



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 January 28, 2010

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. Videotapes of OWASA Board meetings in the Chapel Hill Town Hall on the fourth Thursdays of the month are also available.

The OWASA Board of Directors:

- **Adopted a resolution of appreciation for the service of OWASA Construction Crew Supervisor Clayton R. Davis, who retired after 30 years of service,** during which he was directly involved in installing almost 100 miles of water and sewer pipes.
- **Discussed comments from elected officials and citizens regarding the proposed update of OWASA's Long-Range Water Supply Plan, and took no action on the plan.** The OWASA Board will seek further communication with the elected boards of Carrboro and Chapel Hill regarding OWASA's proposed plan to purchase water, if available from other utilities, before formal declaration of a water shortage. The purpose of these water purchases would be to reduce hardships for customers from water use restrictions and rate surcharges that go into effect when a shortage is declared.
- **Revised OWASA's policy on account adjustments when customers fix certain non-irrigation leaks.** A customer's account may be adjusted for excess water use caused by a leak resulting from conditions beyond the reasonable control of the customer. Under the amended policy, the amount charged for the excess water use will be adjusted to the lowest retail water rate (now \$2.36 per 1,000 gallons). OWASA will provide information to customers about this policy change in a future newsletter and on our website, etc.
- **Held a public hearing on, and adopted rates and extension and service policies for reclaimed water service to non-University customers.** There were no speakers in the public hearing. The policies provide that:
 - ✓ there will be no subsidy of reclaimed water service by drinking water and sewer customers;
 - ✓ there will be no subsidy of drinking water and sewer service by reclaimed water customers; and
 - ✓ reclaimed water customers will pay cost of service rates and for the full costs to extend and connect to the reclaimed water system.

(Reclaimed water rates already in effect for the University also reflect the costs of service, and a contract between OWASA and the University provided that the University paid the non-grant costs of building the reclaimed water system that has served several campus areas since April, 2009.) Reclaimed water is highly treated wastewater that meets applicable State standards and can be used for non-drinking uses such as irrigation, toilet flushing and cooling tower make-up water.

The St. Thomas More Catholic Church plans to connect to the reclaimed water system this spring.

- **Received a financial report for the second quarter.** Operating revenues were 1% higher than expected from July through December, and operating costs were 10% lower than expected, in part because prices for chemicals used in our treatment plants have dropped.

For more information, please see the agenda materials on our website, www.owasa.org. The next scheduled meeting of the OWASA Board will be on Thursday, February 25th at 7 PM in the Chapel Hill Town Hall, 405 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.