



Town of Pittsboro, North Carolina

Department of Engineering

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TO: Mayor Perry and the Town Board of Commissioners

FROM: Fred Royal, PE, CFM, Town Engineer 

DATE: March 28, 2016

SUBJ: Public Information Session: Recommendations for a revised Drought Management Plan and Water Efficiency and Reclaimed Water Ordinances and Policies

Background and Introduction

At the March 14, 2016 Board of Commissioner's meeting, a brief memo was presented which outlined recommended approaches to consider for water efficiency policy and ordinances and to present a revised Drought Management Plan. This memo is a follow-up where staff is making these draft recommendations for: 1) an updated Drought Management Plan to replace antiquated existing plans and policies and, 2) new ordinance and policy language for water efficiency and reclaimed water.

As described in the March 14 memo, in order to help meet the growth projection water demands by reducing per capita use and for other policies designed to reduce waste and improve overall water system management, the Town Staff anticipates an approach to this challenge by focusing on two (2) two tasks:

- 1) Review and make recommendations regarding existing water related ordinances and policies
- 2) Seek input from the BOC and the public about new efficiency ordinances and policies.

This public information session is intended to introduce these draft policies and ordinances, facilitate a discussion and answer any questions pertaining to potable water efficiency goals and programs. Based on the feedback, staff will further develop these documents and return to the Board of Commissioners with final language for consideration. Once the preferred language has been approved, a Public Hearing can be scheduled.

Discussion

The Town has two existing policies or ordinances concerning drought management. Both of these policies were presented to the Board of Commissioners at the March 14 meeting as attachments. Staff has reviewed both documents and has developed an updated and feasible draft *Drought Management Plan*. Additionally, staff is proposing draft language associated with water efficiency programs designed to reduce demand for potable water through conservation and management strategies and draft reclaimed water ordinance for the expansion of our reclaimed water sales.

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Other water efficiency and management programs are on-going and will be brought to the BOC as they are developed. This includes non-revenue water loss reduction and an interconnection study with Chatham County for water source redundancy and expansion. The Town costs and staff resource needs associated with administering these recommendations has not been determined to-date. It is anticipated that staff resource needs and administrative costs will increase with these new programs. However, we believe that any cost increase would be offset with the reduction of costs associated with water treatment and increased efficiencies in the management of our water distribution system.

Attached please find the revised draft *Drought Management Plan* and recommended draft Town Policies and Ordinances for water efficiency and reclaimed water.

Staff Recommendation

It is recommended that the Town Board of Commissioners receive and discuss this information and authorize the Town Manager to proceed with language development and refinement and bring back final documents for discussion. A Public Hearing date is also recommended to be established at tonight's meeting.