ORANGE WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY

A public, non-profit agency providing water, sewer and reclaimed water services to the Carrboro-Chapel Hill community.

AGENDA
MEETING OF THE OWASA BOARD OF DIRECTORS
THURSDAY, AUGUST 25, 2016, 7:00 P.M.
CHAPEL HILL TOWN HALL

In compliance with the "Americans with Disabilities Act," interpreter services are available with five days prior notice. If you need this assistance, please contact the Clerk to the Board at 919-537-4217 or aorbich@owasa.org.

The Board of Directors appreciates and invites the public to attend and observe its meetings. Public comment is invited either by petition upon topics not on the Board's agenda, or by comments upon items appearing on the Board's agenda. Speakers are invited to submit more detailed comments via written materials, ideally submitted at least three days in advance of the meeting to the Clerk to the Board via email or US Postal Service (aorbich@owasa.org/400 Jones Ferry Road, Carrboro, NC 27510).

Public speakers are encouraged to organize their remarks for delivery within the four minute time frame allowed each speaker. Additional time may be allowed at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

Announcements

1. Announcements by the Chair
   A. 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.
2. Announcements by Board Members
3. Announcements by Staff
   A. Lead and Copper Testing in Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools (Todd Taylor)
   B. Annual Report for July 2015 through June 2016 Collection, Treatment and Recycling of Wastewater and Biosolids (Todd Taylor)
   C. OWASA recognized as a Water Resources Utility of the Future (Mary Tiger)

Petitions and Requests

1. Public
2. Board
3. Staff

CONSENT AGENDA

Information and Reports

1. Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action Report for Fiscal Year 2016 (Stephanie Glasgow)
2. Annual Report on Disposal of Surplus Personal Property (Kevin Ray)

Action

3. Approval of the Minutes of the July 14, 2016 Work Session of the Board of Directors (Andrea Orbich)

REGULAR AGENDA

Discussion and Action

4. Determine Whether the Mountains-to-Sea Trail May Be Located on OWASA Property and If So, What Conditions Must Be Met (Ruth Rouse)

Information and Reports

5. Preliminary Twelve Month Financial Report for the Period Ended June 30, 2016 (Stephen Winters)
6. Capital Improvements Program Semiannual Status Report (Vishnu Gangadharan)

Summary of Board Meeting Action Items

7. 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 meeting

Closed Session

8. The Board of Directors will Convene in a Closed Session immediately following the Board Meeting for the Purpose of Discussing a Personnel Matter (Robert Morgan)

ORANGE WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Directors

THROUGH: Ed Kerwin

FROM: Stephanie S. Glasgow

DATE: August 19, 2016

SUBJECT: **Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action (EEO) Report for Fiscal Year 2016**

Each year OWASA examines the recruiting practices along with the race and gender make-up of our workforce to ensure we maintain a healthy balance of workplace diversity. This report is a summary of our finding for FY 2015-2016.

Recruiting Efforts

When a vacancy becomes available within OWASA, the position is posted internally as well as externally using the following methods:

- NC Department of Commerce - Division of Employment Security
- OWASA Website and Twitter
- Newspapers and other Publications
- Web Advertising
- Minority Organizations
- Colleges and Universities
- Churches
- Other Organizations

Diversity in our Workforce

Ending fiscal year 2015-2016, OWASA was made up of 21.3% Women and 78.7% Men. Our workforce was 77.2% White, 13.4% Black, 9.4% Other (Hispanic/Latino, Asian, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, or Two or More Races).

Below is a chart detailing the race and gender distribution of the OWASA workforce based on EEO job classification.

OWASA Workforce Race and Gender Distribution By EEO Classification on June 30, 2016					
Classification	**Male**	**Female**	**Black/ African American**	**White**	**Other (Hispanic/Latino, Asian, Native Hawaiian, Other Pacific Islander, Two or More Races)**
Officials and Administrators	**11**	**4**		**12**	**3**
Professionals	**8**	**5**		**13**	
Technicians	**10**	**3**		**12**	**1**
Protective Service Workers	**2**			**2**	
Paraprofessionals	**2**	**3**	**2**	**1**	**2**
Administrative Support		**11**	**6**	**4**	**1**
Skilled Craft Workers	**44**	**1**	**4**	**37**	**4**
Service-Maintenance	**23**		**5**	**17**	**1**
Total	**100**	**27**	**17**	**98**	**12**
Percentage	**78.7%**	**21.3%**	**13.4%**	**77.2%**	**9.4%**

Applicant Diversity

Below is a chart detailing the race and gender distribution of OWASA's applicants for FY 2016. OWASA recruited for 15 positions during FY 2016 and received 428 applications.

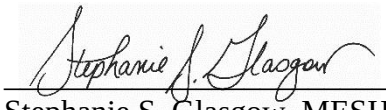
OWASA Applicant Race and Gender Distribution By EEO Classification July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016							
Classification	**Male**	**Female**	**Information Not Provided by Applicant**	**Black / African American**	**White**	**Other (Hispanic/Latino, Asian, Native Hawaiian, Other Pacific Islander, Two or More Races)**	**Information Not Provided by Applicant**
Officials and Administrators							
Professionals	**24**		**6**	**3**	**15**	**3**	**9**
Technicians							
Protective Service Workers							
Paraprofessionals	**14**	**40**	**26**	**13**	**30**	**8**	**29**
Administrative Support	**22**	**110**	**39**	**43**	**78**	**9**	**41**
Skilled Craft Workers	**36**		**9**	**6**	**25**	**6**	**8**
Service-Maintenance	**64**	**3**	**35**	**13**	**38**	**9**	**42**
Total	**160**	**153**	**115**	**78**	**186**	**35**	**129**
Percentage	**37.4%**	**35.7%**	**26.9%**	**18.2%**	**43.5%**	**8.2%**	**30.1%**

Filling vacancies with the best candidates, based on the skills and qualifications needed for the position remains the focus of our hiring practices. In fulfilling this goal, we seek to encourage and promote diversity within our organization. We will continue to advertise in a wide variety of venues to attract a diverse candidate base. We will pursue opportunities to recruit employees at all levels by participating in outreach efforts to make more potential applicants aware that OWASA is a good place to work.

Draft Diversity and Inclusion Plan

The Board of Directors received and discussed staff's draft Diversity and Inclusion Plan at the July 14, 2016 work session. Staff will continue to work with the Board to implement a Diversity and Inclusion Plan. A special meeting is planned for the fall of 2016 and may include guidance from public service employees with expertise in this area.

In the future it may be useful to consolidate this annual report with data and information from the Diversity and Inclusion Plan, once implemented.



Stephanie S. Glasgow, MESH, MPM, PHR, SHRM-CP
Director of Human Resources and Safety

ORANGE WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY

A public, non-profit agency providing water, sewer and reclaimed water services to the Carrboro-Chapel Hill community.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Directors

THROUGH: Ed Kerwin

FROM: Kevin M. Ray

DATE: August 18, 2016

SUBJECT: Annual Report on Disposal of Surplus Personal Property

The OWASA Purchasing and Contracting Policy authorizes the Executive Director to declare as surplus and to sell personal property that is no longer needed or useful in the operation of OWASA's water and sewer systems. Personal property is broadly defined as fixtures and equipment and excludes land.

The policy authorizes five methods of personal property disposal: trade-in, public auction, advertisement for bid, direct negotiation and sale, and scrap. Items having no residual value that remain unsold after an auction or other sale procedure, or that pose a potential threat to the public health or safety, may be donated to charitable organizations or treated as scrap or trash regardless of their original acquisition cost.

The policy requires the Executive Director to report to the Board of Directors annually on the disposal of personal property.

The following surplus personal property was sold or otherwise disposed of during Fiscal Year 2016:

Disposal Method	Items Sold	Proceeds
Web-based public auction	Obsolete computer & communication equipment	$433
Direct sale	Miscellaneous (boats, service equipment, etc.)	577
Sealed bid or Direct sale	Automotive	34,700
Scrap	Metal	4,429
	Total proceeds	**$40,139**

This report is provided for information purposes only and no action is necessary.

_____

Kevin M. Ray
Finance and Procurement Manager

ORANGE WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY

WORK SESSION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

JULY 14, 2016

The Board of Directors of the Orange Water and Sewer Authority (OWASA) held a Work Session on Thursday, July 14, 2016 at 6:00 P.M. in OWASA's Community Room in the Administration Building, 400 Jones Ferry Road, Carrboro.

Board Members present: John A. Young (Chair), Barbara M. Foushee (Secretary), Yinka Ayankoya, Terri Buckner, David (Dave) Moreau, Robert Morgan and Heather Payne. Absent: Jeff Danner (Vice Chair) and Ruchir Vora.

OWASA staff present: Ed Kerwin, Kelly Belcher, Mary Darr, Greg Feller, Stephanie Glasgow, Randy Horton, Andrea Orbich, Dan Przybyl, Mary Tiger, Stephen Winters, Todd Taylor and Robert Epting.

Public present: Braxton Foushee, Herman Foushee (Hank Anderson Breakfast Club), Tai Ayankoya, Elijah Ayankoya, Ben Poulson (Associate Vice Chancellor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill) and Margaret Holton (Water, Sewer and Stormwater Coordinator at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill).

MOTIONS

1. Dave Moreau made a motion to approve the Minutes of the May 26, 2016 Closed Session of the Board of Directors; second by Robert Morgan and unanimously approved.

2. Dave Moreau made a motion to approve the Minutes of the June 9, 2016 Work Session of the Board of Directors; second by Robert Morgan and unanimously approved.

3. Dave Moreau made a motion to approve the Minutes of the June 23, 2016 Meeting of the Board of Directors; second by Robert Morgan and unanimously approved.

4. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Orange Water and Sewer Authority adopts the Resolution of Orange Water and Sewer Authority to Approve New and Reclassified Positions. (Resolution so titled attached hereto and made a part of these minutes. Motion by Terri Buckner, second by Barbara Foushee and unanimously approved.)

OATH OF OFFICE

Andrea Orbich administered the oath of office to Yinka Ayankoya, Town of Carrboro appointee.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. 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; none were disclosed.

DRAFT

Mr. Young announced the membership of the following Standing Committees of the Board of Directors:

- Community Engagement: Ruchir Vora (Chair), Yinka Ayankoya, Terri Buckner and Robert Morgan
- Finance: Jeff Danner (Chair), Yinka Ayankoya, Barbara Foushee and Dave Moreau
- Human Resources: Robert Morgan (Chair), Jeff Danner, Barbara Foushee and Heather Payne
- Natural Resources and Technical Services (NRTS): Heather Payne (Chair), Terri Buckner, Dave Moreau and Ruchir Vora

Heather Payne said the NRTS Committee will meet on August 24, 2016 at 5:30 P.M. in the OWASA Boardroom to discuss the energy management program's project evaluation criteria and stakeholder engagement.

Todd Taylor informed the Board about the large volume of requests to mark the location of underground OWASA lines expected in the Google fiber optic cable installation. He said that increased or dedicated staffing and equipment may be necessary to accommodate this work.

ITEM ONE: MINUTES

Dave Moreau made a motion to approve the Minutes of the May 26, 2016 Closed Session of the Board of Directors; second by Robert Morgan and unanimously approved. Please see Motion 1 above.

ITEM TWO: MINUTES

Dave Moreau made a motion to approve the Minutes of the June 23, 2016 Board Meeting of the Board of Directors; second by Robert Morgan and unanimously approved. Please see Motion 3 above.

ITEM THREE: MINUTES

Dave Moreau made a motion to approve the Minutes of the June 9, 2016 Board Work Session of the Board of Directors; second by Robert Morgan and unanimously approved. Please see Motion 2 above.

ITEM FOUR: QUARTERLY REPORT ON ATTENDANCE AT BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Board received this report as an information item.

ITEM FIVE: REVIEW AND APPROVE NEW AND RECLASSIFIED POSITIONS

DRAFT

The Board agreed to: create a new Business Systems Analyst, reclassify the Administrative Assistant position in the Executive Director's Office from part-time to full-time, and reclassify two Utility Mechanic I/IIs positions to Utility Mechanic IIIs.

Terri Buckner made a motion to approve the Resolution of Orange Water and Sewer Authority to Approve New and Reclassified Positions; second by Barbara Foushee and unanimously approved. Please see Motion 5 above.

ITEM SIX: DRAFT DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION PLAN

Herman Foushee expressed his concern about the lack of hiring of African-Americans in senior management positions. Mr. Foushee also cited the need for strategy and substance in the draft Diversity and Inclusion Plan and offered his assistance in OWASA's diversity efforts.

Braxton Foushee said that OWASA cannot continue promoting from within OWASA and expect a change in workforce race distribution numbers.

Board members recommended getting outside assistance from a consultant with expertise in diversity and inclusion to provide guidance and a strategy for achieving OWASA's goals.

The Board agreed to hold a special work session in the fall of 2016 to continue discussion of the draft Diversity and Inclusion Plan. This discussion may include possible assistance from public service employees with expertise and experience with diversity and inclusion programs as well as work with the Human Resources Committee.

ITEM SEVEN: BOARD WORK SCHEDULE

Terri Buckner requested that a follow up meeting on the draft Diversity and Inclusion Plan be scheduled before December.

