

Orange Water and Sewer Authority

Meeting of the Board of Directors

November 8, 2018

The Board of Directors of the Orange Water and Sewer Authority (OWASA) met in a work session on Thursday, November 8, 2018, at 6:00 PM in OWASA's Community Room, 400 Jones Ferry Road, Carrboro.

Board Members present: Yinka Ayankoya (Chair), Ray DuBose (Secretary), Bruce Boehm, Jody Eimers, Robert Morgan, John N. Morris, Ruchir Vora and John A. Young. Board Member absent: Jeff Danner (Vice Chair).

OWASA staff present: Denise Battle, Mary Darr, Monica Dodson, Robert Epting, Esq., (Epting and Hackney), Stephanie Glasgow, Randy Horton, Ed Kerwin, Kenneth Loflin, Linda Low, Andrea Orbich, Dustin Rhodes, Nicholas Rogers, Ruth Rouse, Todd Taylor, Mary Tiger, Stephen Winters and Richard Wyatt.

Others present: Terry Battle, Terri Buckner, Lewis Kellogg (Director of Energy Services, University of North Carolina), Margaret Holton (UNC Water Resources Manager), Ben Poulson (UNC Associate Director of Energy Services), Tammy Grubb (News & Observer) and Ryan Smoot (Daily Tarheel).

Motions

1. John Morris made a motion to approve the Minutes of the October 25, 2018 Closed Session of the Board of Directors for the Purpose of Discussing a Personnel Matter; second by Robert Morgan and unanimously approved.
2. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Directors of the Orange Water and Sewer Authority adopts the Resolution Designating OWASA's Primary and Secondary Agents and Authorizing Them to Execute and File Applications for Federal and/or State Assistance and Represent the Organization in All Dealings with Federal Emergency Management Agency and the North Carolina Division of Emergency Management. (Motion by Robert Morgan, second by Ruchir Vora and unanimously approved.)

* * * * *

Announcements

Yinka Ayankoya asked if any Board Member knows of a conflict of interest or potential conflict of interest with respect to any item on the agenda tonight to disclose the same at this time; none were disclosed.

Without objection, Ms. Ayankoya announced that an item was added to the agenda, Update and Discussion on the November 5, 2018 Water Main Break at the Jones Ferry Road Water Treatment Plant.

Ms. Ayankoya announced that new Board Members and three to four other OWASA Board Members would meet for a Diversity and Inclusion Session with VISIONS, Inc. on Tuesday, November 13, 2018 at 5 PM in the OWASA Boardroom.

John Young announced that the Natural Resources and Technical Services (NRTS) Committee meeting scheduled for today to discuss the overall approach for managing watershed lands was canceled and will be rescheduled for December 12, 2018 at 4 PM in the OWASA Boardroom.

Mr. Young said that the NRTS Committee met on October 30, 2018 to discuss source water protection. The Committee supported staff's recommendation to sample per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) on a quarterly basis at the water supply intake at Cane Creek Reservoir and the treated drinking water leaving the Jones Ferry Road Water Treatment Plant. The Board agreed that staff will report back the findings after a year's worth of sampling has been completed. The Board agreed to schedule a discussion on PFAS/PFOS sampling plan at a future meeting, but supported staff moving forward with the sampling plan.

Ruchir Vora announced a meeting between the Chapel Hill Town Council OWASA Committee and Chapel Hill Appointees to the OWASA Board of Directors on Thursday, November 15, 2018 at 8:30 AM in the OWASA Boardroom to discuss items of mutual interest.

Robert Morgan announced that the Human Resources Committee will meet on Wednesday, November 28, 2018 at 5 PM in the OWASA Boardroom to discuss retiree health insurance and employee 457 deferred compensation.

Ray DuBose announced that the Finance Committee will meet on Wednesday, December 5, 2018 at 5 PM in the OWASA Boardroom to review analyses of OWASA's operating expenses and discuss planning assumptions for the Fiscal Year 2020 budget.

Mr. DuBose also announced that Penny Rich, Chair of the Orange County Board of Commissioners, requested a meeting with Orange County Appointees to the OWASA Board on a date to be determined.

