

# Orange Water and Sewer Authority

## Meeting of the Board of Directors

February 28, 2019

The Board of Directors of the Orange Water and Sewer Authority (OWASA) met in a work session on Thursday, February 28, 2019, at 6:00 p.m. in OWASA's Board Room, 400 Jones Ferry Road, Carrboro.

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

OWASA staff present: Mary Darr, Robert Epting, Esq., (Epting and Hackney), Robin Jacobs (Epting and Hackney), Ed Kerwin, Linda Low, Andrea Orbich, Todd Taylor, Mary Tiger, Stephen Winters and Richard Wyatt.

Others present: Heather Benjamin and Meg Holton (UNC Water Resources Manager).

### Motions

1. Robert Morgan made a motion to approve the Minutes of the January 10, 2019 Meeting of the Board of Directors; second by Ruchir Vora and unanimously approved.
2. Robert Morgan made a motion to approve the Minutes of the February 14, 2019 Closed Session of the Board of Directors to Discuss a Personnel Matter; second by Ruchir Vora and unanimously approved.
3. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Directors of the Orange Water and Sewer Authority adopts the Resolution Honoring the Service of Jeff Danner to the Chapel Hill-Carrboro-Orange County Community as a Member of the Orange Water and Sewer Authority. (Motion by John Young, second by Robert Morgan and unanimously approved.)

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### 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.

Jody Eimers announced that Ray DuBose, Ed Kerwin and she provided the Orange County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) OWASA's Annual Report on February 19, 2019 in Chapel Hill. Topics presented included: Quarterly Meeting with Members of the BOCC; water system resiliency; Sewers for Historic Rogers Road Area; OWASA's Affordability Outreach Program; contributions to OWASA's Care to Share Customer Assistance Program; leak

notification and mobilization with Agua Vista Web Portal; and OWASA's Diversity and Inclusion Program. Ms. Eimers noted one speaker spoke on OWASA's Annual Update and expressed concern about land application of biosolids. The BOCC did not have questions or comments for the speaker.

John Young announced that Ed Kerwin and he attended the February 21, 2019 Chatham-Orange Joint Planning Task Force meeting in Pittsboro. Mr. Young said Mr. Dan LaMontagne, Interim Chatham County Manager, provided an update on the Jordan Lake Western Intake Partners (Durham, Chatham, Pittsboro, OWASA), and that Mr. LaMontagne's slides were provided to the OWASA Board on February 25, 2019. The next meeting for this group is scheduled for May 9, 2019, hosted by Orange County, the agenda may include a presentation regarding Jordan Lake One Water Association and a discussion on stormwater management.

Ruchir Vora announced that the Community Engagement Committee will meet on Tuesday, March 5, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. in the Boardroom to discuss Agua Vista Web Portal.

Mr. Vora announced a meeting between Chapel Hill Town Council OWASA Committee and Chapel Hill Appointees to the OWASA Board on Thursday, March 14, 2019 at 8:30 a.m. in the OWASA Boardroom to discuss items of mutual interest.

Robert Morgan announced that the Human Resources Committee will meet on Monday, March 18, 2019, at 8:00 a.m. in the OWASA Boardroom to discuss 457 deferred compensation benefit.

John Morris said the Board's 12-month schedule shows discussions on the Long-Range Water Supply Plan topics over the next few months and suggested the Natural Resources and Technical Services (NRTS) Committee meet to discuss this complicated topic. The Board agreed to delay a NRTS Committee meeting on this topic until after initial Board discussions later this spring.

Item One: 12 Month Board Meeting Schedule

The Board accepted this as an information item.

Item Three: Minutes

Robert Morgan made a motion to approve the Minutes of the January 10, 2019 Meeting of the Board of Directors; second by Ruchir Vora and unanimously approved. Please see Motion 1 above.

Item Four: Resolution Honoring the Service of Jeff Danner to the Chapel Hill-Carrboro-Orange County Community as a Member of the Orange Water and Sewer Authority's Board of Directors

John Young made a motion to approve the resolution; second by Robert Morgan and unanimously approved. Please see Motion 3 above.

Item Four: Nomination and Election of the Vice Chair

Yinka Ayankoya said with Jeff Danner's resignation from the Board of Directors at the end of tonight's meeting, the office of Vice Chair is vacant. She said it is understood that the Board's practice of setting one-year term limits for Officers does not apply to a partial term and that five (5) votes are necessary to elect a Vice Chair. Ms. Ayankoya asked for nominations for Vice Chair from the floor.