The Board agreed to:

- Add to the September 8, 2016 agenda the discussion of water rates for master-metered multi-family customers.

- Move to the September 22, 2016 agenda the discussion of Chloramine Use and Potential Impacts to Customer Plumbing.

- Schedule an overview of the Long-Range Water Supply Plan Update for September 22, 2016 and to defer consideration of demand projections pending receipt of population estimates from the Towns of Chapel Hill and Carrboro.

- Discuss formal and informal commitments for recreation at the Cane Creek Reservoir during the Mountains-to-Sea Trail discussion on August 25, 2016.

DRAFT

ITEM EIGHT: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WILL SUMMARIZE THE KEY STAFF ACTION ITEMS FROM THE WORK SESSION

Ed Kerwin summarized the key action items for staff as follows:

- Staff will keep the Board informed about the impact to OWASA's operation as a result of Google fiber cable installation. Staff will estimate cost impacts to OWASA and work with the Towns to explore legislative relief via North Carolina League of Municipalities.

- A Special Board meeting will be scheduled in the fall to continue discussion of the draft Diversity and Inclusion Plan to include, if possible, public service employees with expertise and experience with successful diversity and inclusion programs.

The work session was adjourned at 8:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Andrea Orbich
Executive Assistant/Clerk to the Board

Attachments

DRAFT

AGENDA ITEM

- Determine Whether the Mountains-to-Sea Trail (MST) May Be Located on OWASA Property and If So, What Conditions Must Be Met

PURPOSE

- The purpose of this agenda item is for the OWASA Board of Directors to receive public comment and then discuss and determine whether the MST may be located on OWASA property, and if so, the conditions which must be met.

BACKGROUND

- The MST is a trail that will extend from the Great Smoky Mountains to Jockey's Ridge State Park on the Outer Banks.
- In 2009, the Chair of the OWASA Board of Directors sent a letter to the Chair of the Orange County Board of Commissioners (BOCC) indicating that OWASA would allow the use of its property in the vicinity of Cane Creek Reservoir as long as three conditions were met:
    - There is no compromise of water quality in Cane Creek Reservoir
    - There is no expenditure of OWASA funds
    - Arrangements would be made to minimize any additional security risks associated with hikers using the property around the reservoir
- The BOCC approved a planning corridor for the trail in April 2010 that crosses OWASA land near Cane Creek Reservoir.
- Orange County staff are currently working with other groups and holding public meetings to transition the trail planning corridor to a proposed trail alignment(s).
- While the 2009 letter from the OWASA Board of Directors to the BOCC supports the use of OWASA land for the MST, the three conditions are broad. Providing more detailed conditions to Orange County on the use of our land for the MST during their public engagement and trail planning process will help the County determine the feasibility of using OWASA's land and identify a proposed trail alignment(s).
- On June 23, 2016, the OWASA Board of Directors received background information on the MST, received public comment on the proposed MST, and began discussing whether the MST may be located on OWASA property, and if so, what conditions must be met.

ACTION REQUESTED

- Determine whether the MST may be located on OWASA property, and if so, the conditions which must be met. If the Board of Directors concludes that conditions protective of the water supply and other considerations have been determined to their satisfaction, staff and Counsel recommends the Board adopt the draft resolution provided, subject to amendments by the Board of Directors.

August 25, 2016

ORANGE WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY

A public, non-profit agency providing water, sewer and reclaimed water services to the Carrboro-Chapel Hill community.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Directors

THROUGH: Ed Kerwin

FROM: Ruth Rouse

DATE: August 19, 2016

SUBJECT: Determine Whether the Mountains-to-Sea Trail May Be Located on OWASA Property and If So, What Conditions Must Be Met

BACKGROUND

The Mountains-to-Sea Trail (MST) is a trail that will extend over 1000 miles from the Great Smoky Mountains to Jockey's Ridge State Park on the Outer Banks. Over half the planned trail has been completed to date. The MST is a part of the state parks system, but different sections of the trail are managed by various groups or local governments. Other background information on the MST can be found on the Friends of the MST website.

THE MST IN ORANGE COUNTY

In April 2010, the Orange County Board of Commissioners (BOCC) approved a wide trail corridor after working through the County's Intergovernmental Parks Work Group (Attachment 1). There are portions of the MST in Orange County that are completed and open for public use near the Town of Hillsborough.

On November 18, 2015 representatives from the North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation presented the MST Statewide Master Plan to the BOCC. At that meeting the BOCC requested county staff to develop a draft plan to address the MST in Orange County. County staff presented a proposed process to the BOCC at its January 21, 2016 meeting. The BOCC approved the planned process at the meeting. Based on that approved process, Orange County staff are currently working with other groups and holding public meetings to transition the trail planning corridor to a proposed trail alignment(s). Additional information including a list of frequently asked questions is located on the County's website.

POTENTIAL TO USE OWASA LAND FOR PORTION OF MST

Past Actions by OWASA Board of Directors

A portion of the proposed MST corridor is located on OWASA-owned land near Cane Creek Reservoir, one of OWASA's drinking water supplies. In December 2009, the chair of the OWASA Board of Directors on behalf of the entire Board sent a letter to Chair of the BOCC

(Attachment 2) indicating that OWASA would allow the use of its property in the vicinity of Cane Creek Reservoir as long as three conditions were met:

- There is no compromise of water quality in Cane Creek Reservoir
- There is no expenditure of OWASA funds
- Arrangements would be made to minimize any additional security risks associated with hikers using the property around the reservoir

On June 23, 2016, the OWASA Board of Directors received background information on the MST and the County's process to develop specific trail alignment(s). Staff presented draft conditions for the use of OWASA land for the MST if the Board of Directors determines that OWASA land may be used for the MST. Twenty-two members of the public provided comments to the OWASA Board of Directors at the meeting. The Board of Directors scheduled the next meeting to discuss the MST for August 25, 2016 and stated that they may make a decision regarding the use of OWASA land for the MST at that meeting. The Board of Directors requested staff to consider several other potential conditions for use of OWASA land for the MST, identify any recreational restrictions on our land based on its water supply status and agreements, identify other reservoirs with trails near them, and clarify the Board process for the MST.

Existing Restrictions on the Use of OWASA Property
The OWASA Board of Directors directed staff and General Counsel to identify any OWASA land in the proposed Orange County corridor where we have agreements that may preclude the use of given land for the MST. There are some parcels which could not be used and others which would require approval by another party before the parcel could be used. A summary of these lands is included in Attachment 3.

Allowance for Recreation Around Cane Creek Reservoir
North Carolina Administrative Code Subchapter 18C contains rules to protect water supply reservoirs. Section 1200 of the rule specifies that recreational activities on a lake must be approved by the Department of Environmental Quality or the Public Health Commission. OWASA applied for and received approval for fishing and boating at times and locations where we could control access. OWASA did not apply to allow swimming on the lake. The rules do not require that recreational trails near the lake receive approval.

Trails Around Other Water Supply Reservoirs
OWASA staff talked to other utilities in the Piedmont of North Carolina who have lakes with similar levels of protection (WS-II classification which is lower density development in the watershed; also included WS-III reservoirs which have low to moderate development density) as the Cane Creek Reservoir where trails are around the lake. The Cities of Greensboro and Burlington have portions of the MST around their water supplies. None of the utilities surveyed indicated any concerns regarding impacts to the watershed or water quality. One facility did note that they receive calls from trail users about trail maintenance which they need to forward on to their Parks and Recreation Department; trail maintenance on OWASA land would be handled by the County or its designee and trail signs could include contact information for trail maintenance issues. Another local government that uses a large multi-purpose reservoir for one of its main

water supplies (Class WS-IV which is less protective) noted that they have problems with ATV traffic on a trail near one of its treatment plants (not near its water supply) and suggested that one condition should be that barriers be constructed at the County's expense if that becomes a problem. The following table summarizes the allowable uses for some water supply reservoirs in the Piedmont with trails that are not large, multi-purpose reservoirs with trails such as Falls Lake and Jordan Lake.

Utility	**Lake**	**Lake Classification[2]**	**Allowed Recreational Uses on Lake**
City of Burlington	Stoney Creek Reservoir	WS-II	Fishing, boating (electric trolling motors only)
City of Burlington	Lake Macintosh	WS-IV	Fishing, boating (electric trolling motors only)
City of Greensboro	Lake Brandt	WS-III	Fishing, boating, stand-up paddle boarding
City of Greensboro	Lake Townsend	WS-III	Fishing, boating
City of Raleigh	Lake Benson	WS-III	Fishing, boating (electric trolling motors only)
City of Raleigh (Town of Wake Forest)	Smith Creek Reservoir[1]	WS-II	Fishing, boating (electric trolling motors only)

[1] City of Raleigh gained control of Smith Creek Reservoir when they merged utilities with the Town of Wake Forest. However, City does not plan to use Smith Creek Reservoir as water supply in future, and plans to return it to Town of Wake Forest. Town may seek to reclassify the reservoir.

[2] The Division of Water Resources classifies water supplies as WS-I, WS-II, WS-III, WS-IV, and WS-V with WS-1 having the highest level of protection and WS-V having the lowest. WS-I watersheds are undeveloped. WS-II watersheds are largely undeveloped; general permits (insignificant impacts) for wastewater discharges. WS-III waters have low to moderate development; general permits allowed as well as some small domestic wastewater discharges. WS-IV watersheds are moderately to highly developed; all classes of wastewater discharges permitted.

Other Risks

The County is evaluating the risks that members of the public raised at the June 23 Board of Directors meeting: fire risk, emergency response, safety, and insurance. County staff will be available at the August 25 Board of Directors meeting to provide a verbal summary of their

research and evaluation to date. They plan on having experts at their next public meeting (currently targeted for September 2016) to address these concerns voiced by the public.

Since OWASA's land management programs could impact fire risk, staff did look into this potential risk further by consulting with OWASA's forest management consultant Dave Halley with True North Forest Management Services, and Chris Hirni, the Orange County Forest Ranger. Fire risk or intensity of wildfire is a factor of weather and fuel levels. Since weather is not controllable, fire risk is usually moderated by reducing ground level fuel levels and creating fire breaks to stop the spread of fires. Unmanaged forests tend to have higher accumulation of ground level fuels and downed woody material, but managed stands, especially following a thinning or harvesting activity can also have high levels of ground fuels for several years following the activity. However, thinned stands are less prone to higher intensity fires because the thinning of overstocked stands lessens the risk of the fire getting into the crowns of trees. Many of the fire reduction activities on public lands is centered on thinning dense forest stands to reduce the risk of the fire climbing and reaching the tree tops and creating a crown fire. Controlled burns to reduce the accumulation of ground level fuels are also used to minimize fire risk.

Accessibility can also impact fire risk. Access to unmanaged forests tends to be more limited; managed stands typically have better access since forest roads have been created to provide access for management activities.

When asked whether the MST would increase the risk of fire, both responded yes, but only slightly. The response was based on an increased level of human activity which increases the risk of fire from human presence (smoking, camp fires), but both felt that day hikers would not pose a large threat. Mr. Hirni has been researching fires near trails, and said that while he assumed the risk would be higher, the data did not necessarily support that assumption. Mr. Halley stated that the risk of a wildfire was far greater from nearby residents burning brush or leaves, and the data Mr. Hirni had seemed to support that statement.

Both agreed that Mount Mitchell Road and particularly the driveways off Mount Mitchell Road had accessibility issues, especially for large fire trucks to get down them and turn around. Wildfire suppression in that area would most likely be from smaller brush trucks with water tanks, bobcats with small water tanks, and the North Carolina Forest Service's fire suppression bulldozers and plows or other equipment for clearing a small firebreak. Mr. Hirni stated that a typical fire line (area cleared to prevent fire from spreading) is about three feet, and that they actually use very little water to contain fires in Orange County.

Proposed Conditions for Use of OWASA Land for MST

While the 2009 letter from the OWASA Board of Directors to the BOCC supports the use of OWASA land for the MST, the three conditions are broad. Thus, OWASA staff developed draft conditions to include portions of the MST on OWASA land for the Board of Directors to consider, and these were discussed at the June 23, 2016 Board of Directors meeting. After carefully considering public comment, feedback from Board members, and additional research, staff revised the set of conditions (Attachment 4). Also provided is a summary of items that individual Board members suggested on June 23 and whether those conditions were included in the list of conditions and staff's reasons for including or excluding them (Attachment 5).

PATH FORWARD

Attachment 6 contains the path forward to complete locating the MST on OWASA land.

PUBLIC NOTICE

A public notice of this Board meeting was mailed to over 100 landowners who have property adjacent to OWASA land near Cane Creek Reservoir on August 2, 2016. In addition, the notice was emailed to others who attended the June 23, 2016 Board of Directors meeting or have expressed interest in the MST or recreation on OWASA property. Finally, a news release was completed on August 11, 2016. To date, we have received comments from 28 residents (Attachment 7).

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

A natural trail for hiking only that is at least fifty (50) feet from Cane Creek Reservoir will have minimal impacts on water quality, and our property. The *Conditions for Use of OWASA Land for the Mountains-to-Sea Trail* further defines the general criteria outlined by the Board of Directors in its December 2009 letter to the BOCC to ensure potential risks are minimized. A well written interlocal agreement or other document which assigns specific responsibilities to the County or its designee, in addition to clear trail signage outlining the posted rules and appropriate contact information, will enhance adherence to these conditions and reduce OWASA's burden to enforce them.

