



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 March 9, 2017

Please note: *The summary below was prepared by OWASA staff and is not approved by the OWASA Board of Directors. OWASA's [webpage with Board meeting information](#) includes the Board's adopted minutes, agenda materials, staff's meeting summaries, audio recordings of Board meetings on second Thursdays of the month, and videos of Board meetings on fourth Thursdays.*

The Board of Directors:

- **Decided to continue the current policy of fluoridating drinking water.** The Board's discussion and decision followed a public process including comments by more than 40 people in Board meetings, by e-mail, etc. OWASA will continue to monitor scientific developments, best practices and recommendations regarding fluoridation.

Due to an onsite fluoride overfeed contained within the Jones Ferry Road Water Treatment Plant on February 2nd, OWASA suspended fluoridation pending review of the event. On March 23rd, OWASA staff will recommend improvements to the fluoride feed system and processes and propose a date to resume fluoridation.

- **Approved the initial implementation plan for the Employee Diversity and Inclusion Program.** Staff will hire a consultant to assist in further developing and implementing the plan, and staff will provide status reports to the Board in June and September.
- **Scheduled public hearings for May 25th to receive comments on the proposed budget for July 2017 through June 2018 and on rates to be effective in October 2017.**
- **Approved a practice of limiting Board Members terms' as Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary to one one-year term for each office.**
- **Received a report from staff that the NC Environmental Management Commission approved continuation of OWASA's Jordan Lake allocation of about 5 million gallons per day.** Jordan Lake is an important back up supply in the event of an extended drought or operational emergency such as the one in early February. We have mutual aid agreements with the City of Durham and the Town of Cary to use their existing infrastructure to access our Jordan Lake allocation when needed.

The Board will meet on Thursday, March 23rd at 7 PM in the Council Chamber at the Chapel Hill Town Hall, 405 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard; and on Thursday, April 13th at 6 PM in the Community Room at the OWASA Administration Building, 400 Jones Ferry Road, Carrboro.