

Nowater Town

**A Case Study of a Town Exceeding its
Available Water**

3 major planning issues

1st PLANNING ISSUE

1. Nowater Town did not plan for managing its on-going water system operations.

- Water use exceeded permitted capacity and therefore allocations were given beyond 100% of available well production.

Consequences

- The town was placed on a “no expansion” moratorium.
- Recalls had to be issued for allocation letters putting a hold on developer’s projects.
- Firefighting capacity was jeopardized.
- A town wide water conservation plan was required.
- The system faced potential contamination risks from system dewatering.
- Incurred extensive unanticipated debt.

Consequences (continued)

- Angry homeowners and developers.
- Additional time and expense of searching for an adequate water supply.
- Unexpected water quality required installation of water treatment facilities.
- Unexpected increase in taxpayers tax burden.
- Lengthy 2 and $\frac{1}{4}$ year process to obtain all needed permits.

Resolution

- A water system needs to issue water allocations for each service connection before they are allowed to connect.
- The system must maintain a master list of granted water allocations subtracted from the total authorized yield issued by the State to manage their water use.
- A municipal water system needs to actively plan to add additional water supply when its water allocations are within 10% of its maximum capacity.

Second planning Issue

- 2. Nowater Town did not plan for developing additional source water for its municipal system.**
- Town water systems over time will continue to increase their customer base, some towns more quickly than others.

Resolution

- Identify areas where additional water supply can be located.
- Designate those areas as Class II Groundwater as suitable and planned to be a public community water supply.
- Implement Town Planning and Zoning to protect the identified aquifer, or surface water, and to locate outside that area potential land use activities that could contaminate it.

Third Planning Issue

- 3. Nowater Town did not plan for anticipated water system expenses for its municipal system.**
 - Unanticipated projects usually cost more.
 - Increased water rates are often a shock to the users.
 - Often searching for sources of funding and unpassed bond votes unnecessarily delay the project and increase costs.

Resolution

- Plan ahead and set water rates to fund an account specific for water system improvements.
- Keeping the water system customers informed will enhance project and water rate acceptance .
- One more time, Keep the water system customers informed.

Downtown Designations

- Need to know water system's permitted water amount available for use.
- Need to track water allocations for amount remaining available to allocate.

Questions?

- Discussion.