



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 May 24, 2012

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:

- **Held public hearings on the proposed budget for the fiscal year from July 2012 through June 2013, five-year capital program, and rates to go into effect on October 1, 2012.** No increase in monthly water, sewer and reclaimed water rates is proposed. (Some other charges, such as system capacity fees for new connections, will increase.) One citizen spoke at the hearing, a University representative who expressed appreciation for OWASA's services and support for the proposal not to increase monthly rates. The Board will consider adopting the proposed budget, capital program and rates on June 14th.
- **Eliminated lake use fees, beginning March 2013, for senior citizens (65 and older) who are OWASA customers or Orange County residents.**
- **Received a response to a citizen's petition to change the way residents of master-metered multi-family housing are billed for water and sewer service.** The petitioner suggested that increasing block rates apply to residents where property owners install private meters and privately bill for water use. The OWASA staff report explained that the NC Utilities Commission's practices do not currently allow property owners to use block rates when rebilling tenants for water use.
- **Received a report on current capital projects.** About half of the revenue OWASA receives from monthly water and sewer bills is invested in OWASA's infrastructure, either to pay for current projects or to pay off debt from past construction. OWASA's investment strategy, policies and multi-year plans for renewing, replacing and improving aging water and sewer mains will maintain service reliability and avoid excessive maintenance and repair costs.
- **Authorized application to the State for a no-interest loan to help pay for biological treatment improvements at the Mason Farm Wastewater Treatment Plant that will reduce energy use and cost, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.**

For more information, please see the agenda materials at <http://www.owasa.org/about/board-meetings.aspx>. The OWASA Board's next business meeting will be on Thursday, June 14th at 7 PM in the Community Room at the OWASA Administration Building, 400 Jones Ferry Road, Carrboro.