

ORANGE WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY  
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
FEBRUARY 25, 2016

The Board of Directors of the Orange Water and Sewer Authority (OWASA) held a regular business meeting on Thursday, February 25, 2016, at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers at the Chapel Hill Town Hall, 405 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.

Board Members present: John A. Young, Chair; Robert Morgan, Vice Chair; Heather Payne, Secretary; Jeff Danner; Barbara Foushee; Quinton Harper; David (Dave) Moreau; and Ruchir Vora. Board Members absent: Terri Buckner.

OWASA staff present: Ed Kerwin; Mary Darr; Patrick Davis; Monica Dodson; Greg Feller; Katie Harrold; Kenneth Loflin; Andrea Orbich; Dan Przybyl; Ruth Rouse; Todd Taylor; Stephen Winters; Robin Jacobs and Robert Epting, Epting and Hackney.

Others present: Meg Holton, Water, Wastewater, and Stormwater Manager, University of North Carolina (UNC) at Chapel Hill; Nicholas Battista, Shaili Jha and Kasia Grzebyk, Emerging Leaders in Science and Society, UNC; Kirsten Studer, UNC graduate student; Alan Tom; Joel Bulkley; Glen Greenstreet; and Phil Duckwall.

There being a quorum present, Chair John Young called the meeting to order.

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MOTIONS ACTED UPON

1. Ruchir Vora made a motion to deny Alan Tom's petition to consider a discount for low-income patrons; second by Robert Morgan and unanimously approved.
2. Heather Payne made a motion to approve the Minutes of the January 21, 2016 Special Meeting of the Board of Directors; second by Robert Morgan and unanimously approved.
3. Heather Payne made a motion to approve the Minutes of the January 28, 2016 Meeting of the Board of Directors; second by Robert Morgan and unanimously approved.
4. Heather Payne made a motion to approve the Minutes of the February 11, 2016 Work Session of the Board of Directors; second by Robert Morgan and unanimously approved.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Conflict Of Interest

John Young said any Board Member who knows of a conflict of interest or potential conflict of interest with respect to any item on the agenda tonight is asked to disclose the same at this time.

Jeff Danner said that he is a member of the Friends of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail and has made charitable contributions to the organization.

### February 16, 2016 OWASA Annual Update to the Orange County Board of Commissioners

Barbara Foushee said that she and Terri Buckner presented OWASA's annual update to the County Commissioners on February 16<sup>th</sup> and that Mary Darr and Ed Kerwin were also in attendance. Commissioners received an overview of the sewer system design for the Historic Rogers Road Area, Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI), Mountains-to-Sea Trail, affordability outreach and biosolids management. Commissioners encouraged the OWASA Board to bring forward at the appropriate time any concerns about the Mountains-to-Sea Trail being located on OWASA property. The Commissioners also requested that the OWASA Board revisit the Sale and Purchase agreement with the University with respect to charitable contributions. An action item is to prepare a letter for the OWASA Board Chair's signature to the Orange County Board of Commissioners regarding restrictions on OWASA regarding charitable expenditures.

### Maxine Rich and Patrick Davis

Ed Kerwin acknowledged the service of Maxine Rich, Accounting Technician; and Patrick Davis, Sustainability Manager; who will retire on February 29, 2016 with 25 and 20 years of service to OWASA respectively.

The Board extended their thanks and appreciation to Mrs. Rich and Mr. Davis for their dedicated service to OWASA.

## PETITIONS AND REQUESTS:

Alan Tom petitioned the Board: 1) to consider a discount for low-income patrons when lake fees are next raised; and 2) to define the process for determining recreation policy in 2017 and subsequent years.

After discussion, Ruchir Vora made a motion to deny Alan Tom's petition to consider a discount for low-income patrons; second by Robert Morgan and the unanimously approved. Please see Motion 1 above.

After discussion, the Board agreed that it was not necessary to define a process for determining recreation policy but that the Annual Lake Recreation Report scheduled in January of each year

would be on the Board's regular agenda instead of the consent agenda and that OWASA staff will publicize the opportunity for public to comment on this report and other recreation matters when the annual report is on the agenda.

Glen Greenstreet petitioned, on behalf of stakeholders and volunteers in support of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail, that OWASA work with the Orange County Board of Commissioners and staff on the public process in a coordinated effort in making a decision on the trail location in Orange County.

Phil Duckwall said that he is a property owner near the Cane Creek Reservoir and that he and several of his neighbors oppose the proposed Orange County location of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail and that he would like to be notified when this topic is on the OWASA Board of Directors' agenda.

