

# MINUTES

## CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS SPECIAL MEETING OF REGIONAL WATER BOARDS SEPTEMBER 02, 1999

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The Board of Commissioners (“the Board”) of the County of Chatham, North Carolina, met in special session with members of the Orange County Board of Commissioners, Chapel Hill Town Council, Carrboro Town Council, and OWASA at Central Carolina Community College, Multipurpose Room, located in Pittsboro, North Carolina, at 7:30 PM. on September 02, 1999.

Present: Chair Rick Givens; Vice Chair, Uva Holland; Commissioners Margaret Pollard and Gary Phillips; County Manager, Charlie Horne; and Clerk to the Board, Sandra B. Lee

Absent: Commissioner Carl Outz

Rick Givens, Chairman welcomed guests to Chatham County and expressed his appreciation to participants for attending the work session. He introduced Fred Hobbs, Consulting Engineer with Hobbs Upchurch & Associates, P.A.

### AGENDA

- I. **Welcome**
- II. **Background Information for Chatham Water Supply Options**
- III. **Chatham County Review of Water Supply Options**
  - A. **Cary**
  - B. **Single Intake**
  - C. **Regional Partnership**
  - D. **Durham Interconnect**
- IV. **The Case for Regional Cooperation**
- V. **Chatham Proposal**
- VI. **OWASA Jurisdiction Support for Pursuing Regional Facility**

### Overview of Chatham County Water Study

Fred Hobbs provided an overview of the Chatham County Water Study, stating that the projected water demand in Chatham County is expected to increase significantly in the next two decades and that in both the short and long term, water supply is the most pressing issue. He reviewed Chatham County’s mission statement as follows:

#### Mission Statement

*The purpose of this Water Feasibility Study Update is to provide Chatham County with short and long-term recommendations to assist with the continued development of a water system in Chatham County.*

*The information provided in this study, combined with the new Land Use Development Plan*

*and policy decisions to be made by the Board of Commissioners, lays the foundation for the County's Water System Master Plan.*

### **Jordan Lake Water Supply Issues**

Mr. Hobbs stated that with regards to Jordan Lake, there are two major perspectives; that the Corps of Engineers' perspective is comprised of the following elements: 1) Recreation; 2) Protection of the lake; 3) Water resource for the region; and 4) Two intakes, east and west. He further stated that Chatham County's interests include: 1) Protection of the lake; 2) Water supply; and 3) Recreation.

Mr. Hobbs stated that the groups that currently have control or are gatekeepers to the lake-supply are the Corps of Engineers, the Division of Parks and Recreation, the Division of Water Resources, and other competing interests.

### **Water Supply Options**

Mr. Hobbs outlined four options regarding water supply for Chatham County: 1) Cary intake; 2) Single entity intake; 3) Durham interconnect; and 4) A regional intake. He stated that Chatham County's preferred option is to develop a regional intake involving the groups present; that it would be a cost-effective method of supply; that it would guarantee access to allocation holders; that it could create an alliance for effective lobbying to meet future needs; and that it would foster cooperation leading to better understanding of interrelated questions.

Mr. Hobbs further outlined Chatham County's proposal, which includes the creation of a regional intake on the west side of the lake, and stated that it is suggested that the State initially invest in the construction of the intake; that allocation holders reimburse the State a pro-rata share as they gain access to the facility; that NCDWR could use the intake as a future method of managing the available water supply and could guarantee allocation holders access to a point of delivery; and that the intent of the proposal is to protect allocation holders' access to the resource, underscore NCDWR's position in the allocation process, and to affirm downstream concerns regarding ongoing management of safe yield.

A general discussion between the represented groups followed regarding these issues and other water concerns.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 PM.

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Rick Givens, Chairman

ATTEST:

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Sandra B. Lee, Clerk to the Board  
Chatham County Board of Commissioners