Staff and Counsel recommend that the Board adopt the Resolution Approving Conditions for Use of OWASA Land for the Mountains-to-Sea Trail along with any amendments suggested by the Board (Attachment 8).

Ruth C. Rouse

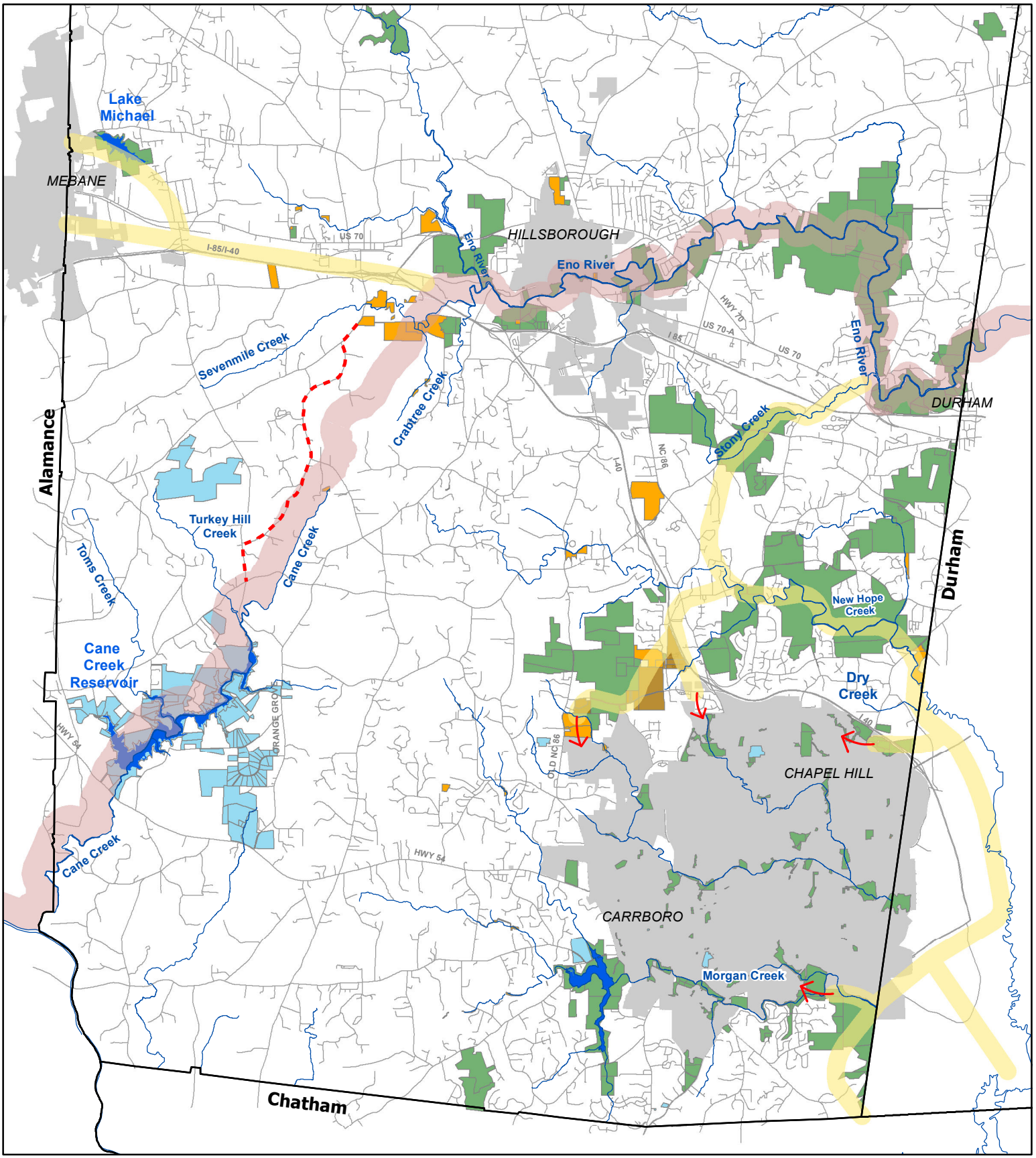
Ruth C. Rouse, AICP
Planning and Development Manager

Attachments:

1: Map of the MST Planning Corridor in Orange County
2: Letter from Randy Kabrick, Chair of OWASA Board of Directors to Valarie Foushee, Chair of BOCC dated December 10, 2009
3: Existing Restrictions on the Use of OWASA Property
4: Conditions for Mountains-to-Sea Trail on OWASA Land near Cane Creek Reservoir
5: Individual Board Member Suggestions for Potential Conditions for Use of OWASA Land for the Mountains-to-Sea Trail
6: Proposed Process to Site the MST on OWASA Land
7: Public Comments Received Regarding MST on OWASA Land
8: Resolution Approving Conditions for Use of OWASA Land for the Mountains-to-Sea Trail

NC Mountains-to-Sea Trail Corridor
Orange County Section

ATTACHMENT 1



NC Mountains-to-Sea Trail (MST)

- MST Primary route
- MST Alternative route
- Linkage to town greenway system
- Proposed roadside alternative route
- Towns
- Streets
- OWASA land
- Non-county parkland & open space
- Orange County parkland & open space
- Other public land
- Reservoirs
- Major Streams

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

Orange County
Dept. of Environment,
Agriculture, Parks and Recreation
M Jones IT/GIS Division 6/20/2012
OC220K O:\gishome\gisproj\land_
resource\mtnsea_trl.mxd

ORANGE WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY

A public, non-profit agency providing water, sewer and reclaimed water services to the Carrboro-Chapel Hill community.

December 10, 2009

Valarie Foushee, Chair
Orange County Board of Commissioners
Post Office Box 8181
Hillsborough, NC 27278

SUBJECT: MOUNTAINS-TO-SEA TRAIL

Dear Chair Foushee:

I'm writing to express OWASA's support for the Mountains-to-Sea Trail (MST) initiative. We have met with Kate Dixon, Executive Director of the Friends of the MST, and we are confident that we can make the necessary arrangements that will allow use of OWASA's property in the vicinity of the Cane Creek Reservoir, consistent with our primary mission of providing safe and reliable drinking water for our customers. As such, conditional upon the Orange County Board of County Commissioner' approval of the initiative, our Board has directed OWASA staff to immediately begin working with Orange County Staff and the Friends of the MST to develop the necessary agreements and arrangements that will allow use of our property providing there is no compromise of water quality, no expenditure of OWASA funds and we are able to make the arrangements necessary to minimize any additional security risks associated with inviting hikers to use the property around the reservoir.

Additionally, although it is not a condition of our support for the trail, OWASA has a long history of notifying and receiving feedback from the public before finalizing any changes to recreational activities at the Cane Creek Reservoir, and we are hopeful that the County's process would include some level of public involvement prior to finalizing the plans for the trail.

We look forward to participating in this initiative and believe the MST will be a tremendous asset for all citizens of Orange County.

Best regards,

Randy Kabrick, P.E., Chair

c: Mr. Frank Clifton, Manager, Orange County
Mr. Roger L. Stancil, Manager, Town of Chapel Hill
Mr. Steven Stewart, Manager, Town of Carrboro
OWASA Board of Directors
Ed Kerwin, Executive Director

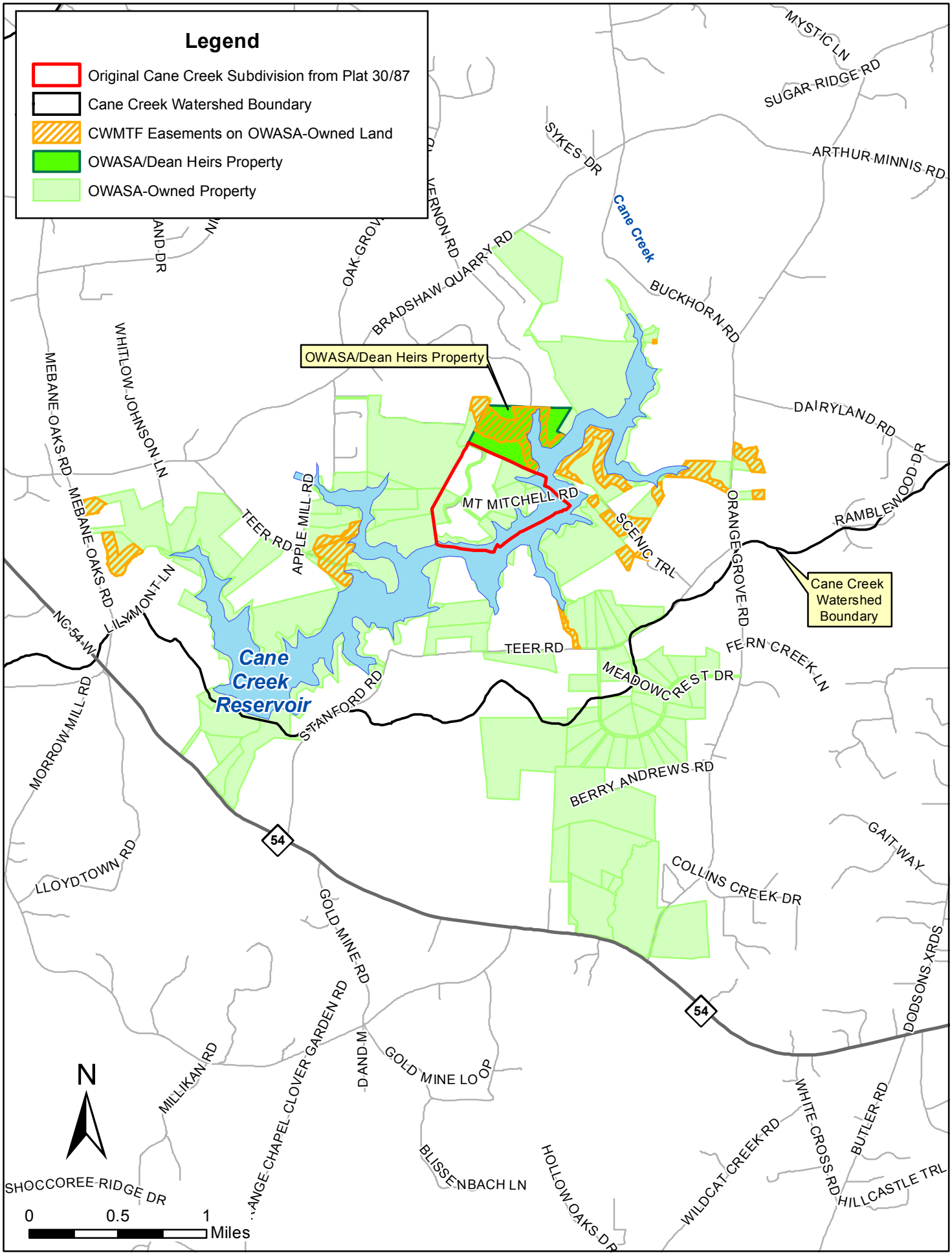
Existing Restrictions on the Use of OWASA Property

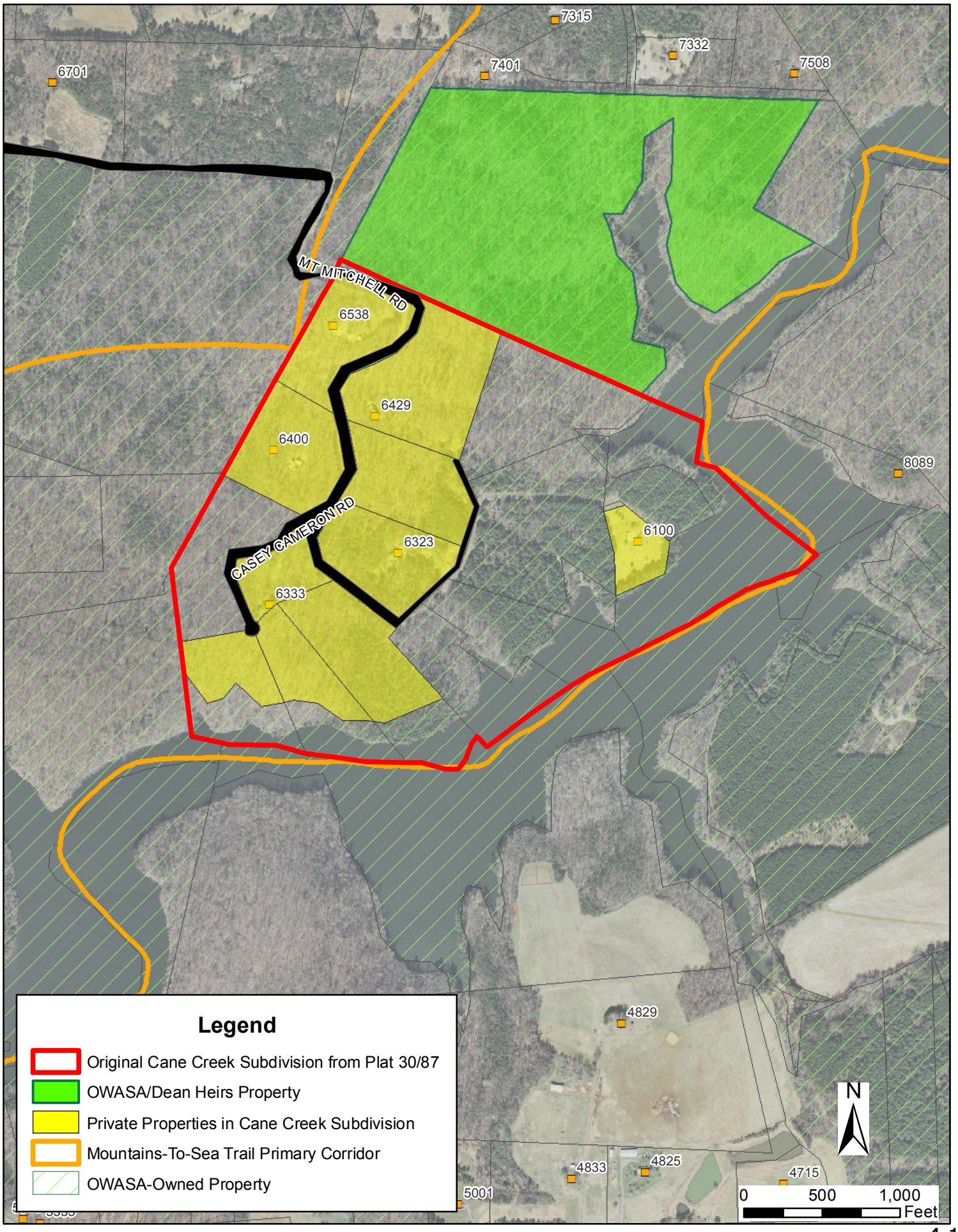
The following parcels located in Orange County's proposed corridor for the MST may have limitations on their use for the MST or require another party's approval before the land could be used:

