



# 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 Board of Directors' meeting on October 8, 2015

**Please note:** *The summary below was prepared by OWASA staff and is not approved by the OWASA Board of Directors. Audio recordings of OWASA Board meetings and the Board's minutes, when adopted, are available to citizens for review. Video recordings are available for Board meetings at the Chapel Hill Town Hall on fourth Thursdays of most months.*

### The Board:

- **Authorized staff to proceed with a cost allocation study as the next step in a process to consider changes to water and sewer rate structures.**
- **Received a presentation from General Counsel Robert Epting on the legal framework for use of OWASA funds and setting rates.**

State law, agreements with the University and Towns of Chapel Hill and Carrboro and obligations to bondholders limit how OWASA charges for services and expends funds. OWASA may not provide free service, set rates based on customers' ability to pay, or use revenues for charitable purposes.

- **Agreed that OWASA will move toward recycling about 75% of its biosolids in "liquid" form on approved farmland (when practical), and recycling about 25% in dewatered form at a private composting facility in Chatham County.** The Board approved filling two vacant biosolids staff positions to enable this change. OWASA now applies about 50% of its biosolids in liquid form on farmland and dewateres 50% for transport to the composting facility.

The Board asked staff for a status report in January 2017 on experience with the 75%-25% approach. Estimated savings over time from the 75%-25% approach are discussed in a [staff report on biosolids management options](#). Staff will inform farmers and other stakeholders about the Board's discussion.

*The Board will hold a business meeting on Thursday, October 22 at 7 PM in the Chapel Hill Town Hall, 405 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. For more information, please see the agenda materials at <http://www.owasa.org/board-of-directors-meetings>.*