



# 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 December 13, 2012 OWASA Board Meeting

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:

- **Authorized the Executive Director to ask the NC Environmental Management Commission to change OWASA's allocation of Jordan Lake water supply from Level II to Level I.** This would allow OWASA to receive Jordan Lake water in a severe drought or operational emergency through pipes connecting OWASA's system to Durham and Cary. Durham and Cary already have Level I allocations.

The OWASA Board reaffirmed its commitment to only purchase water from other communities or obtain water from its Jordan Lake storage allocation in periods of increased drought risk after it has declared a Stage 1 Water Supply Shortage per OWASA's State-approved Water Shortage Response Plan and OWASA's Conservation Standards, and agreed to consider adopting the proposed Drought Response Operating Protocol in January.

- **Awarded a \$9.96 million contract for improvements to the Mason Farm Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP).** The improvements will include additional odor control facilities and new biological treatment equipment that will reduce electricity use at the plant by about 20% and help meet pending State standards further limiting nitrogen in treated wastewater. The energy efficiencies are conservatively expected to save about \$125,000 annually. Operating costs of the odor control improvements will offset some of the energy savings.
- **Accepted a 20-year, no-interest loan of \$6.56 million from the State to help pay for the energy efficiency and treatment process improvements at the WWTP.** OWASA staff estimates that the loan will save OWASA and its customers about \$1.7 million compared to borrowing at 3.5% per year.
- **Awarded a \$791,000 contract to replace a pressurized sewer in part of Heritage Hills and along Smith Level Road** from Heritage Hills to a point near Ray Road. The new line is needed because of the condition of the present sewer, to maintain reliable sewer service and help prevent wastewater spills.

- **Approved an average 2.5% merit pay increase for OWASA employees retroactive to November 5<sup>th</sup> (consistent with past decisions to approve merit pay increases in early November).**
- **Received a report from Terri Buckner, Chair of the Board's Natural Resources/Technical Systems Committee, on the Committee's discussion of fluoridating OWASA drinking water.** In February, the Board will consider the Committee's recommendation to continue fluoridation in accord with current Federal guidelines.
- **Received a petition from three Cane Creek Reservoir patrons that OWASA add an additional day of lake recreation each week at Cane Creek during the lake season from late March to early November.** The Board referred the petition to staff for a report back to the Board in January.

**Ed Holland, OWASA's Planning and Development Director, introduced Ruth Rouse, who will become OWASA's new Planning and Development Manager when Mr. Holland retires in February, 2013.**

The Board's next business meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 10<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM in the Community Room at the OWASA Administration Building, 400 Jones Ferry Road, Carrboro.

For more information, please see the agenda materials on the OWASA webpage at <http://www.owasa.org/about/board-meetings.aspx>.