1. Lands with Easements funded by Clean Water Management Trust Fund (CWMTF) – Exhibit 1 is a map which identifies OWASA land near the proposed MST corridor that has easements on them which were funded by the CWMTF. (Note: OWASA also has conservation easements which were funded by CWMTF that are on private land. The use of these lands for the MST would be up to the private property owner and not OWASA). The easements on these lands protect 300 foot riparian buffers along streams. The CWMTF easements mention the use of trails, but do not clearly identify their allowance. Staff contacted CWMTF, and they indicated that they would allow trails, but would want to approve the final plans for the trail. They requested that best management practices be used in trail design, with an emphasis on constructing trails on contour, minimizing the number stream crossings, and maximizing trail distance from the buffered streams where possible.

2. Dean Heirs land – This parcel is shown in darker green (brighter green when viewed electronically) in Exhibit 1. The CWMTF provided funds to OWASA to purchase this parcel, but it was owned by three heirs to an estate. Two of the heirs sold their interest, but the third held their interest. Thus, OWASA only owns 2/3 interest in this tract. We have an agreement with the CWMTF to purchase the property when the owner is ready and to protect the 300 foot stream buffers on the property. The CWMTF would allow trails as a use, but the other owner would need to approve the use of the property for the MST.

3. Cane Creek/Mickey Subdivision – When Cane Creek Reservoir was built, OWASA entered into an agreement with the owners of Cane Creek Subdivision (also referred to as Mickey Subdivision in early documents) which allowed the landowners access to their properties along a road conveyed to OWASA under the agreement. The landowners and OWASA all share in the maintenance of the road as outlined in the agreement. One of the conditions of that agreement reads "OWASA hereby agrees and covenants that there will be no recreational access points with the land formerly or now referred to as the Mickey Subdivision…". Counsel has advised that while this agreement was intended to be for access to Cane Creek Reservoir, it would also preclude allowing the MST to use the lands included in the plat referenced in the road agreement. Exhibit 2 shows the OWASA and private land in the Cane Creek Subdivision; the MST could not use the land in this area. OWASA owns land on either side of the access road that is outside the platted Cane Creek Subdivision that could be used for the MST if allowed by the OWASA Board of Directors (note: one side of the road is the Dean heirs property described above).


Legend
Original Cane Creek Subdivision from Plat 30/87
Cane Creek Watershed Boundary
CWMTF Easements on OWASA-Owned Land
OWASA/Dean Heirs Property
OWASA-Owned Property
OWASA/Dean Heirs Property
Cane Creek Watershed Boundary
Cane Creek Reservoir
Cane Creek
MYSTIC LN
SUGAR RIDGE RD
ARTHUR MINNIS RD
SYKES DR
VERNON RD
BRADSHAW QUARRY RD
BUCKHORN RD
DAIRYLAND RD
RAMBLEWOOD DR
ORANGE GROVE RD
SCENIC TRL
MT MITCHELL RD
APPLE MILL RD
TEER RD
MEBANE OAKS RD
WHITLOW JOHNSON LN
LILLYMONT LN
NC 54 W
STANFORD RD
MEADOWCREST DR
FERN CREEK LN
BERRY ANDREWS RD
GAITWAY
COLLINS CREEK DR
MORROW MILL RD
LLOYDTOWN RD
GOLD MINE RD
GOLD MINE LOOP
MILLIKAN RD
ANGE CHAPEL CLOVER GARDEN RD
D AND M
DODSONS XRDS
BUTLER RD
WHITE CROSS RD
WILDCAT CREEK RD
HILLCASTLE TRL
HOLLOW OAKS DR
BLISSENBACH LN
SHOCCOREE RIDGE DR
54
N
0
0.5
1
Miles


7315
7332
7508
7401
6701
MT MITCHELL RD
6538
6429
6400
8089
CASEY CAMERON RD
6323
6100
6333
4829
4833
4825
4715
5001
Legend
Original Cane Creek Subdivision from Plat 30/87
OWASA/Dean Heirs Property
Private Properties in Cane Creek Subdivision
Mountains-To-Sea Trail Primary Corridor
OWASA-Owned Property
N
0
500
1,000
Feet

Conditions for Mountains-to-Sea Trail on OWASA Land

Changes to this document that were made since the June 23, 2016 OWASA Board of Directors meeting are shown in underline for new text and strikethrough for deleted text

Overview

OWASA land and conservation easements on private land in the Cane Creek watershed were acquired for watershed protection purposes to ensure a safe and high-quality supply of water in the Cane Creek Reservoir, the primary source of drinking water for the Carrboro-Chapel Hill community. Any use of OWASA-owned land must be done in such a way as to not negatively impact OWASA's core mission of watershed protection and be fully consistent with all applicable policies and requirements regarding use of OWASA's assets and resources.

Watershed Protection

The conditions included in this section are intended to protect the water quality in Cane Creek Reservoir. The rationale behind some of these conditions is provided:

- A protected 50 foot riparian buffer around streams and lakes is common. Cane Creek Reservoir is located within the Jordan Lake watershed, and rules to protect Jordan Lake include riparian buffer rules (15A NCAC 02B .0267). These rules do allow trails within 50 feet of a water body covered by the rule as long as there is no practicable alternative.
- Rules governing the protection of public water supplies (15A NCAC 18C .1201) do not allow recreational activities on the water of certain reservoirs without the permission of the Commission for Public Health or the Department of Environmental Quality. Under the agreement between OWASA and the Commission for Public Health, OWASA may allow boating and fishing (with specific restrictions) on Cane Creek Reservoir, but swimming and wading are explicitly excluded.
- One of the main causes of impairment of water quality nationally is from erosion and sedimentation. Allowing only a natural trail for hiking only; keeping the trail 50 feet from the lake; designing the trail to avoid streams, wetlands, and steep slopes when practicable; stabilizing slopes; constructing the trail during dry periods; and following best practices to

design, construct and maintain the trail will minimize the potential for sediment impacts to the reservoir.

The following conditions will help protect Cane Creek Reservoir.

1. The trail shall be a natural trail for hiking only.
2. Hikers must stay on the trail. Leaving the trail is considered trespassing.
3. No swimming or wading permitted ~~by humans or their pets~~.
4. No pets allowed. Service animals to assist those with disabilities are permitted on a leash. ~~All pets must be cleaned up after and leashed~~.
5. There shall be signs on the trail where hikers enter OWASA land informing them of the trail use requirements.
6. The trail shall be no more than 3 feet wide and constructed of natural material (no impervious surfaces).
7. Trail planning, design, and construction should avoid removing large trees or rocks. Trees should be protected during construction.
8. The trail shall be at least fifty (50) feet from reservoir at normal pool elevation (500 feet).
9. There shall be no large motorized equipment used for trail construction.
10. The trail shall avoid wetlands and streams and where practicable, the trail shall be located fifty (50) feet from streams. When ~~they~~ wetlands and streams cannot be avoided, cross them in narrower places and bridge the wetland/stream. Materials for bridges shall not contain materials that could leach and impact water quality. Bridge design shall not cause any upstream drainage issues.
11. There shall be no bridge crossings over portions of the Cane Creek Reservoir (lake conditions at normal pool elevation of 500 feet).
12. The trail shall avoid steep slopes; where this is not feasible, the trail shall be constructed and maintained in a manner to prevent erosion.
13. Trail construction will not cause sediment runoff to Cane Creek Reservoir or tributaries.
14. Construction near streams and wetlands shall be completed during dry periods.
15. Slopes shall be stabilized as soon as reasonably possible.

16. Best management practices regarding watershed protection and fire prevention shall be followed for trail planning, design, construction, operation and maintenance.
17. Any trash and food scraps must be packed out. No littering.

Minimize Risks from Trail Use

The conditions included in this section are intended to minimize additional risks from having hikers on OWASA property. The Agreement OWASA has with the Commission for Public Health (see more details in Watershed Protection section above) also has clauses which pertain to fishing, boating, and hunting as summarized below:

- Boating access is restricted to areas designated by OWASA, and thus the reservoir should not be accessed from areas other than from our public access location. This enables OWASA to inspect boats used on the reservoir to ensure they do not carry aquatic weeds, are clean and free of trash, meet US Coast Guard standards, and are in good physical condition for water worthiness and safety equipment. Only electric trolling motors are allowed, and must be secured to the boat in an approved manner with the battery secured in a battery box.
- Fishing is restricted to boats launched at OWASA's public access point when it is open, designated areas on OWASA docks, and designated bank areas at OWASA's public access point.
- No hunting or trapping is allowed on OWASA's land at the reservoir.

While the agreement is focused on the use of the reservoir, the agreement specifies boats cannot be within 150 feet of the water supply intake structure. This condition minimizes risk to the water supply and potential safety issues. Similarly, not allowing the trail near the dam, spillway, and other structures minimizes risk to the structures and potential safety issues for the public.

The agreement also states that the lake may only be open during daylight hours. Restricting use of the trail during daylight hours along with not allowing camping will minimize the risk from campfires. Prohibiting smoking minimizes the risk of a manmade forest fire as well.

In addition to the conditions in the agreement with the Commission with Public Health, there are other conditions staff believes are important for reducing risk. Establishing written procedures and training regarding rules, requirements and emergency management will enable OWASA and public safety officials and law enforcement to respond quickly and effectively in the event of an emergency.

The potential for issues will be greatest at trail heads and parking areas. Thus, OWASA will not permit a trail head or parking area to be located on its property.

Other conditions listed below will help prevent erosion and minimize the noise impacts from the trail for our neighbors.

The following conditions apply to minimize risks from the MST on OWASA land.

1. The trail hours will be from dawn to dusk.
2. No fires.
3. No camping.
4. No picnic areas.
5. No use of alcohol.
6. No smoking.
7. No fishing.
8. No hunting.
9. No horseback riding.
10. No use of drones except as may be permitted in accordance with the Federal Aviation Administration.
11. No boat launching.
12. No use of bicycles, motor bikes, ATVs or any other types of vehicles (barriers prohibiting such access may be required).
13. There shall be no access to the trail near the Cane Creek Reservoir Dam, spillway, or other OWASA facility/structure.
14. Trailheads and parking areas shall not be located on OWASA property.
15. Possession of weapons on these premises is prohibited, except by active law enforcement officers, or as may be allowed under a valid Concealed Carry Permit. The discharge of any firearm upon or into these premises is prohibited.
16. No threatening, assaultive, or abusive behavior or foul language.

17. Violation of any rule may result in legal action against the hiker(s).
18. Establish written procedures and training for enforcement of rules and requirements, emergency management including EMS, police, and fire for trail security and emergency response.

General

The general conditions also help protect Cane Creek Reservoir, minimize risks from hiking, minimize OWASA's costs, and reduce impacts to neighboring property owners.