John Morris nominated Ray DuBose; Ruchir Vora nominated himself, as candidates for election to the office of Vice Chair of the Board of Directors. There were no other nominations, and the nominations were closed.

The Board Clerk distributed ballots for the election of Vice Chair of the Board of Directors, those considered for nomination were Ray DuBose and Ruchir Vora.

In the first round of voting for the Vice Chair of the Board of Directors, those considered to have been in nomination were Ray DuBose and Ruchir Vora, in the vote on the first ballot, neither of the candidates received five votes.

The Board determined without objection to vote a second round for Vice Chair of the Board of Directors, and the nominations were again Ray DuBose and Ruchir Vora. In the vote on the second ballot, Ruchir Vora obtained five votes and was elected as Vice Chair of the Board of Directors for the remainder of the present term.

Item Six:      Discuss Draft Communications and Community Engagement Plan

The Board discussed and supported staff moving forward with the draft 2019 Communications and Community Engagement Plan (Plan). The Plan incorporates five key strategies to increase the effectiveness of OWASA's external communications and community engagement throughout the year. The strategies are outlined below:

1. Communicate a narrative linking all of OWASA's work – core key messages, refresh the brand, improve the website, offer optional communication training for all employees
2. Develop unique education activities and partnerships to get people interested and invested in water – establish OWASA Youth Water Academy, communications intern from UNC, Water Wagon events
3. Project competence and provide proof points on what OWASA is doing to bolster system resiliency – potentially behind the scene tours of capital improvement projects, Chamber of Commerce infrastructure session, monthly educational feature on local radio
4. Leverage momentum, support priority focus areas – promote Agua Vista during the Mayors Save Water Challenge, implement Care to Share Day, facilitate community dialogue on forest management, develop a key message bank
5. Continue to improve good practices in emergency communications – collaboration with local government Public Information Officers, document emergency communication processes, cross-promote and amplify messages on partner channels

The Board also supported the organizational web relaunch, brand refresh, design and printing for public education to begin this Fiscal Year (FY19). The Board will review additional information in conjunction with FY 2020 budget prior to approval of additional resources.

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

Ed Kerwin said staff would follow up on the Board's comments to implement the Communication and Community Engagement Plan.

Item Eight: Closed Session

Without objection, the Board continued in Closed Session for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter.

The Board meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



Andrea Orbich  
Executive Assistant/Clerk to the Board

Attachment

**Resolution Honoring the Service of Jeff Danner to the  
Chapel Hill-Carrboro-Orange County Community as a Member of the  
Orange Water and Sewer Authority's Board of Directors**

**Whereas**, on June 8, 2015, the Chapel Hill Town Council appointed Jeff Danner to serve on the Board of Directors of the Orange Water and Sewer Authority (OWASA); and

**Whereas**, Mr. Danner served on the OWASA Board from July 1, 2015, through February 28, 2019, including service as Vice Chair of the Board of Directors from July 1, 2016, to June 30, 2017, and July 1, 2018, to February 28, 2019, as Chair of the Finance Committee from July 2016 through July 2018, and as a Member of the Finance and Human Resources Committees; and

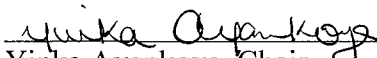
**Whereas**, as a Board Member, Mr. Danner served with unselfish dedication as a public steward of the community's environmental resources and services, always mindful of his fiduciary responsibilities, and of OWASA's essential role in the health and prosperity of our service community; and

**Whereas**, Mr. Danner's exceptional professional and technical expertise, experience, analytical skills, and energy have been of great value in the Board's deliberations and decisions, and OWASA has benefitted greatly from his special energy and interest in environmental, financial, employee compensation, and community engagement matters;


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

1. That the Board expresses its sincere appreciation and deep gratitude to Jeff Danner for his outstanding service, leadership and stewardship as a Member of the OWASA Board of Directors; and the Board wishes for him much happiness in the years ahead.
2. That this resolution be recorded in the minutes of the OWASA Board of Directors and be part of the permanent records of OWASA, and that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Town of Chapel Hill.

Adopted and presented this 28<sup>th</sup> day of February 2019.

  
Yinka Ayankoya, Chair

ATTEST:

  
Andrea Orbich, Assistant Secretary