Item One: Minutes

John Morris made a motion to approve the Minutes of the October 25, 2018 Closed Session of the Board of Directors for the Purpose of Discussing a Personnel Matter; second by Robert Morgan and unanimously approved. Please see Motion 1 above.

Item Two: Resolution Designating OWASA's Primary and Secondary Agents and Authorizing Them to Execute and File Applications for Federal and/or State Assistance and Represent the Organization in All Dealings with Federal Emergency Management Agency and the North Carolina Division of Emergency Management

Motion by Robert Morgan, second by Ruchir Vora and unanimously approved. Please see Motion No. 2 above.

Item Three: Update and Discussion on the November 5, 2018 Water Main Break at the Jones Ferry Road Water Treatment Plant

The Board received and discussed a staff presentation on the water emergency including an overview of the water main break and staff's response. Information was provided on the water main repair work, as well as proposed strategies and investments that OWASA can act on in the short- and long-term to increase the resiliency of the system. Staff informed the Board and public that an independent consultant will be hired to determine the cause of the break and the reason(s) why it took about eight hours to stop the leak. Staff also provided data on communications with local government agencies that kept the community and other stakeholders informed throughout the water emergency.

Terri Buckner noted that some OWASA customers do not live in Carrboro or Chapel Hill and it is important that those OWASA customers receive communication.

Board Member questions and comments included information on the frequency of valve exercising program, opportunity to review scope of work on the distribution system replacement prioritization model, appreciation of staff efforts throughout all the events over the past few months and the future work needed to earn back the community's trust and confidence.

Staff will work to refine and develop plans to address short- and long-term improvements for water distribution system resiliency for discussion and action at future meetings.

Item Four: Review Board Work Schedule

Ed Kerwin said that the Chapel Hill/Carrboro Chamber of Commerce is hosting a meeting on Monday, November 12, 2018, at 9:00 AM, in the Chamber's Office, to review what happened, answer questions and receive feedback on the November 5, 2018 water emergency. Mr. Kerwin invited Board Members to participate in this meeting.

Ed Kerwin requested that a special work session be scheduled to discuss communications and community engagement; the Board agreed.

Item Five: Executive Director Will Summarize the Key Staff Action Items from the Work Session

Ed Kerwin noted the following items for staff follow-up:

- Schedule Board discussion on per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances sampling plan;
- Refine and develop plans to address short- and long-term improvements for water distribution system resiliency for discussion and action at future meetings.

- Reschedule Natural Resources and Technical Services Committee meeting to discuss the overall approach for managing forested watershed lands to December 12, 2018 at 4 PM in the OWASA Boardroom; and
- Schedule special work session to discuss communications and community engagement.

Item Six: Closed Session

Without objection, the Board continued in a Closed Session to discuss a personnel matter.

The Board came out of Closed Session and the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



Andrea Orbich

Executive Assistant/Clerk to the Board

Attachment

Resolution Designating OWASA's Primary and Secondary Agents and Authorizing Them to Execute and File Applications for Federal and/or State Assistance and Represent the Organization in All Dealings with Federal Emergency Management Agency and the North Carolina Division of Emergency Management

Whereas, the Orange Water and Sewer Authority expended funds preparing for Hurricane Florence and repairing damaged facilities in its aftermath; and

Whereas, staff has begun working with federal and state agencies to document damages and expenditures and receive disaster relief; and

Whereas, the Federal Emergency Management Agency requires that OWASA designate a primary and secondary agent to execute and file applications and represent OWASA in all dealings with the State of North Carolina and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by the Board of Directors of Orange Water and Sewer Authority:


1. That Ed Kerwin, Executive Director, and Stephen Winters, Director of Finance and Customer Service, are hereby authorized to execute and file applications for federal and/or state assistance on behalf of the Orange Water and Sewer Authority for the purpose of obtaining certain state and federal financial assistance under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, (Public Law 93-288 as amended) or as otherwise available.

2. That the above-named agents are authorized to represent and act for Orange Water and Sewer Authority in all dealings with the State of North Carolina and the Federal Emergency Management Agency for all matters pertaining to such disaster assistance required by the grant agreements and the assurances listed in Attachments B-1 and B-2.

3. That the above-named agents are authorized to act severally.

This the 8th day of November, 2018


Yinka Ayankoya, Chair


Raymond E. DuBose, Secretary