1. The County or its designee shall obtain all necessary federal, state, and local permits.
2. Planning, design, construction, operation, maintenance and monitoring of the MST on OWASA land shall be the responsibility of the County or its designee and must be done in compliance with all federal, state, and local requirements. OWASA shall have the right to review design and construction plans prior to commencement of work on its land, and to stop work it deems not in compliance with its approvals.
3. The exact location of the trail on OWASA property will be approved by OWASA and it may be altered by OWASA if necessary either pre- or post-construction.
4. Existing restrictions on OWASA's lands may require approvals from agencies with interest in the property or co-owners to allow MST uses.
5. OWASA retains the right to manage its land.
6. OWASA retains the right to close the trail for safety and security reasons.
7. OWASA seeks a Memorandum of Agreement, Interlocal Agreement, and/or trail easement which outlines terms and conditions of the trail on our property. OWASA reserves the right to revoke the agreement.
8. OWASA prefers that the trail be a minimum of fifty (50) feet inside our property boundary to provide some screening to our neighbors. If this is not feasible, the County shall work with the neighboring property owner to develop terms and conditions on use of the trail that will minimize potential impacts to the property owner ~~protect their interests~~.

9. The County shall secure easements from private land owners adjacent to the trail endpoints on OWASA land prior to opening the trail on OWASA land.
10. No unauthorized removal of natural or cultural resources.

No Expenditure of OWASA funds

This condition meets the third requirement of OWASA Board of Directors' December 2009 letter supporting the use of OWASA land for the MST.

1. Consistent with its obligations and requirements, OWASA will not spend any funds for trail planning, design, construction, operation and maintenance, including the monitoring and enforcement of applicable requirements and regulations.

Individual Board Member Suggestions for Potential Conditions for Use of OWASA Land for the Mountains-to-Sea Trail

1. *Minimum distance from trail to residential dwellings* – Staff talked to trail planners and searched the web but did not find any best practices for this metric or trail planning guides that included this metric. While such a condition may address some private property concerns, the distance would vary depending on the site conditions including the terrain and the amount and type of vegetation. In addition, local government ordinances typically include setbacks from property lines rather than structures since a neighboring landowner could build a new structure after a given use is permitted. Staff did not include another condition, but left the condition of recommending that the trail be 50 feet inside our property line when practicable.

   The County does require building setbacks, but there are no setback requirements for trails. The building setbacks in the Rural Agricultural zoning district which includes OWASA land are a minimum of 20 feet; if the trail is at least 50 feet inside our property line, it would be at least 70 feet from a dwelling unit. Staff did a quick GIS analysis of the distance between structures (did not know which were dwelling units) from the proposed trail using alignments proposed several years ago (used the shorter distance from trail marked by OWASA staff versus trail marked by County staff), and there were two structures that were closer than 70 feet near Apple Mill, but the trail alignment used for the analysis in that area crosses the existing dam structure and is unlikely. In addition, these distances were measured to a point where the proposed alignment was on public right-of-way and not on OWASA land. There was one other structure at the end of Thunder Mountain Road that was under 100 feet, but the County's proposed trail alignment in that area is over 400 feet from the structure. The County did a separate GIS analysis and provided a summary of the results. Based on data they had on private residences they noted that the shortest distance from their proposed MST route on OWASA land to a dwelling unit was over 300 feet.

2. *We should better define what we mean by protect neighbors' interests when it is not feasible to locate the trail at least fifty (50) feet within our property boundaries.* Staff revised this condition to read "OWASA prefers that the trail

be a minimum of fifty (50) feet inside our property boundary to provide some screening to our neighbors. If this is not feasible, the County shall work with the neighboring property owner to develop terms and conditions on use of the trail that will minimize potential impacts to the property owner.

3. *Include a condition to address fire management* – There are conditions which prohibit camping, smoking, and building fires. Fires are most likely from natural causes such as lightning, but someone could cause a fire on or near the trail as they could currently. There is a condition which requires the development of an Emergency Response Plan that would address fires.

4. *Consider not allowing pets or requiring that they be on a 6 foot leas*h – Since dogs do tend to want to seek out water, staff agrees that a condition along these lines should be included. We did include one that prohibits pets but does allow service animals. The requirements in 15A NCAC 18C .1207 (rules to protect public water supplies) require dogs to be at least 50 feet from the water; if the trail is a minimum of 50 feet from the water, there may be times where a longer leash would result in a violation of that requirement.

5. *Consider a condition which has a minimum distance from trail heads and parking areas to the lake* – Staff did not think this condition was necessary. Orange County's ordinances within the Cane Creek Reservoir were written to protect the reservoir from nonpoint source runoff pollution.

OWASA staff proposes detailed conditions for the Mountains-to-Sea Trail (MST) to be located on OWASA property and related impacts for consideration by the OWASA Board.

↓

OWASA Board receives and considers public input regarding the staff proposed detailed conditions that must be met for MST to be located on OWASA property.

← OWASA invites public input June 23, 2016

↓

OWASA Board determines the detailed conditions that must be met for MST to be located on OWASA property or the Board determines it will not be located on OWASA property. OWASA informs Orange County and stakeholders of its decisions.

← OWASA invites public input August 25, 2016

↓

If applicable, Orange County considers OWASA's MST conditions and determines if the MST is desired on OWASA property and, if so, the desired location of trail. Orange County informs OWASA.

↓

OWASA Board receives and considers public input and determines if OWASA's conditions have been satisfactorily met. If so, Board intends to approve trail with conditions and location of the MST on OWASA property. If not, Board intends not to approve the trail. In this circumstance, County could evaluate alternative alignments and petition Board to reconsider if alignment on OWASA land is best alternative. OWASA informs Orange County and stakeholders of final decisions.

← OWASA invites public input

Comments regarding the proposed Mountains-to-Sea Trail on OWASA land

- 40 support
- 15 oppose
- 6 neutral/unclear

Glen Greenstreet	February 25
Phil Duckwall	February 25
John and Christina Silva	March 4
Bonnie Hauser and Bob Johnson	April 15
John and Christine Silva	April 29 and May 13
Brenda McCall	June 14
Allan Green	June 15
Eddie Mann	June 18 and 20
C. Robert Bagnell Jr.	June 21
Carl Shy	June 21
Howard Lee	June 23 Board meeting
John Silva	
Bob Johnson	
Allan Green	
Bill Vann	
John Willis	
Scott Zimmerman	
Bill Boyarsky	
Jim O'Connor	
Bill Charles	
Brenda McCall	
Christine Silva	
Lynne Brester	
Annie Jabarek	
Carl Shy	
Greg Smith	
Stephanie Trueblood	
Ed Johnson	
Edward Mann III	
Ann Charles	
Colin Mellor	
Randall Williams	
Christine Silva	
Kate Dixon	
John Silva	
Greg Smith	June 23 (2 e-mails)
Jack Pless	June 25
John and Christine Silva	June 26 and 28
Karen Bley and Luther Livermon	June 28
Wendy and Ken Feldman	June 28
Bob Johnson	June 29
Greg Smith	July 1

Grace and Tony Hackney	July 4
John Kenan	July 15
Prity Kukovich	July 20
Brenda McCall, Phil Duckwall and Bill Charles	July 23, 24 and 25
Kendall Hetterley	July 24
George Poehlman	August 8
Mike and Bea Keller	August 11
Tom Kenan	August 11
Glen Greenstreet	August 11
Eddie Mann	August 15
Loren Davis	August 15
Bill Boyarsky	August 17
Chris Lutes	August 17
Jean Earnhardt	August 19
Winston and Caroline Dean	August 20
Kevin Swain	August 20
Mike Kelley	August 21
Margaret McCann	August 22
Nancy Luberoff	August 22
Bonnie Yankaskas	August 22
Joanie Alexander	August 23
Carl Shy	August 23
Jennifer Miller	August 23
Linda Schoonover Smith	August 24
William and Patricia Frey	August 24
Emily Jack	August 24
John Cates	August 24
Bo Howes	August 25

February 25 (Board meeting; excerpt from minutes)

Glen Greenstreet

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

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.

OWASA's response:

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.

March 4

John and Christine Silva

Mountain to Sea Trail Proposed to Go Through Apple Mill, Thunder Mountain, Mount Mitchell and Teer Road Neighborhoods

We are sending this email as an open communication to our Thunder Mountain neighbors.

This email is being sent to you to provide a brief update on the renewed effort to place a public trail called the Mountain to Sea Trail (MTS) through our rural Cane Creek (CC) communities.

A petition was put forth on November 17, 2015 to the Board of Orange County Commissioners by 5 petitioners, only one of whom resides in the directly affected areas (Greg Smith – Thunder Mt).

In addition, a proposal suggesting trail placement was made by Greg Smith with no notification to those residents most directly affected on Apple Mill Rd. (AM), Mount Mitchell (MM), Thunder Mountain (TM), and Teer Road (TR). Both North and South Apple Mill Roads have been proposed as main access and parking areas for this portion of the trail without the residents' knowledge or consent.

If you would like a copy of the petition and/or proposal please contact us.

A group of concerned residents from each of the impacted communities continues to meet, gather facts, and engage in communication with all agencies involved in the planning of the MTS Trail through Bingham Township.

Property owners in each of the impacted communities may wish to contact their insurance agent for information concerning issues of liability and increased insurance coverage.

Other identified issues of concern include easement, loss of privacy, security concerns, fire prevention and protection, and the increased potential for compromised water quality in the Cane Creek Reservoir.

The proposed placement of this trail has caused some tension and division in the Thunder Mountain community. While many residents of all four of the communities support the concept of the MTS Trail there is considerable opposition regarding the proposed trail that goes through the AM, MM, TM and TR neighborhoods.

Please note, there are alternative routes for this trail that would not go through these four rural residential communities.

There are residents in all four communities who are happy to work with the MTS organization and Orange County to help identify and locate alternate routes that will not go through our communities and will not result in such a level of community resistance.

There is a solution to this matter that can help bring back a more cohesive atmosphere to Thunder Mountain.

Please contact us if you have questions.

Regards,

Christine and John Silva

Thunder Mt.

April 15

Bonnie Hauser and Bob Johnson (e-mail to Orange County with copies to OWASA staff Ruth Rouse and Johnny Riley

Dave and Rich

Thanks for hosting the meeting tonight. As you can see, most of the people in the room are not novices about the trail – and whether they are for or against it, they are ready to have substantive discussions. There are important questions about privacy, safety, liability and nuisance that everyone wants to better understand – regardless of where the trail is routed or where the trailheads are placed.

The Apple Mill community is particularly concerned about becoming a trail head – which brings greater concerns. Unlike others, the Apple Mill neighbors live on a gravel road that happens to be a state road that connects to the OWASA land. Unlike others, they cannot say "no". Since there has been significant trail activity in their community and since they were unknowingly targeted for a trailhead in a petition to the county commissioners, their fears seem justified. A closer look shows that it's not practical to place the trailhead or trail near Apple Mill. You will get much greater community cooperation if Apple Mill and Northern segment of Teer Road are explicitly excluded from consideration.

To start the conversation, please consider a routing that connects public lands including Chestnut Ridge Camp, the OWASA Mitigation land (not during bow hunting season), and Cane Creek Reservoir. Mr Johnson has suggested a trailhead on Bradshaw Quarry near Vernon road – which takes a great deal of pressure off remote communities, including Apple Mill. The slight shift west makes sense given that most of the Cane Creek neighbors between Borland and Bradshaw Quarry (except Commissioner Pelissier) are not interested in hosting the trail and did not attend the meeting last night.

We also encourage you to advocate for "good neighbor policies" that encourage all landowners to communicate with their neighbors and understand each other's positions on MST. If a neighbor has objections to MST then a hosting landowner should designate a buffer of 100 feet from property lines of the neighbor with the objection. This is simple good neighbor policy

regardless of planned land use. Of course neighbors can decide to override the buffer at their discretion, but top-down direction from the County advocating such a policy will help drive consensus on the trail. It is especially important for OWASA to work with neighbors to assure that trails on OWASA property do not adversely impact neighbors.

Finally – please treat our neighbors with respect and dignity. They know trails and live with them every day. They do not need a panel to "sell them" on a trail. Trail proponents want specifics about liability, impact and risk. They are asking to see sample easements. They want to know more about trail heads and access points and how they will be monitored and managed.

Lets get a real conversation going. With effective routing (such as what we've proposed), good buffers, and sound information about impact, the proponents will be able to come forward and start planning a wonderful trail. Please feel free to contact us at any time to discuss further.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Hauser and Bob Johnson

April 29

John and Christine Silva

Dear Chair McKee, Mr. Young,

As you know, a meeting was held on April 21, 2016 at the Orange Grove Community Center on Orange Grove Rd. to discuss the proposed segment of the Mountain to Sea Trail (MTS) that would create a pathway through rural Cane Creek (CC) communities and through OWASA property on the Cane Creek Reservoir.

The meeting was attended by a standing room only group of concerned citizens numbering over 100. Anyone with an objective view of this matter would have to acknowledge that there was overwhelming opposition and concern for the proposed MTS pathway through OWASA property and through Apple Mill, Mt. Mitchell, Teer and Thunder Mt. Roads.

Numerous citizens objected to the proposed pathway based on issues related to compromising the water quality for Chapel Hill/Carrboro, UNC-CH, the UNC Hospitals, security, fire hazard, disruption of rural community life, liability, and other issues.

The only two individuals who made any attempt to justify the proposed pathway were not from the Cane Creek communities but rather from Chapel Hill and Raleigh, NC.

The MTS Trail currently exists in its entirety.

Not one compelling reason has been provided to Orange County citizens as to why this additional pathway is needed.

The only justification we have been provided is that Orange County wants to connect with the Alamance County MTS trail system.

