

Utilities Department Status Report for Mar. 2023 (covering Feb. 2023)

PROJECT/CATEGORY	STATUS
WTP	All is well. The annual March chlorine only conversion and flushing is occurring (the "burn out").
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West Fork of the Eno Reservoir	The reservoir is around 47 feet. Phase II normal pool is 53 feet. The required release for April is 4 cfs, one of the higher months which will counteract some of the filling.
	Schnabel and the town are being nationally recognized for an engineering excellence award for the dam design (piano key weir). It's design already won the state level award from the same organization last year.
	"West Fork Eno Reservoir Phase 2 Expansion" has earned a National Recognition Award in the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) 2023 Engineering Excellence Awards (EEA) competition—the "Academy Awards of the engineering industry."
	The National Recognition Award is a prestigious distinction honoring projects demonstrating exceptional engineering excellence at the national level.
Water Restrictions	None
Billing Adjustments	On the April BOC consent agenda for adoption.
Specification Updates	New specifications were adopted 3/13 and tweaked 3/27. These are posted to our utilities web page.
New GIS Vendor	The Department put out an RFP for a GIS vendor and received 20 proposals! The selection committee is negotiating a contract with Bolton & Menk, whose proposal ranked in the top five of all the selection committee reviewers. They are a Raleigh based firm.
Developments	RTLP extension contract was approved in March BOC meeting. Lawrence Road project County planning board meeting scheduled April 5. The BOC submitted a letter against the project.

Lawndale Rehab Project	Bid documents are 99%. Embarking on mailer to residents and setting up to bid project. The project will be to rehabilitate most of the sewers by cured-in-place lining with a few excavations to fix point repairs.
McAdams Road Watermain Replacement	Doing a slight redesign of the water main and then will be able to submit for permits. The project involves about 700 feet of replacement water main from a 2" to a 6" and connecting to the watermain in Corbin St. which will increase fire flow.
Funding Opportunities	Nothing new to report. We are awaiting paperwork for our \$100,000 grant for water system master planning from the state and are ready to sign a contract with Hazen & Sawyer. We also have received \$70,000 in grant funds to perform a technical evaluation of Hasell St tank and US 70A Watermain Replacement. These technical reviews will provide high level recommendations and costs to move forward. Nothing formal received from the feds on the STAG or FEMA BRIC awards. Paperwork processing is slow.
Staffing	Waddell Jacobs has retired. Justin Parker will start April 10 in his position. New wastewater operator Joey Smith obtained his first wastewater operator certification. Thomas Smith was reclassified to a level 3 utility maintenance mechanic after obtaining his Mechanic I certification, bringing him to 7 certifications. Keith Scarboro obtained his Collection III certification. New night water operator Jacob Hamlin will be set to attend school for his first certification after April.
Water and Sewer Advisory Committee (WSAC) Activities	A new in-town member, Mo Rasheed, will join WSAC in April. The joint WSAC/BOC meeting will be in August at the BOC workshop.