



# 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 August 25, 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.*

- **Terri Buckner takes oath of office as a new Board Member.** The Orange County Commissioners recently appointed Ms. Buckner to serve on the OWASA Board. She is a Business Analyst with the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and has over 20 years of experience as an educator, including two and a half years with the UNC Sustainability Office. She previously served on the OWASA Board from June, 2005 to September, 2006 as a Town of Carrboro appointee.
- **Preparations for Hurricane Irene.** Executive Director Ed Kerwin reported on the projected storm track for Irene and OWASA's preparations for potential impacts. Water-related reminders to customers are on the OWASA website, [www.owasa.org](http://www.owasa.org).
- **Report from the Board's Outreach and Education Committee.** Vice Chair Alan Rimer reported on the Committee's August 25<sup>th</sup> meeting, which included discussion of a draft program for communicating OWASA's "brand" to customers and the community. Branding programs are designed to inform customers about an organization's identity and priorities, what to expect in service delivery and quality, etc.
- **Preliminary financial report for the fiscal year from July, 2010 through June, 2011.** Finance and Customer Service Director Stephen Winters reported that due to cost savings in service operations and bond interest rates, and higher than projected drinking water demand, net income was \$2.8 million more than expected. Net income in a given year is used to help pay for future capital improvements such as replacing old water and sewer lines, and to maintain adequate reserves.
- **Maintenance/repair of gates in the dam at the Cane Creek Reservoir.** The Board endorsed staff's plans to increase an existing contract for maintenance and repair work on the dam gates, which are designed to open so that water can be released if necessary due to a heavy storm, etc. During maintenance work this spring, it was discovered that the gate wheels needed to be replaced. The existing wheels will be replaced with stainless steel versions to prevent recurrence. This project will not affect OWASA's ability to operate the reservoir normally.

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, September 8th at 7 PM in the Community Room on the lower floor of the OWASA Administration Building, 400 Jones Ferry Road, Carrboro.