



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's Meeting on May 26, 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. Videotapes of OWASA Board meetings in the Chapel Hill Town Hall on the fourth Thursdays of the month are also available.

The OWASA Board recognized the staff at the Jones Ferry Road Water Treatment Plant for receiving the Partnership for Safe Water's Excellence in Water Treatment award. OWASA is the ninth utility in the U.S. and the first in North Carolina to receive this award for surpassing federal standards for drinking water quality. The Partnership is a national initiative of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, water utilities and other water resource organizations.

The following staff attended the Board meeting to represent OWASA's drinking water treatment team: Ken Loflin, Manager of Water Treatment and Supply; Dusty Martin, Operations Supervisor; Mary Darr, P.E., Operations Engineer; Rachel Monschein, Laboratory Supervisor; Donald Boggs, Plant Operator; Ray Hardee, Senior Maintenance Mechanic; James Dodson, Senior Maintenance Mechanic; Bob Glosson, Senior Assistant Lakes Warden; and Monica Sherbrook, Laboratory Analyst.

The OWASA Board held public hearings on the proposed budget for the upcoming 2012 Fiscal Year (FY), 5-year capital program, and proposed fees and charges including a 2% increase in monthly rates that would become effective October 1, 2011.

The Board received comments from three customers. A resident of the Oaks area asked the Board to consider changing residential sewer charges so that they do not apply to water use above a given household's water use in the winter months. A resident of Mason Farm Road asserted that high rate increases in recent years were linked to the University's use of reclaimed water (highly treated wastewater) for non-drinking purposes starting in 2009. She proposed that there be no increase in residential rates for two years, and that any rate increases be applied to institutional customers. A representative of the University expressed appreciation for the quality of OWASA's services and relationship with the University, and supported the 2% rate increase.

The OWASA Board normally makes decisions on the budget, capital program and rates in June.

The proposed budget includes:

- \$19.1 million for operating and maintenance costs of the water, sewer and reclaimed water systems
- \$9.9 million for infrastructure (capital improvement) projects to renew, replace and improve water and sewer lines, treatment facilities, etc. to help maintain the quality and reliability of service and the structural integrity of the water and sewer systems
- \$8.8 million in debt payments for previously-completed infrastructure/capital projects

For a residential customer using 5,000 gallons per month, a 2% rate increase would add \$1.66 to a monthly bill.

Gordon Merklein, Chair of the OWASA Board, reviewed recent discussions with the Carrboro Board of Aldermen and Chapel Hill Town Council about OWASA's request to clarify an intergovernmental agreement regarding access by OWASA, Orange County and the Town of Hillsborough to their existing Jordan Lake water allocations. The Board plans to consider this matter further on June 9th.

Stuart Carson, Engineering Manager for the Capital Improvement Program, presented an overview of OWASA's FY 2011 capital projects including the Bolin Creek Sewer Replacement work underway in Chapel Hill.

For more information, please click on this link: [Agenda](#) to read the May 26, 2011 agenda materials on our website. If you receive this information in paper form, please visit our website, www.owasa.org, click on the link to the **About OWASA** page, click on the link to **Board of Directors' Meetings** and then the link to the **May 26, 2011 agenda**.

The next scheduled business meeting of the OWASA Board will be on Thursday, June 9th at 7 PM in the Community Room at the OWASA Administration Building, 400 Jones Ferry Road, Carrboro.