



# Orange Water and Sewer Authority

*A public, non-profit agency providing water, sewer and reclaimed water services to the Carrboro-Chapel Hill community.*

## Summary of the OWASA Board of Directors' Meeting on March 10, 2011

*Please note: The summary below was prepared by OWASA staff and is not approved by the OWASA Board. Audio recordings of the OWASA Board's meetings and the Board's official minutes, when adopted, are available to citizens for review. Video recordings of OWASA Board meetings in the Chapel Hill Town Hall on the fourth Thursdays of the month are also available.*

The OWASA Board of Directors:

- **Adopted a resolution supporting clarification of the 2001 Water and Sewer Management, Planning and Boundary Agreement (WSMPBA) to ensure that Orange County and the Town of Hillsborough as well as OWASA will have timely, cost-effective access to their Jordan Lake water supply storage allocations.**

The Towns of Chapel Hill, Carrboro and Hillsborough; Orange County; and OWASA are parties to the WSMPBA. OWASA believes the WSMPBA in its present form may be construed as impeding access to Jordan Lake by its broad prohibition of all cross-jurisdictional water transfers except in times of emergency. OWASA's *Long-Range Water Supply Plan* identifies OWASA's Jordan Lake water supply allocation as an important insurance policy for times of special need, but some of those circumstances may not qualify as "emergencies" under current language of the WSMPBA. The purpose of the proposed clarification is to avoid any future misunderstandings or disagreements that might impede the timely access to Jordan Lake allocations, and to provide greater certainty for OWASA's water supply planning and management efforts.

As a next step, OWASA representatives plan to make a presentation to the Orange County Board of Commissioners on Tuesday night, March 15<sup>th</sup>, when the proposed WSMPBA clarification will be on the agenda for consideration.

- **Received a report from Mac Clarke, Chair of OWASA's Finance Committee, on the Committee's February 24<sup>th</sup> discussion of the initial budget and rate outlook for the 2012 Fiscal Year (FY).** Staff is projecting higher than previously expected water sales in FY 2012. Staff presented options for rate increases in the next two years: no increase in FY 2012 and a 4% increase in FY 2013; or 2% increases in each year. OWASA's budget process will include a public hearing later this spring when the draft budget and rates are further developed.
- **Received staff reports on progress in implementing the Strategic Plan which the Board adopted in the spring of 2010, on recreation at the Cane Creek Reservoir and University Lake in 2010; and on the 2010 hunting program managed by the NC Wildlife Resources Commission on OWASA's "mitigation" land west of Buckhorn Road and north of the Cane Creek Reservoir.**

- **Accepted a revised offer of \$260,000 for 14.9 acres (“Tract 2”) in the Ray Heirs property which OWASA owns near University Lake.** The potential buyers reduced their initial offer of \$300,000 after learning that soil conditions will permit one rather than two home sites and that additional costs will be necessary for a specially designed septic system due to soil conditions. Closing of the sale is contingent on the County Health Department’s approval of the proposed septic system.

For more information, please see the agenda materials on the OWASA webpage at <http://www.owasa.org/about/board-meetings.aspx>. The OWASA Board’s next scheduled business meeting will be on Thursday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM in the Chapel Hill Town Hall, 405 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.