



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 May 10, 2012 OWASA Board Meeting

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.*

The OWASA Board of Directors:

- **Authorized staff to advertise proposed rates and fees for public hearings on May 24th including no increase in monthly rates.** Some other charges, such as service availability (system capacity) fees for new connections, will increase based on updated cost calculations.
- **Received a report from Amy Witsil, Chair of the Finance Committee, regarding the Committee's meeting Thursday.**
 - Capital Improvement Program (CIP) expenditures will exceed projections for the year. The primary reason for exceeding the budget is \$1 million of unexpected repairs to floodgates at the Cane Creek Reservoir dam. The Board asked staff to provide more frequent progress reports on construction projects. Because of work that was completed ahead of schedule in the current budget year, the proposed CIP budget for the coming fiscal year will be reduced by \$400,000.
 - OWASA will have the opportunity to apply for a no-interest State loan for improvements at the Mason Farm Wastewater Treatment Plant. The Board will consider formal action in May to authorize OWASA's application for the loan.
 - The average monthly residential water consumption used in evaluating the affordability of OWASA's residential bills was discussed.
- **Approved contracts for health and dental insurance with cost reductions of 1.7% and 8.8% respectively for the fiscal year from July, 2012 through June, 2013.** The savings are due in part to OWASA employees' achievements in meeting health and wellness program objectives.
- **Recognized the achievements of the late James McAdam,** who was a key member of the UNC engineering and finance team which helped plan, finance, and implement the OWASA-UNC reclaimed water system. The use of reclaimed water (highly treated wastewater) for non-drinking purposes has reduced the need to use water from OWASA's lakes, thereby reducing our community's risk during future droughts.

- **Welcomed John Kiviniemi, OWASA's new Wastewater Treatment and Biosolids Recycling Manager.** Mr. Kiviniemi has 24 years of experience in the wastewater management field.
- **Appointed a Nominating Committee to make recommendations for election of the Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary of the Board in June.**

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, May 24th at 7 PM in the Chapel Hill Town Hall, 405 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.