



ORANGE WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY

Quality Service Since 1977

AGENDA
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2008, 3:30 P.M.
OWASA COMMUNITY ROOM

In compliance with the "Americans with Disabilities Act," interpreter services are available with five days prior notice. If you need this assistance, please call the Clerk to the Board at 537-4217 or aorbich@owasa.org.

A Special Meeting of the Board of Directors of Orange Water and Sewer Authority is hereby called and will be held on Thursday, March 13, 2008, at 3:30 PM, in OWASA's Community Room, 400 Jones Ferry Road, Carrboro, N.C., for the purpose of considering and taking official action upon the following matters and such other business as may appropriately come before the Board.

Announcements

3:30 PM

1. Announcements by the Chair
 - A. Any Board member who knows of a conflict of interest or potential conflict of interest with respect to any item on the agenda tonight is asked to disclose the same at this time.

REGULAR AGENDA

Discussion and Action

2. *Consideration of changing the March 17, 2008 effective date of the Stage Three Shortage Water Commodity Surcharges to an alternative date.*

Dated this 13th day of March 2008.

\s\ Randy Kabrick

Randy Kabrick, P.E. Chair of the Board



MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Ed Kerwin

DATE: March 11, 2008

SUBJECT: March 13, 2008 Special Meeting of the OWASA Board of Directors

A Special Meeting of the OWASA Board of Directors has been called for Thursday, March 13, 2008 at 3:30 p.m. in the OWASA Community Room to consider whether to delay the effective date of Stage Three Water Commodity Surcharges.

On February 28, 2008, the Board declared a Stage Three Water Shortage effective March 1, 2008 and set March 17, 2008 as the effective date for the Stage Three Water Commodity Surcharges (resolution attached). OWASA's reservoirs were 40 percent full on February 28, 2008.

As a result of two rain events during the week of March 3, 2008, our reservoirs are 57 percent full as of March 11, 2008. The water supply situation of Durham and other communities has also improved considerably. Even with the recent rains, staff believes Stage Three water use restrictions are needed because our water supplies are still at a record low level for this time of year (when reservoirs are normally full or near full). However, we further believe that with the increased water supply, it is appropriate for the Board to consider delaying the effective date of the Stage Three Water Commodity Surcharges (at least until early April).

At the March 27, 2008 Board meeting, we will provide an update on water supply, demand and related factors for your discussion and possible action based on conditions at that time. As previously indicated, staff believes that the Stage Three water use restrictions should be reconsidered if our reservoirs are at least 60 percent full by April 1st.

We look forward to the Board's discussion and guidance regarding this matter.

Ed Kerwin
Executive Director

Attachment

RESOLUTION DECLARING A STAGE THREE WATER SHORTAGE

WHEREAS, due to persistent and worsening regional drought conditions, available water supply, and customer demands levels, the Orange Water and Sewer Authority (OWASA) Board of Directors declared a Water Supply Advisory on August 23, 2007; a Stage One Water Shortage on September 27, 2007; and a Stage Two Water Shortage on October 18, 2007; and

WHEREAS, conservation among virtually all OWASA customer classes has reduced overall water consumption and helped to mitigate the risk of emergency conditions; and

WHEREAS, the OWASA Board sincerely appreciates the conservation efforts of its customers and regrets the hardship and inconvenience of mandatory water use restrictions; and

WHEREAS, notwithstanding these important demand reductions, the ongoing conditions of exceptional drought, the lack of improvement in reservoir storage, and continued forecasts for below average rainfall through the spring, indicate an increasing risk of emergency conditions later this year; and

WHEREAS, on February 14, 2008, the Board of Directors received a staff recommendation to declare a Stage Three Water Shortage if OWASA's reservoirs were not at least 45 percent full by March 1, 2008, and the Board agreed to consider this action at its February 28, 2008 meeting; and

WHEREAS, reservoir storage levels still remain at about 40 percent full; and

WHEREAS, OWASA has identified and will be prepared to implement if necessary extraordinary action, which would involve substantial expense to our customers, to ensure that our community will not run out of water;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the OWASA Board of Directors declares a Stage Three Water Shortage, and hereby requests the Mayors of the Towns of Carrboro and Chapel Hill and the Chair of the Orange County Board of Commissioners to issue Proclamations of the Stage Three Water Shortage.
2. That all Stage Three water use restrictions, as set forth in OWASA's Water Conservation Standards and in the respective conservation ordinances of the Towns and County, shall be in effect as of March 1, 2008.
3. That Stage Three water commodity surcharges, as set forth in OWASA's current Schedule of Rates, Fees, and Charges, shall be in effect as of March 17, 2008 and continue until the Stage Three Water Shortage declaration is rescinded by OWASA.
4. That subsequent decisions to rescind the Stage Three Water Shortage declaration or to otherwise change the Water Shortage status to more or less stringent levels during the months

ahead shall be guided by current and projected water supply and demand conditions, availability of water from neighboring utilities, meteorological forecasts, the Board's awareness of the hardship and inconvenience imposed on OWASA's customers by Water Shortage restrictions, and other factors that the Board may deem appropriate.

5. That copies of this Resolution be provided to the Carrboro Board of Aldermen, Chapel Hill Town Council, and Orange County Board of Commissioners.

6. That OWASA hereby expresses appreciation to all of its customers for their conservation efforts during the ongoing drought and throughout the year, and to the Town, of Carrboro, Town of Chapel Hill, and Orange County for their support in informing the public of the need for conservation and enforcing the water use restrictions in effect in the OWASA service area.

Adopted this the 28th day of February, 2008.



Randolph M. Kabrick, P.E., Chairman

ATTEST:



Andrea Orbich, Assistant Secretary