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 ¼ 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 un-passed 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.