Just a few short years ago the proposal to bring the MTS trail through the Cane Creek (CC) watershed and CC neighborhoods was met with strong opposition. And now we are presented with this issue again – and the opposition is even stronger this time.

OWASA'S Role in the MTS Trail Proposal

My wife and I have owned property in the Cane Creek watershed for over 30 years and we have resided on Thunder Mt. in the Cane Creek watershed for over 20 years.

Over the many years we have lived in the CC watershed we have witnessed a high level of diligence exhibited by OWASA to protect the watershed. We have also enjoyed the peaceful and private qualities of living in a rural area of the county. Unfortunately, we are once again confronted with a small group individuals from outside of the Cane Creek area telling us what is best for our neighborhoods.

It is very difficult to understand how OWASA can do a 180 and go from judiciously protecting a crucial watershed to allowing individuals to hike through property that will place them in very close proximity to the Cane Creek Reservoir and to our rural homes.

How brilliant will OWASA, the State Parks Office, Orange County Parks &Recreation, and the Orange County Board of County Commissioners look when the headlines of regional TV stations and regional newspapers show the photographs of bulldozed areas around the CC watershed?

How does OWASA suddenly become grossly negligent and abandon its previous commitment to protect the CC watershed?

MTS Trail is an Unprotected Pathway Through our Neighborhoods and the Cane Creek Reservoir

It is 2016 not 1986–with social media there will be many opportunities for large groups of locals to instantly form at a designated location just off the MTS Trail on OWASA property.

It is naïve to think this will not happen on a beautiful spring, summer or fall night and who will be providing protection against such an occurrence? The risks of inviting the human element into the CC reservoir and the rural neighborhoods are many.

While extremely important we will not belabor the concerns over security, liability, and injury rescue as they have been noted many times and are obvious.

The issue of fire however is something that OWASA needs to be extremely concerned about.

Three years ago Fire Chief Tommy Holmes warned CC citizens that the MTS pathway through CC and OWASA was problematic. He noted in a public meeting that he could not protect our homes from a wildfire.

Chief Holmes stated that the areas in question are highly volatile due to the pine straw and the pine tinder common in this area He stated that bulldozers would be needed just to get to the fire location. Where would the water source to extinguish the fire come from? Would water be pumped hundreds of yards from the reservoir to help extinguish the fire?

Recently, I was told by a MTS Trail supporter that a wildfire caused by someone using the trail through our rural area had as much possibility as us being hit by an asteroid.

According to the NC Forest Service in 2014 (the most recent available data) there were 4,593 wildfires in NC. This does not include wildfires on federal land.

Only 53 or less than 1% of the wildfires were caused by lighting – all others (over 4,500) were caused by humans interacting with the environment.

There are several wildfires raging in NC at this moment and it is only the end of April!

The 10 year average for wildfires in NC is 4,561per year. 2016 year to date there have been 1,857 wildfires destroying over 17,300 acres in NC.

The MTS trail web site has a picture of a wildfire that recently destroyed part of their trail in the Bald Knob area. The area was bulldozed and the fire burned for an extended period of time.

It seems very myopic to allow the desires of a select few to have a more beautiful MTS pathway than the one that currently exists through Orange County out-weigh the many risks associated with this unnecessary segment of the MTS Trail. Common sense alone would suggest this is not a good location for a new and unnecessary segment of the MTS Trail.

Expenditure of Orange County Tax Payer Money

While OWASA has indicated it will not provide funds for this project does Orange County really want to expend $521,000 for the MTS trail as noted in the March 29, 2016 OC BOCC minutes? There is also a projected $700,000 for FY 2018-2019-can that figure be correct?

Over a million dollars on the MTS Trail through Orange County? That is a sinful use of Orange County tax payer money especially when the Efland-Cheeks community center is allocated less than $70,000 and we have dirt roads in the county, and teachers and schools in need of more support.

Does this allocation of funds for the MTS trail meet the social justice criteria for OC projects?

Mr. McKee, Mr. Young, as tax paying citizens of Orange County we respectfully request the following:

1) We specifically request and petition that OWASA publically state that the MTS Trail proposed to go through OWASA property impacting the rural CC neighborhoods noted in this document and the Cane Creek Reservoir will not be supported by OWASA.

2) We specifically request and petition that OC BOCC publically state that the MTS Trail proposed to go through OWASA property impacting the rural CC neighborhoods noted in this document and the Cane Creek Reservoir be re-examined by the OC BOCC. If this segment of the trail is still deemed necessary by the OC BOCC the Orange County Office of Parks and Recreation will be instructed find alternate routes that do not go through the four rural neighborhoods in question or the OWASA Cane Creek Reservoir.

3) We specifically request and petition that OC BOCC grossly reduce the monies currently allocated for the MTS Trail project through Orange County.

To date, this matter has not been very public. For several years members of the impacted CC communities have tried to work in cooperation with OWASA and Orange County commissioners and administrators. It was obvious in the meeting held on April 21, 2016 at the Orange Grove Community Center on Orange Grove Rd. that many citizens in the Cane Creek communities are upset with the proposed pathway of this trail.

Several citizens in the Cane Creek communities are prepared to take these issues to the area media. We hope that this matter can be resolved quickly and with the common sense needed to protect the long range well-being of citizens in the CC area and the citizens in the greater Chapel Hill area who depend on the Cane Creek Reservoir for their present and future water supply.

Thank you in advance for your reply,

John M. Silva, Ph.D.

Christine A. Silva

OWASA's response—May 10

Dear Mr. and Ms. Silva,

Thank you for your input on the Mountains to Sea Trail, which I have shared with the OWASA Board of Directors and its staff members.

When MST is scheduled for discussion by the OWASA Board, we will invite you and the public to provide input to help inform our decisions. OWASA will also continue to monitor the County's process to engage the public in developing a proposed MST route.

Your petition directed to OWASA is a matter for consideration by the full Board of Directors at one of our regular Board meetings. Tentatively, the Board will consider your written petition at our May 26th Board meeting, which begins at 7:00 p.m. at Chapel Hill Town Hall. We invite you to present your petition in person; our policy is to provide four minutes for your comments. If you prefer an alternate date or need any assistance regarding our Board meetings, please contact Andrea Orbich, Clerk to the OWASA Board, at aorbich@owasa.org or 919-537-4217.

The Board may decide to act on your petition that evening, or may refer the matter to staff to provide additional information, or may defer action until a future OWASA Board discussion of MST (to which other members of the public would be invited in advance so that they may participate and provide input).

Regards,
John Young
Chair, OWASA Board of Directors

OWASA's response—May 13

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Silva,

At the OWASA Board Work Session last night, we reviewed our calendar and asked OWASA staff members to prepare an overview presentation of the MST for our June 23,

2016 Board meeting at Chapel Hill Town Hall, 7:00 p.m. The Board members have not determined a timeframe to make a decision on MST, but we agreed last night that we would not make any decision until sometime after June.

We will provide public notice of our June 23rd meeting and also invite property owners adjacent to OWASA land where the MST is being considered. Members of the public may provide up to four minutes of remarks at this Board meeting. More detailed comments can be provided to the Board by mail to 400 Jones Ferry Road, Carrboro NC 27510; or by email to aorbich@owasa.org

You are still invited to present your petition at our May 26th meeting. However, waiting until our June 23rd meeting might be more suitable and effective.

Regards,
John

May 13

John and Christine Silva

Good morning Mr. Young, thank you for your recent communications regarding the proposed segment of the MTS Trail through the Cane Creek watershed and the rural neighborhoods in this area.

I will take your advice and wait until the June 23, 2016 meeting to present our petition.
We appreciate OWASA's desire to fully understand this matter which has potential implications well beyond the Cane Creek communities.
Regards, John & Christine Silva

John M. Silva

June 14

Brenda McCall

Hi,

I left you a phone message just now. I didn't receive a letter about this meeting. Could you email that to me?

Also, I wanted to say that Phil Duckwall, Bill Charles and I would be interested in working with OWASA as neighborhood representatives if OWASA does decide to route the MST through their property.

Thanks for your time and consideration.

Brenda McCall

OWASA's response:

Brenda – I have attached a copy of the public notice. I'll also make sure that your name and Mr. Charles's name is added to our Mountains-to-Sea email list so you receive timely notice of any future meetings regarding the MST. I believe Mr. Duckwall is already on that email distribution list.

Thank you to you, Mr. Duckwall, and Mr. Charles for your interest in working with OWASA.

Ruth Rouse, AICP
Planning and Development Manager

June 15

Allan Green

To: OWASA Board Members and Orange County Commissioners

I am the Bingham Township representative on the Orange County Parks and Recreation Board, and an avid hiker and backpacker. Over the years I have completed the Appalachian Trail, Australia's Bibbulmun Track, the Coast-to-Coast and Pennine Way in the UK, the C&O trail in Maryland, about 500 miles of Ohio's Buckeye Trail, and am approaching that milestone on our own MST. I am a also a local farmer with property adjoining OWASA's near the intersection of Orange Grove and Dairyland Roads.

On June 23, I will request 4 minutes to support, in person, the case for allowing the Mountains-to-Sea Trail to be built over OWASA properties Based on the thousands of established trail miles I have personally walked, and the fact that public hiking trails are often located next to public water supply lakes and reservoirs in North Carolina and other states, this should be a simple decision. The MST is a state walking trail (part of the North Carolina park system) with an active supporting organization (the Friends of the MST), over 650 miles of completed designated trail, trail guides and maps, and the promise of county funding for essential support services. To complete Segment 11, Orange County is requesting that OWASA allow the trail to be built on the publicly owned lands it administers. Nothing about this is unusual and the benefits of completing the Orange County segment of the MST are compelling:

1. The corridor planned for the trail route connects the Alamance County / Haw River basin with the Eno River MST section, maximizing the benefits of stream corridor protection all along Cane Creek above and below the reservoir.
2. It opens the very beautiful and remote Cane Creek reservoir lands for more public access and enjoyment, and given the trail's popularity in other areas, it will become a favorite area for hiking and backpacking.
3. The OWASA parcels are managed by a single authority, minimizing the number of easements required;

4. Orange County Parks and Recreation has already committed, in principle, to trail management and maintenance requirements;
5. In a recent survey of Orange County residents by Orange County Parks and Recreation, trails and trail connectivity were the most requested recreational facilities.
6. The trail will contribute economically to the Hillsborough River Walk, Saxapahaw, and the residents and businesses along the route. For example, our farm, about ½ mile from the proposed Buckhorn Road access, could easily offer camping and other trail services. There is great interest in Hillsborough for it to become a "trail town" offering services for hikers.
7. With the obvious provisions for ensuring the safety of the reservoir watershed and protecting water quality, the MST will enhance OWASA's secondary mission to utilize the reservoir property for public recreation.

The opposition to using OWASA lands has been led by a small but vocal group of residents whose properties are in two rural neighborhoods adjoining the OWASA parcels. Most of their objections and concerns, however heartfelt, have been based on speculation, unrelated anecdotes, rumor, and misinformation. While neighboring landowners can (and should!) have an expectation that Orange County and OWASA will take the proper steps to make the MST a positive factor in their community, opponents have not put forth reasonable or substantive arguments for why the MST should not traverse OWASA property, and have no legal standing to impede the designation of a trail route on OWASA lands. Specifically,

- The MST route will be on existing public land (e.g., OWASA's, Orange County's), or easements granted over private land. No easements will be acquired without owner consent.
- The use of public lands is determined by the managing agency for the welfare of the constituency the agency serves, in this cases, the people of Orange County. OWASA is a public agency which owns the property which the MST proposes to traverse through the Cane Creek Reservoir area. As the property owner, OWASA can grant access for passage of the MST through its property, within the bounds of legitimate uses approved by local and state ordinances and in keeping with its core mission.
- Contrary to misinformation circulated by opponents, neighbors of the MST corridor are not liable for injuries suffered by hikers who leave the trail and become injured on private property. (See NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL STATUTES: North Carolina, Trails System Act, Chapter 113A/Article 6, 133A-83 and CHAPTER 38A. LANDOWNER LIABILITY-RECREATIONAL USE.)
- The OWASA lands that Segment 11 of the MST will traverse are owned and operated for the benefit of ALL residents of Orange County and NC. Orange County and OWASA not only have the right, they have the responsibility to designate the use of the lands they hold in trust to benefit this constituency, within the established ordinances for the use of property.

While it is incumbent upon the Orange County commissioners and county agencies to respectfully entertain the concerns and issues raised about their decisions, the few vocal

opponents of the MST in the Thunder Mountain and Mt. Mitchell communities have yet to present well-founded objections. They have a right, certainly, to express their opinions, but they do not have the right to dictate OWASA's – or Orange County's – decision on trail placement.

I appreciate the OWASA Board's decision to invite comment. It is a necessary ingredient of the democratic process and community building. But it also needs to be a two-way process. Hopefully the meeting on June 23 will result in a constructive exchange of viewpoints and ideas rather than another exercise in inflammatory rhetoric.

Thank you,
Allan Green

OWASA's response:

Dear Mr. Green,

Thank you for writing us and expressing your views on the potential for the MST to run through OWASA property. All of my fellow board members have received a copy of your email. We look forward to seeing you next Thursday, June 23. We will make sure to let you know in advance of any other OWASA board discussions about the MST.

