



Oak Ridge Water: A Timeline

Past Efforts

1998: Town of Oak Ridge incorporates. Madison/ Rockingham County is likely water source.

2003: Town hires Hobbs & Upchurch to prepare water study. 2004: Town establishes Water Committee and a reserve fund for future expenses related to a water system. Discussions begin with Aqua North Carolina. Water Standards Manual adopted.

2005: Town enters into contract with Aqua North Carolina to provide municipal water.

2007: After completing engineering work for the proposed system, Aqua backs out of contract with the Town.

2008: Council re-establishes Water Committee.

2009: Hobbs & Upchurch hired to update water system feasibility study.

2010: Hobbs & Upchurch hired to prepare preliminary engineering work for a municipal water system for the Town, including transmission mains, elevated storage tank, pump stations, etc.

2015: Town Council adopts a Water Ordinance. While acknowledging that decisions about water sources, distribution, and funding are unknown, Council believes that establishing a Water Ordinance is a proactive first step that better positions the Town when funding and other opportunities arise.

2017: Town signs letter of agreement with Guilford County, Summerfield, and Stokesdale to participate in a Regional Water Feasibility Study conducted by Timmons Group. Feasibility Study results indicate that costs for a proposed regional system are likely prohibitively expensive.

Current Efforts

May 21, 2019: Town Council adopts a Resolution of Intent to establish a municipal water system based on groundwater, pending a review of financial, legal, operational and administrative considerations. Envirolink Inc. selected to conduct the review.

September 5, 2019: Envirolink's financial model is presented to Town Council. Council approves ordinances establishing the requirement to construct publicly dedicated community wells in new developments of 30 lots or more.

October 7, 2019: Proposed Water Rules released for public review.

November 15, 2019: Proposed Water System Management Plan released for public review.

November 21, 2019: Open House on water hosted by Town of Oak Ridge.

Possible Future Steps

Adoption of Water Rules, Water System Management Plan, and other technical documents.

Selection of firm(s) to provide operations, maintenance, billing, and customer service.

Establishment of rates and fees.

Submission of required documentation to NC Dept. of Environmental Quality for approval.