



## Orange Water and Sewer Authority

OWASA is Carrboro-Chapel Hill's not-for-profit public service agency delivering high quality water, wastewater, and reclaimed water services.

### Summary of the OWASA Board of Directors' Work Session on February 13, 2020

**Please note:** The summary below was prepared by staff and is not approved by the OWASA Board. OWASA's [webpage with Board meeting information](#) includes the Board's adopted minutes, agenda materials, staff's meeting summaries, audio recordings of Board meetings on second Thursdays of the month, and videos of Board meetings on fourth Thursdays. The agenda and related information for the February 13<sup>th</sup> meeting are available [here](#).

#### The Board of Directors:

Received a presentation by staff regarding key investments in recent years that have allowed OWASA to better serve the community. OWASA participates in the Partnerships for Safe Water and Clean Water, which are Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) endorsed optimization programs that encourage utilities to exceed drinking water and treated wastewater standards. OWASA's Jones Ferry Road Water Treatment Plant was the ninth utility in the United States to receive the Excellence in Water Treatment Award and the only utility in North Carolina to do so thus far.

Another example of investing in continuous improvement is the implementation of new laboratory equipment that has allowed OWASA staff to timely track taste and odor causing compounds to quickly adjust drinking water treatment to ensure our water continues to be aesthetically pleasing in addition to meeting regulations.

OWASA's Board is now considering proposals for the upcoming fiscal year, which includes increasing the use of internal resources for replacing aging water pipes. OWASA is also working to keep up with demand for locating our buried facilities as underground cabling continues across the service area. After accomplishing a goal established last year to inspect all the drinking water distribution system isolation valves, some of those additional resources can be reassigned to assist with these construction and locating efforts.

The Board of Directors will also be considering an upgrade to the Computerized Maintenance Management System at OWASA's Water and Wastewater Treatment Plants and addressing maintenance staffing needs. Upgrading this system and adding staff will shift focus from corrective maintenance to preventative maintenance in an effort to improve the longevity of our assets and avoid equipment downtime.

OWASA staff are also looking ahead to changes in rules regarding levels of nutrients in our treated wastewater discharge to Morgan Creek and substances of emerging concern such as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).

The OWASA Board of Directors and OWASA staff will continue to work together over the next several months towards adopting the final budget in June.

The Board will hold its next two meetings on Thursday, February 27, 2020 at 7 PM in Council Chamber, Chapel Hill Town Hall, 405 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard in Chapel Hill Thursday, March 12, 2020 at 6 PM in the OWASA Community Room, 400 Jones Ferry Road in Carrboro.

