



# 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 April 23, 2015 OWASA Board Meeting

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

**John Young, Chair of the OWASA Board, commented on the severe drought in California.** He noted that a key reason that our community's water supply is in excellent shape is customers' substantial conservation in the last 15 years. Water use locally has returned to the levels of the early 1990s although the number of OWASA customers has grown significantly. Mr. Young pointed out that no one knows when the next drought will begin, and we should learn from California's experiences.

### **The Board of Directors:**

- **Discussed proposed changes in Orange County's ordinance on impervious surface limits for water supply watersheds including those of University Lake and the Cane Creek Reservoir.** OWASA's comments, including the need for the County to have adequate technical resources and enforcement if the ordinance is approved, will be submitted by letter to the County.
- **Authorized staff to publicize the proposed budget and rates for public hearings to be held on Thursday, May 28, 2015 at 7 PM in the Chapel Hill Town Hall.** No increases are proposed in monthly rates for water, sewer or reclaimed water service, but some other fees (such as for water meter installation) are proposed to change based on current cost calculations. OWASA's rates reflect the costs of various services in accord with legal requirements.
- **Approved an agreement with Orange County for design work to extend sewers in the Historic Rogers Road Area.** The County and Towns of Chapel Hill and Carrboro will pay for design of the sewer.
- **Discussed the recently completed preliminary engineering study for extending sewers in the Historic Rogers Road Area,** and agreed that the upcoming design work will include an evaluation of options for the various segments of the overall sewer system where a gravity flow system may be impractical.
- **Awarded a contract for \$874,000 to replace sewers in an area near Emory Drive and Brigham Road on the east side of Chapel Hill.** The work is needed to help prevent wastewater overflows from the present sewer due to its limited capacity.

- **Awarded a contract to Martin Starnes, CPAs, to audit the financial report for July 2014 through June 2015.**
- **Received the financial report for July 2014 through March 2015.** Net income less debt payments was \$1.3 million or 18% more than projected. OWASA uses net income each year to pay for capital projects such as water and sewer replacement/renewal and improvements to treatment plants, and to maintain financial reserves.

**Board Members Amy Witsil and Steve Dear said they will not apply for reappointment to the OWASA Board.**

*The OWASA Board's next scheduled meeting is a work session on Thursday, May 14, 2015 at 6 PM in the Community Room at the OWASA Administration Building, 400 Jones Ferry Road, Carrboro. For more information, please see the agenda materials at <http://www.owasa.org/board-of-directors-meetings>.*