Thanks,
John
Chair, OWASA Board of Directors

June 18

Eddie Mann

Ms. Rouse, hello. This to the Board: My name is Edward N. Mann, Jr. AKA Eddie Mann. I have the good fortune to be a resident of the Cane Creek Community – living actually on the shores of the Reservoir. My wife is Jean Stanford Mann, a member of the family who owned the property where much of the Lake is built. I was formerly a member for eight years of the OWASA Board, serving when the Reservoir was built. My concern is for the quality of our water supply. I hope there is a way to block the construction of a trail along the path that is shown on the map you have provided. I have walked that area many times – before, during and after the Reservoir was built. The pathway from Highway 54 along the western bank of Cane Creek would not be too difficult to build, with only a minimal disturbance of the land; and it would be below the dam. However, it then becomes a different matter. The western side of the Reservoir would be difficult to navigate with a trail, especially when you get to that area at the upper reach of the lake at the north-western extreme. In my judgement that would involve either a bridge or the purchase of additional land. Then once you get to that area on the northern side of the lake you get to a very steep landscape along Mitchel Mountain (as it is known by the local residents). It would be very costly to build a trail in this area, especially when you take into consideration the security of access to the lake and the protection of the quality of our water supply. There is no bridge across the lake in this location, and any trail would need to follow the contour of the lake for additional miles with the same security and water quality issues in play all the way. Incidentally, one or more eagle nests have been spotted in this area. Keep in mind that

this lake was constructed at great effort and expense to provide a water supply for an important area in our state. It was not intended to be a recreational facility – indeed it was feared that this might became an issue in the future. That is why it is important that we have persons on the Board of OWASA who will protect the Reservoir and who will not hesitate to stand fast against all efforts to infringe on its intended purpose. I believe we have this type of individual on our Board; and so I feel safe against this proposed intrusion. If not yet done, I believe this issue should not be discussed until after an Environmental Impact Statement is available, and also cost data is obtained; and the matter can be discussed with this knowledge in hand.

Best to you all. Stand fast! This recreation initiative will be a formidable foe.

Eddie Mann

Ms. Rouse, do you happen to have any info on the trail – like the dimensions, the surfacing, any protective fencing. Also who will use the trail? Hikers, Runners, Bicyclists, any vehicles, etc. If you do have this info and can share with us, we would appreciate it. My wife and I will not be able to attend the Board Meeting when the item will be discussed. Yours, and thank you, Eddie and Jean Mann

OWASA's response:

Mr. Mann – OWASA staff envisions a natural, narrow (2-3 feet) trail that is for foot traffic only. The Board's agenda package includes staff recommended conditions for use of OWASA land for the Mountains-to-Sea Trail that the Board will discuss on Thursday evening. The Board will consider this information along with comments received to determine whether a trail can be put on OWASA property, and if so, what are the conditions for use of OWASA land for the trail. The Board will not make any decisions on the trail this week. We will keep you informed of any future Board meetings where the MST is discussed.

A link to the Board's package is here. The staff recommended conditions for the trail start on page 5.6 of the agenda package. If you have any problems accessing this document, please let me know.

Thank you for your comments and interest in this issue.

Ruth Rouse, AICP

Planning and Development Manager

Eddie Mann

June 20

Ms. Rouse, thank you. I was successful in downloading the materials you sent to me. In the meantime I have found the "Friends of" website and read up on the project. It seems that the actual construction of the trail would not be as intrusive as a larger one that would be paved would entail. Even so, when you look at the steep slope of the Mitchel Mountain area and then the Apple Pond area and see what a challenge it would be to site a trail in those areas, you have to be concerned that the project would be intrusive in a negative way. I am still concerned that

this could be a "camel with his nose under the tent" situation as relates recreational uses of our wonderful reservoir. Eddie Mann

June 21

C. Robert Bagnell Jr.

Dear OWASA:

I object to allowing the Mountain-to-Sea Trail (MST) to cross Cain Creek Reservoir (CCR) property for two reasons:

First, allowing MST on Cain Creek property seems to be a contradiction in OWASA policy regarding protection of the reservoir. Public access to the CCR property, for very good reasons, is highly restricted to only certain months of the year, days of the month, and hours of the day and for only certain activities. All of this is monitored and managed by the lake warden. On the other hand, the MST would be an easement through the CCR property that is open to the public 365 days a year, 7 days a week, 24 hours a day and therefore can be neither monitored nor managed by the lake warden.

My second objection is more personal. My property at the end of Thunder Mountain Road is just a few feet from CCR property with the lake occasionally visible through the trees. Both my wife and I would feel unsafe if we knew that people could legally be in that area any time of the day or night.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this issue.

Sincerely yours,

C. Robert Bagnell, Jr.

OWASA's response:

Mr. Bagnell:

Thank you very much for your comments about the proposed route of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail on OWASA land.

We will share your comments with the OWASA Board of Directors, which will receive public comments on this matter in the Board's meeting on Thursday, June 23rd at 7 PM in the Chapel Hill Town Hall, 405 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.

The agenda for the Board meeting is available here. Information on the Mountains-to-Sea Trail item starts on page 5.1 of the agenda materials.

We will continue to keep you informed of any other Board discussions about the Mountains-to-Sea Trail.

If you have any questions for OWASA staff, please feel free to contact me.

Ruth Rouse, AICP

Planning and Development Manager

Carl Shy

To: Members of the OWASA Board of Directors

My name is Carl Shy, and I have lived for 34 years in Bingham Township on property bordering OWASA land through which the proposed MST trail may be extended. I am strongly in favor of having the MST trail go through the OWASA property bordering the Cane Creek Reservoir. This area has extraordinary scenic beauty, being heavily forested with undulating terrain bordering the waters of the reservoir. It would be highly appropriate to make this beautiful tract of land available to the public, inasmuch as one of the secondary missions of OWASA is to allow use of reservoir property for public recreation, and all the more so since the land was purchased with public funds.

The extension of the MST through the Cane Creek Reservoir land would connect the section of the trail along the Haw River in Alamance County with the Hillsborough section of the Eno River trail, thereby adding to the recreational attractiveness of the southeastern part of Orange County as it becomes part of the North Carolina park system under which the MST will be incorporated.

A few residents of the Thunder Mountain and Mitchell Mountain areas are strongly opposed to the placing of the trail through the Cane Creek OWASA property, but they provide no compelling reasons showing how the public good or their personal properties would be placed at risk of harm. The legal, fire, crime and liability issues which they raise are problems that have not arisen in the several hundred miles of the existing sections of the MST trail. There is ample evidence in the published literature that similar public trails are not sources of crime, legal liabilities, fires or damage and risk to adjacent properties or property owners.

A number of the property owners abutting the proposed trail through OWASA property are in favor of, or not opposed, to the proposed location of the trail.

OWASA has stated a number of sensible and readily achieved safeguards to protect the Cane Creek Reservoir from risks from hikers using the trail. There are obvious major benefits to the public, especially to the residents of Orange and Alamance Counties, from having this section of the MST trail in such close proximity, and these benefits can last for the lifetime of us and our descendants.

Carl Shy

June 23 (Board meeting; excerpts from minutes)

Howard Lee

Howard Lee, former Secretary of Department of Natural and Economic Resources and one of the original supporters of the MST, said it is an honor to have the FMST and OWASA considering coming together. He proposed the idea of the MST in 1977 when he was mayor of Chapel Hill, and said he is pleased that we may finally have the trail in Orange County.

John Silva

John Silva said he supports the MST concept, but the proposed segment on OWASA land is flawed. He said trails can have fires, are a soft spot for crime, and have the risk of erosion and water contamination. Mr. Silva petitioned the Board to request that OWASA publically state that the MST as proposed to go through OWASA property will not be supported by OWASA.

Bob Johnson

Bob Johnson said he favors the MST and he encouraged OWASA to have guidelines for buffers from the trail to houses and other structures.

Allan Green

Alan Green said hikers are responsible people who clean up and do not start fires, and that OWASA's Cane Creek Reservoir land is beautiful. Mr. Green said he has 10 acres OWASA can use for a nature trail.

Bill Vann

Bill Vann said he supports the MST and that the trail will be an economic driver and magnet for Hillsborough, and that he has not seen fire or read of crime on the MST.

John Willis

John Willis, a Hillsborough resident, said he supports the MST and that fires can occur today with no trail, and that he and other volunteers take care of the MST.

Scott Zimmerman

Scott Zimmerman said he supports the MST and is an avid backpacker, and he can't wait to hike on the proposed trail.

Bill Boyarsky

Bill Boyarsky said he volunteers to maintain the MST and strongly supports the proposed trail.

Jim O'Connor

Jim O'Connor said some people will start fires, that a fire which occurred on Mitchell Mountain required the use of bulldozers, and that the trail would reduce the sales price of his property.

Bill Charles

Bill Charles said OWASA should protect its excellent water quality and that Mickey Subdivision covenants do not allow recreational access. He opposed the proposed trail location.

Brenda McCall

Brenda McCall said she is concerned about the closeness of the trail, having access to the trail on Apple Mill Road, that having the trail near her residence would increase insurance costs, and that covenants do not allow recreational access in part of her subdivision.

Christine Silva

Christine Silva said OWASA should not jeopardize its water quality, which is some of the best in North Carolina; and that she is concerned about fire, crimes and injuries.

Lynne Brester

Lynne Brester, a member of FMST, supports having the trail go through OWASA land. She said that if the trail is properly designed, it will be a national treasure.

Annie Jarabek

Annie Jarabek said OWASA should mitigate risks as much as possible and find middle ground by both protecting water quality and providing recreation as an incredible asset.

Carl Shy

Carl Shy said he has been a resident of Bingham Township for 34 years and he strongly supports having the trail on OWASA's beautiful, heavily forested land.

Greg Smith

Greg Smith said he has lived at Thunder Mountain Road for about 35 years, and that OWASA should share its beautiful land at the Cane Creek Reservoir with North Carolina.

Stephanie Trueblood

Stephanie Trueblood said she is the project planner for the Town of Hillsborough, and that trail projects take years, require best practices and outreach to citizens, and provide connections between people. OWASA can make an enormous impact by supporting the MST.

Ed Johnson

Ed Johnson said if the trail is on the left side of the lake, he is willing and eager to have part of the MST on his land.

Edward Mann III

Edward Mann III said OWASA's primary purpose is to protect water quality and that OWASA would have an inherent responsibility and added costs if the trail is on OWASA land.

Ann Charles

Ann Charles said the trail should not be in the watershed, and residents need answers to their questions.

Colin Mellor

Colin Mellor said he and other residents of Lilymont Lane oppose having the MST on OWASA land because of concerns about camping, security, proximity to the houses and parking off Apple Mill Road.

Randall Williams

Randall Williams said OWASA's job is to provide clean water and that water sources are fragile.

Christina Silva

Christina Silva mentioned that the MST website has photos of a fire last summer on the MST.

Kate Dixon

Ms. Dixon said that OWASA's primary partnership should be with Orange County Parks and Recreation since the agency would always be there and the Friends of the MST (FMST) staff/volunteers would assist the County.

Ms. Dixon said that any part of OWASA's property is a good place to start and continue building the MST. It is in the FMST staff's best interest to work with landowners to build the trail over a period of time.

John Silva

Mr. Silva reiterated that 40 people in his neighborhood oppose the proposed trail route. He noted that a representative of another neighborhood also expressed opposition and he encouraged OWASA and Orange County to find an alternative. Mr. Silva requested that the Board defer his petition until the Board has had time to consider all the feedback received tonight.

June 23 (e-mail)

Greg Smith

My name is Greg Smith. My wife, Linda, and I have lived in the Thunder Mountain Subdivision since 1982. We own multiple parcels of land within the subdivision and adjacent to it and approximately 40% of the southern boundary of the subdivision is included in the parcels we

own. Part of our property on the southern boundary of Thunder Mountain abuts OWASA property.

In year 2000 we sold 13.5 acres of our land adjacent to our Thunder Mountain property to OWASA and specified that the land could not be used for residential purposes with the goal of keeping that tract as undeveloped buffer land to protect Cane Creek Reservoir. It was on that land that we sighted a bobcat in the early morning mist and listened to the calls of great horned owls in the evening. That beautiful tract, with a stream and large hardwoods, shares a common corner with our land on Thunder Mountain. We support routing the MST through this property which we used to own and sold to OWASA.

On September 18, 2012, our neighbor, Martha Keating spoke before the BOCC in support of the MST and provided the Board with a consensus endorsement by ALL of the five owners of Thunder Mountain property whose lots adjoin OWASA property. I am providing a copy of that statement of support which contained five caveats:

"Our five households do not oppose the MST and embrace the potential of having public access to beautiful land that we have been fortunate enough to live near for many years. Our support for this proposed section of the MST is contingent upon:

- ***The location of the trail being placed on the agreed upon alternate routes (farthest from the houses) by the residents closest to the MST.***
- ***MST being used as a footpath hike-through section (no bicycles, motorized vehicles, horses, etc.);***
- ***MST being open from dawn until dusk, with no overnight camping or fires permitted;***
- ***The county being able to provide a suitable location for parking at posted access points to divert anyone from parking or accessing the MST from Thunder Mountain;***
- ***OWASA's commitment to preserve the scenic beauty of this land such that it is not subjected to timbering;***

Done properly, we believe this segment of the MST would have no significant adverse impact to the water quality on Cane Creek Reservoir.

