***Jordan Lake Allocation Round 4 Contracts***

The group discussed that no one has sent in formal comments yet. Orange County and Durham have developed comments, but these are still in progress. The group agreed that they should all submit their own comments rather than develop a single set of comments, but that they should share the comments with one another. Sydney Miller discussed that the biggest comment that the city attorneys in Durham had surrounded stream buffer provision requirements and the NC Statute of how the State is handling stream buffers.

Action Item:

* Bring comments to the partners for discussion and keep communication open about where we are in the process.

***Regional Updates***

*Jordan Lake One Water*

Sydney Miller is on the advisory committee for Jordan Lake One Water. He thinks that Jordan Lake One Water is steering in the direction of a focus on developing a stakeholder process for engaging with the Jordan Lake Nutrient Strategy Rule. By statute this process kicks off when the Collaboratory releases their report in December 2019.

He stated that Bill Holman has a consistent and persistent interest in land conservation and has been working with the Triangle Land Conservancy to develop a GIS model for the Jordan Lake Watershed. This is an adaptation of what has been used in the Upper Neuse Watershed. It identifies property which, if protected, is more likely than not to have some kind of benefit to maintaining water quality in Jordan Lake. It is a suitability analysis, not a water quality model. The group has stepped back from developing Jordan Lake Water One as a legal organization. They want it to be more focused on “doing” rather than becoming an ill-defined legal organization.

County Commissioner Diana Hales (Chatham) commented that the UNC Research Review of Jordan Lake is going to be written up into a report that goes to the legislature in December. However, a lot of the impact may be focused on stormwater. Sydney Miller commented that in the past, the NCDOT has funded Tetratech to develop a work plan and that NCDOT project is largely done. Now the NCDEQ is funding Triangle J and the Piedmont Triad to continue as far as facilitating and supporting the effort.

*UNRBA Update*

Sydney Miller stated that the monitoring program for the modelling is done. UNRBA collected samples for 51 months at 18 lake loading stations and 20 jurisdictional loading stations. The monitoring program has been transitioned and now has only 12 stations that are being monitored in total. A few sediment studies have been completed by UNC and the EPA. It has been greatly scaled back now that the data needed for modelling is done. UNRBA is working on communication, supported by HDR (fact sheet, infographic, PowerPoint template, better public website). UNRBA is also involved in compiling data, configuring the watershed model, and setting up a new hydrodynamic model for the lake. The lake model is going to be at a 6-hour time step.

Howard Fleming Jr. commented that the annual report will have a lot of information about what has been done and it is expected to be published this month.

*UNC Collaboratory Research on Jordan Lake*

Sarah Braman provided a brief overview of the public meeting the UNC Collaboratory researches held to provide updates on their research. The group agreed that the time frame for the Collaboratory’s work seems surprising and that it seems “rather unbelievable” that they could come to any reasonable conclusions by December 2019. Sarah Braman agreed that the Collaboratory feels the same way about the time frame. Jeff Adkins asked if they plan to hold any more public meetings before the report is released and Sarah Braman stated that she did not believe they would.

***Communication***

Sarah Braman led the discussion on the logo and website. She asked for input on a one-pager that she passed around, as well as input on the website. Reviewing the changes to the website she stated that the map will be replaced with an updated version that includes all the partners. The partners then discussed the logo for the organization and looked at a few different examples of potential logos.

Action Item:

* Submit feedback to Sarah Brenman on the text, context, and layout of the website and the one-pager by the next meeting via email. Also submit feedback on the logo. Also submit your most current logo for your town if it is not correct on the website.

***Administrative Items***

The Partners excused the consultants from the room to discuss private agenda items including the RFP.

*Invoicing & Dues*: The Partners are waiting until after the June meeting to invoice for FY 20.