The Board thanked Mr. Greenstreet and Mr. Duckwall for their comments and said that OWASA staff will notify property owners of land adjacent to OWASA land when the Mountains-to-Sea Trail is on the OWASA Board of Directors' agenda.

The Board also agreed that Orange County has the lead in the coordination efforts of the proposed Mountains-to-Sea Trail, including public engagement, and that staff will continue to work with Orange County staff regarding this matter.

The Board requested that staff redistribute to the Board the 2009 letter from the OWASA Board to the Orange County Board of County Commissioners regarding the Mountains-to-Sea Trail.

John Young asked for petitions and requests from the Board and staff; none were received.

**ITEM ONE: RECEIVE PUBLIC FEEDBACK ON ADVANCED METERING INFRASTRUCTURE**

Todd Taylor presented information on Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI). Prior to the Board meeting, 61 public comments and questions were received from February 10 through 25, 2016.

The Board requested staff review webpage answers to the AMI "frequently asked questions" on the website to determine if additional information is needed; staff will follow up.

**ITEM TWO: PRESENTATION ON ENSURING DRINKING WATER SAFETY**

Monica Dodson provided a presentation on the safety of OWASA's drinking water, testing for lead and corrosion control to minimize the potential for lead release from materials including lead solder in pre-1986 plumbing systems with copper pipes. Mrs. Dodson stated that OWASA's water continues to meet all State and federal regulations.

ITEM THREE: UPDATE ON OWASA'S STRATEGIC PLAN

The Board accepted staff's report on this item and endorsed the proposed timeline to complete a new strategic plan.

ITEM FOUR: UPDATE ON OWASA'S COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Board accepted the proposed criteria for when staff will seek the Board's review and approval of Community Engagement Plans. The Board requested the removal of the reference to rate increases from the criteria.

ITEM FIVE: FINANCIAL RESERVES POLICY

The Board agreed to maintain the current Financial Reserves Policy. The Board agreed that next year's budget process (Fiscal Year 2018) would include a discussion of reserves.

The Board requested information on the potential interest rate impact of borrowing under a lower bond rating and short-term borrowing options that may be available to OWASA.

ITEM SIX: MINUTES

Heather Payne made a motion to approve the Minutes of the January 21, 2016 Special Meeting of the Board of Directors; second by Robert Morgan and unanimously approved. Please see Motion No. 2 above.

ITEM SEVEN: MINUTES

Heather Payne made a motion to approve the Minutes of the January 28, 2016 Meeting of the Board of Directors; second by Robert Morgan and unanimously approved. Please see Motion No. 3 above.

ITEM EIGHT: MINUTES

Heather Payne made a motion to approve the Minutes of the February 11, 2016 Work Session of the Board of Directors; second by Robert Morgan and unanimously approved. Please see Motion No. 4 above.

ITEM NINE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WILL SUMMARIZE THE KEY ACTION ITEMS FROM THE BOARD MEETING AND NOTE SIGNIFICANT ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION EXPECTED AT THE NEXT BOARD MEETING

Ed Kerwin summarized staff action items as follows:

- March 10, 2016 Work Session will include the following agenda items:

- Receive and discuss public feedback on Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI)
- Review of Fiscal Year (FY) 17 Budget
- Review findings of easement pilot project
- Review when the Mountains-to-Sea Trail may fit into the Board's 12 Month Schedule
- Annual Lakes Recreation Report will continue to be scheduled in January but placed on the regular agenda, and staff will notify stakeholders of their opportunity to comment on the report and other lake recreation items;
- Staff will e-mail the Board a copy of OWASA's 2009 letter to Orange County Board of County Commissioners regarding the Mountains-to-Sea Trail;
- Staff will continue to work with Orange County staff regarding matters related to the Mountains-to-Sea Trail and will inform property owners adjacent to OWASA owned land when this topic is on future OWASA agendas;
- Staff will update answers to the AMI "frequently asked questions" on the website to determine if additional information is needed;
- Staff will schedule a Board discussion regarding opportunities to further improve our budgeting process following the approval of the FY 2017 budgets and the discussion may include development of new budgeting policies;
- Staff will provide information about the potential interest rate impact of borrowing under a lower bond rating and about short-term borrowing options that may be available to OWASA; and
- Staff will include a discussion of reserves as part of next year's budget process.

ITEM TEN: CLOSED SESSION

Without objection, the Board convened in the First Floor Conference Room for a Closed Session for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Andrea Orbich  
Executive Assistant/Clerk to the Board