

**MINUTES-SPECIAL MEETING-BOONE TOWN COUNCIL
WATER STUDY COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 15, 2010**

A special meeting of the Boone Town Council was called to order at 5:42 p.m., Wednesday, September 15, 2010, in the Council Chambers, 1500 Blowing Rock Road. Mayor Loretta Clawson presided. Council members present were Mayor Pro-Tem Lynne Mason, Rennie Brantz, Stephen Phillips, Jamie Leigh, and Andy Ball. Members of the Water Committee present were Janet Pepin and Bunk Spann. Staff members present were Greg Young- Town Manager, Rick Miller- Public Utilities Director and Lane Weiss- Water Conservation Program Coordinator. Town Attorney Sam Furguele was also in attendance.

Mayor Clawson called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

Discussion of Water Shortage Response Plan's Drought Triggers

Public Utilities Director Rick Miller opened the meeting by acknowledging that the committee had discussed drought triggers in a previous meeting; however, to meet requirements for the North Carolina State Department of Environmental and Natural Resources (DENR) guidelines, the Water Shortage Response Plan requires specific drought triggers that would indicate the appropriate Status Stage. Mr. Miller then directed the Committee's attention to the agenda packet (**Permanently on file in the September 2010 meeting information file**), specifically the Drought Trigger memo researched and compiled by Cavanaugh & Associates. Public Utilities Director Rick Miller continued to explain the different triggers and advised that a three-trigger system which utilizes water level readings at the Winkler's Creek Intake, discharge numbers at USGS Gage 03161000 (South Fork New River), and the Town's Water Treatment Plant production numbers would create the most comprehensive trigger system. Town Attorney Sam Furguele noted that according to current Water and Sewer Code Ordinances, the Town has three drought stages and that the number of stages might need to be increased to avoid drastic changes when moving through the stages. Committee Member Pepin asked if there is a need for a decision from the Committee this evening regarding trigger stages. Public Utilities Director Rick Miller replied that while the triggers could be modified in the future, the Town's current Water Shortage Response Plan had not met the guidelines in place by DENR and that the Town needs to submit triggers as soon as possible to be in compliance. Currently, DENR suggests a five-stage drought trigger plan; however, the Town currently has a three-stage drought trigger plan. After some discussion, a combination of the two plans was presented as follows:

(Stages 1 & 2 need to meet two of the recommended requirements, while Stage 3 needs to meet only one requirement.)

Stage 1 Water level reading of <8.0 but >7.85 at Intake in River and/or, Discharge at USGS Gage 03161000 is <300cfs for >14 days and/or >80% of Production Capacity for 3 consecutive days, or at any time as recommended by staff.

Stage 2 Water level reading of <7.85 but >7.60 at Intake in River and/or, Discharge at USGS Gage 03161000 is <150cfs for >10 days and/or >90% of Production Capacity on any day, or at any time as recommended by staff.

Stage 3 Water level reading of <7.6 at Intake in River, or Discharge at USGS Gage 03161000 is <50cfs for >10 days or, 100% Production capacity on any day or at any time as recommended by staff.

Council Member Mason then made the following motion: *"To recommend to Town Council that we adopt the Drought Trigger Proposal for the first three stages, as recommended and previously reviewed by Public Utilities Director Rick Miller, with the addition of 'at any time as recommended by staff' after each of the river operating conditions. Also, that we send back to the Sub-Committee analysis of Stages 4 and 5 and what the response should be for further consideration for future reference."*

Council Member Ball seconded this motion with additional clarification of Stage 3 triggers.

Vote: Aye-All

Nay-None

Discussion of Reprioritization of Water Allocations

Public Utilities Director Rick Miller opened the discussion by stating that he was under direction of the Town Council to supply information concerning the reprioritization of water allocations. Mr. Miller then directed the Committees attention to the memo regarding reprioritization and the two charts that accompanied **(Permanently on file in the September 2010 meeting information file)**, then reviewed and explained the significance of the charts and their impact on possibly reprioritizing water allocations. Mr. Miller also proposed several different options for the possibility of reprioritization. Mr. Miller commented that during previous meetings supplementing daily water demands with the ASU interconnect had been discussed; however, he indicated that it would not be able to meet future demands. Town Attorney Sam Furguele acknowledged the need to update Water and Sewer Code Ordinance #05-01 to coincide with any changes made and/or the possible reprioritization of water allocations. After some discussion, Committee Member Spann noted the need to reanalyze our daily demands in relation to water allocations, so as not to suppress development. Discussion ensued concerning current daily demands, options and consequences regarding the reprioritization of water allocations.

After continued discussion Committee Member Pepin made the following motion *“That language be drafted for the different options that have been suggested and any others deemed necessary by staff, as to adjust Ordinance 05-01 concerning water allocations”* This motion was seconded by Committee Member Spann.

(During the discussion, Committee Member Tim Wilson arrived. During the vote he excused himself stating that he had not ben present for the entire discussion)

Vote: Aye-All
Nay-None

Discussion of Toilet Rebate Pilot Program Status

Public Utilities Director Rick Miller updated the Committee by stating that the Toilet Rebate Pilot Program is currently unfunded. Council Member Ball and Committee Member Spann urged the Committee to keep this program at the forefront as to reinforce the Town’s conservation program.

Council Member Ball made a motion to adjourn. This motion was seconded by Council Member Mason and with a unanimous vote the meeting was adjourned at 7:35.

Mayor, Loretta Clawson

Committee Secretary, Lane Weiss