***Partner Updates and Problem Solving***

Orange County:Efland/Mebane Sewer Project: Sewer to Mebane Phase 2 extension project. Sewage was pumped to Hillsborough and is now reversed and going to Mebane. The existing force main to Hillsborough is slated for abandonment, (but the county has potentially found another use). Standard operating procedure of most engineers is to abandon the old utility in place. There is 3 miles of 10-inch PVC (short section ductile) force main with purified sewage in it- and we are thinking it should be flushed. NCDOT would require us to have it grouted full with flowable fill to abandon in place because it is in their right of way. Orange Co Planning Director has come up with the idea that we would flush this and turn it over to an entity that’s trying to do broadband extension in town and repurpose the sewer main as a broadband conduit. The NCDOT is on board with the concept. The county will still own the conduit, maintain it, protect it. The consultant has made recommendations about how to flush the sewer force main. It hasn’t been formally proposed on by the contract yet. The actual details are unspecified right now. We have a draft ready to go to the contractor for the price. Has anyone experienced flushing a sewer force main like this? Apex replied: We have tried ice pigging – ice slurry that is pumped into a line for cleaning. In our situation, the last part of the force main was on a downhill leg and the contractor couldn’t pump the ice fast enough to keep the line full. Ultimately, we did not get good results. Recommended using a Poly Pig.

Durham: Next Friday, April 12th, at 1 PM we’re having our long-range water resources plan kick off meeting at the Mist Lake Facility. Anyone here is welcome to come. It will be a project overview and talk about how we’re going to coordinate tasks. This is an opportunity to see the Mist Lake facility before building the new facility, and then come later to see the new Mist Lake facility after construction.

Raleigh: We are interested in how other utilities have worked with schools to facilitate or support test for lead. Durham: We have an ongoing relationship with Durham Public schools – 2 are on wells and all others are on city water. We’ve worked with the maintenance department and trained their staff to do the sampling. They work very well with our folks to pick up the containers and go in the school usually on Tuesday mornings and bring the samples in. My bigger concern is schools that aren’t related to DPS, the private and charter schools and daycares. The childcare establishments are going to be a challenge.

Harnett County: UNC regionalization workshop on April 29th- will anyone be there? Sydney Miller will be there.

Durham: A couple of utility members are participating in a working group convened at the School of Government called the Drinking Water Working Group. One more meeting is next Friday. The group is developing guidance. They’re looking at contamination and emergency events. As utilities we all kind of know what to do. Their intent is to work with utilities and the management and administrative groups and provide them with that same level of information so that we can be on the same page with them. A lot of rural towns don’t have steps because of a very small treatment plant and a manger or clerk that is in charge. Late May or early June guidance will come out. They did find out that there’s lots of information out there already but getting it into the format that works for a town or city manager.

Durham: At our Monday night council meeting the mayor presented a challenge for conservation which is the month of April- Mayors Challenge for Water Conservation. We encourage everyone to go to the website and sign the pledge and it takes you through a series of questions about how you use water, etc. It is a cool exercise. We’re grouped with Richmond and Raleigh is grouped separately. Durham is currently in 1st place for cities their size. Raleigh is in 8th place currently (larger size). See www.mywaterpledge.com.

Orange County: Jordan Lake allocation contracts – no one at the County or State can find a signed copy. Sydney Miller may have an unsigned Orange County version- he will look and send Howard that as well as Durham signed contract.

Harnett County: Monday April 15th- Meeting of the Agency Partnership for Water Utilities. Attendees are typically from the state division of water infrastructure, rural economic development center, and league of municipalities. It is the kick off meeting. I can relay information to the group. I’ll keep you updated on that. The initial meeting is at the SOG.

**Attendance:**

Marty Stone – Town of Apex

Matt Echols – Town of Apex

David Hardin – Town of Apex

Jeff Adkins – Town of Cary

Sarah Braman -Town of Cary

Jamie Revels – Town of Cary

Larry Bridges – Chatham County

Brandon Blakely – Chatham County

Don Greeley – City of Durham

Vicki Westbrook – City of Durham

Sydney Miller – City of Durham

Steve Ward – Harnett County

Marie Strandwitz – Town of Hillsborough

Josh Baird – Town of Morrisville

Howard Fleming Jr. – Orange County

Elizabeth Goodson – Town of Pittsboro

Whit Wheeler - City of Raleigh

Warren Miller – Fountainworks

Leila Goodwin – Fountainworks

Tara Nattress – Fountainworks

Andrea Eilers – Triangle J Council of Governments

Adam Sharpe – HDR

Diana Hales – Chatham Commissioner