We believe this is a rare opportunity for the residents of this area of Orange County to work together to be part of a positive legacy for generations to come."

I believe these caveats of support delivered in 2012 are reasonable and can be accomplished as the county and OWASA move forward on this legacy for future generations. On November 17, 2015 I presented our personal support for the MST, in concert with these caveats, to the Board of Orange County Commissioners.

A few vocal opponents in our area have made claims that the MST will adversely affect privacy and result in an increased risk of crime, fire, liability, and other adverse effects to our community. Our review of the literature and available data do not support these claims.

We all understand that OWASA's core mission is to protect the water quality of Cane Creek Reservoir. Five years ago, I retired after having served as a career public health physician for the State of North Carolina working on communicable disease and environmental health issues. Many of these related to water quality and public water supplies. In my view, the preliminary

recommendations for location, construction, and use of the trail developed by OWASA staff are sound and would be protective of the watershed, reservoir, and water quality.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts and support for the Mountains to Sea Trail with you.

C. Gregory Smith, 6710 Thunder Mountain Road, Efland, NC 27243

C. Gregory Smith

Hello Ed,

Attached are three documents which provide additional information:

The research done by Carl Shy on "common concerns"

My November 17, 2015 presentation to the BOCC

Martha Keating's September 18, 2012 presentation to the BOCC

Please share these with the Board.

Greg

June 25

Jack Pless

Andrea and OWASA Board Members,

My name is Jack Pless and I own land immediately to the south of the Cane Creek Reservoir starting at Hwy 54 and running along both sides of the creek for about 1/3 of a mile. Please confirm this with Orange Co. GIS and click on the hydrology tab to the left to see where Cane Creek runs through my property. You will find the listing under my full legal name, John Pless.

I attended the June 23 meeting at Chapel Hill Town Hall and did not speak during the public comment period. I ask that you forward this email to all the board members, as I think my email may contain items not brought up during the public comments.

It became very aware to me at the April meeting hosted by Orange Co. Dept of Environmental, Recreation and Agriculture that the preferred route is to bring the trail from the Haw River up Cane Creek entering the Reservoir. Although they have maps showing a wide corridor of possible trail locations, the creek will be the defining path for the route, their public comments to the contrary notwithstanding. The maps they created, large ones which they did not bring to the June 23 meeting demonstrate their intent. Ask to see these please. The eastern boundy of the trail is clearly defined by the contours of Cane Creek. The western corridor boundy is a sweeping arc, which does not follow topography or land ownership. One boundary is very defind the other arbitrary.

I notified Orange Co Staff, including David Stancill and Rich Shaw after their meeting in April I wished my lands be taken out of consideration for the trail. I have an email from Rich Shaw

confirming this. I have however followed develpments with great interest as it will impact my property depending upon what OWASA chosses to do about the MTS.

At the June 23 meeting a handout was distributed and on page 5.8 was listed under item 7 that the County shall secure easements from landowners adjacent to the terminal points of the trail from OWASA land prior to opening the trail to the Reservoir. I have notified County staff that my land which is both sides of Cane Creek abutting OWASA property is off limits. Did county staff apprise the board of this? Again please check the GIS maps as I own considerable frontage along Hwy 54 and not only the banks of the creek 21ossib.

No one in the public comment period mentioned the habits and needs of through hikers, those persons backpacking through the trail stopping only briefly in towns along the way to resupply with food and consumables.

What backpackers are looking for is clean water and a place to camp at the end of the day. In fact, those being present a backpacker may elect to cut a day's walk short to bed down in a nice place. The Reservoir is such a place. As is my land immediately to the south. If as on page 5.7 of the meeting handout, that to Minimize Risks from Trail Use the hours on OWASA property are prohibited from disk till dawn will place an undue burden on my land to the immediate south on the creek and lands to the north along the creekbank, as hikers will lay over to be in compliance. You will 21ossibly21y have hikers who defy compliance and will camp on OWASA land and access the reservoir for drinking water and after dark possibly even for swimming. Are OWASA staff ready for this possibility?

Many speakers cited the risk of fire. I backpacked for many years in the 1970s and 80s and was not a big fan of building fire rings every night. However, I never once in all my walks encountered a campsite without a fire ring of local stone which had been previously used. The common lore connects fire building with camping, although it is not necessary as most backpackers carry portable stoves for cooking. Fire risk will only increase further for me if OWASA land is off limits after dark. Another item which was not mentioned in public comments was the need for latrines. When you are in the woods, either day hiking or backpacking, when you need to go..you go, location and posted rules to the contrary notwithstanding. A commong method is to dig your heel into the ground creating a depression and going in that and then covering it up. Now that is if you do it well. And with the stipulation on page 5.6 that the trail will only be 3 feet wide, is really not workable. You will either have ill conceived latrines on the three foot trail or people will wander off, which they will do to find a modicum of privacy.

In short, the conditions set forth by OWASA can not be met. OWASA staff will have to police and clean the trail, hikers will wander from the defind trail, they all do, when something of interest sparks their attention.

OWASA will have to allocate financial resources to the MST. The impact to me will 21ossibly be overwhelming as OWASA has the resouces to close the reservoir at night stranding through hikers on my land overtaxing my property and the creek through reapeated use. And fire know

no bounds. A fire on my land contiguous with OWASA could go under the Hwy 54 bridge and torch OWASA forest. The same could happen from the north.

One last item: I spoke to County staff in April imporing them to bring private landowners who have public trails on their property to comment to allay fears of fire, arson, etc. They have yet to provide even one. A public private partnership of this sort can certainly be better accomplished. County staff should have contacted key private landowners and built a coalition in favor of MST. As you saw the majority of speakers were opposed, and those who spoke in favor rarely mentioned where their property was located. I did note two exceptions however who said they had land abutting the reservoir who were in favor, although they were not on Cane Creek and the proposed trail was not through their land.

Thank you in advance for your due consideration. I am available to speak or email with any OWASA respresentative at their convenience.

Sincerely,

Jack Pless

June 26 and 28

John and Christine Silva

Good morning Mr. Young, I would like to thank the OWASA Board for receiving input from citizens on June 23, 2016 regarding the proposed MTS Trail that would go through the rural Cane Creek communities and directly through OWASA owned land and the Cane Creek Reservoir.

Please share this follow-up email with the OWASA Board and any and all appropriate OWASA administrators.

Many questions were raised by citizens who actually live in the impacted Cane Creek communities. None of these questions were answered and we understand that OWASA would like to discuss and research many of the issues that were raised on June 23rd.

This matter is not about the few who may use this MTS spur trail – this is about the many who depend on the Cane Creek watershed for clean water and the safety of your neighbors in the Cane Creek watershed.

You mentioned that OWASA needs to establish and refine the exact conditions that need to be met in order for the proposed MTS spur trail to pass through our communities and the Cane Creek Reservoir. This position implies that the Board has already conceded that the proposed MTS spur trail can go through if these conditions are met.

It seems prudent, however, to first determine if the current OWASA Board approves the proposed MTS spur trail through the communities in question and through the actual reservoir itself.

I respectfully request that the OWASA Board reply to the following questions:

1) How will access to our communities and OWASA land through the Cane Creek Reservoir be controlled? Who will stop hikers or locals from entering our communities and the Cane Creek Reservoir during restricted times such as 11pm, 1am, 5am?

2) How will OWASA or any authority know if hikers or locals are on the proposed MTS spur trail during restricted hours?

3) How will OWASA or any authority know if hikers or locals are lighting a campfire on the proposed MTS spur trail at any time – particularly during restricted hours?

4) How will OWASA or any authority know if hikers or locals are swimming in the Cane Creek Reservoir or allowing their dog to travel with them in close proximity to our communities and through the Cane Creek Reservoir?

5) Is the current OWASA Board prepared to be responsible for the legal implications forthcoming from home invasion, an assault on the proposed MTS spur trail (a hiker was held-up at gun point on the Oconeechee Trail in Hillsborough two weeks ago), or damage to a community members property caused by a hiker or local using the proposed MTS spur trail?

At the Orange County meeting on April 21, 2016 many people who live in the Mt. Mitchell, Apple Mill Rd. Teer Rd. and Thunder Mt. communities' spoke in opposition to the proposed MTS spur trail. Only two people spoke in support of the proposed trail and neither of them live or own property in the four rural communities most impacted.

At the OWASA meeting on June 23, 2016 the MTS people had a handful of their volunteers/supporters speak in support of the proposed spur trail. None of those speakers were from our communities and not one compelling reason for the trail was offered. The major rationale/theme of the supporters was that the proposed MTS spur trail is an enhancement of the current MTS trail through Orange County.

ONE actual resident/land owner from Mt. Mitchell, Thunder Mt., Apple Mill Rd. or Teer Road spoke in support of the proposed MTS spur trail. That was Mr. Greg Smith. Two other people who live near the impacted communities (Bradshaw Quarry Rd., and Dairyland Rd.) spoke briefly in support. Support from residents and landowners in the four rural communities most impacted is not evident even though Mr. Smith has tried very hard to muster up support.

The OWASA Board can resolve this unfortunate and dangerous situation by simply voting not to allow the trail to go through the OWASA owned land and the Cane Creek Reservoir itself.

This action will require Mr. Stancil to find an alternate route that does not go through the four Cane Creek communities or the Cane Creek Reservoir.

The proposed MTS spur trail is NOT in the best interests of the greater good. In fact this action could result in considerable hardship for thousands of citizens if the water supply is compromised by a fire in the watershed. The probability of which is increased by introducing unrestricted human traffic through the Cane Creek Reservoir.

Just the increased probability of a fire in the watershed by creating human traffic should be enough of a red flag for OWASA to ask Orange County to seek out alternate routes. As you noted at the meeting, that is OC's responsibility and they have made no effort to do so in three years.

It is hard to believe the current OWASA Board would take the legal and social responsibility that would be forthcoming if the water supply for Chapel Hill and Carrboro, the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill and all the hospitals and medical research centers was compromised.

Why is it so difficult – even with consistent opposition from a majority of the residents in the four rural communities most impacted – to get OC to map out an alternate route? Mt. Mitchell residents have collected a petition with 40+ signatures all from residents and land owners from the four communities noted.

Why is there insistence on placing the proposed MTS spur trail through the rural Cane Creek communities and the reservoir?

Bonnie Hauser of the Orange County Voice group has some ideas that would route the trail away from our communities and the reservoir and would make it more of a multi-purpose trail accommodating cyclists as well.

Would it not be prudent and worthwhile for OWASA to pause and ask the OCBOCC to instruct OC Parks and Recreation to look at alternate trail routes?

Thank you for your reflection on this important issue impacting so many Orange County residents. We look forward to a reply to the specific questions raised in this email.

Sincerely,

John M. Silva Ph.D.

Christine A. Silva

> ***OWASA's response:***
>
> *Hello, Mr. Silva,*
>
> *Thank you for participating in our meeting last week and for sharing information and your viewpoints via oral comments and this follow-up email. I am forwarding your email to all OWASA board members and senior administrators.*
>
> *The OWASA board plans to continue discussion about MST during its August 25th meeting. That will be the earliest timeframe at which the full board could hope to consider some of the questions you have posed.*
>
> *As you know, the board mostly absorbed information and input from the community at last week's meeting, rather than trying to reach consensus on whether it would be acceptable for the MST to run through OWASA property and, if so, the conditions under which it would be acceptable. The Board has not yet determined if it would be*

acceptable. However, the Board intends to review and discuss potential specific conditions as a means to determine if an acceptable set of conditions exists. I believe the Board can only arrive at a responsible conclusion about overall acceptability (or not) of MST by evaluating some of the specific concerns raised and how they might be addressed or mitigated.

Thank you,
John Young
Chair, OWASA Board of Directors

Thank you Mr. Young for your reply to my June 26, 2016 email regarding the proposed MTS spur trail through our rural Can Creek communities and the Cane Creek Reservoir.

We understand the difficult position OWASA has been placed in and the desire by OWASA to proceed cautiously.

I would ask again, however, would it not be prudent and worthwhile for OWASA to ask the OCBOCC to instruct OC Parks and Recreation to look at alternate trail routes while OWASA researches and discusses the positive and negative aspects of the proposed MTS spur trail through the reservoir?

A satisfactory solution may be found in an alternate route, an option that has not been pursued to date by either OC or the MTS group.

Sincerely,

John M. Silva Ph.D.

Christine A. Silva

June 28

Karen Bley and Luther Livermon

To the Board of OWASA and the Chair:

This email is from Karen Bley and Luther Livermon. We live at 6818 Bradshaw Quarry Rd which is next to Apple Mill Rd. The back of our land is a few hundred feet from where the Mountains to Sea (MTS) trail is proposed.

We unequivicalby support the MTS Trail. We believe it is important to the community and other hikers traveling through. We believe it has tremendous potential to benefit not only economically but also gives people the chance to be outside and in nature — something that is quickly disappearing. Trails of this type around the world have proven to be beneficial. For example this summer we are traveling to Scotland to do a world renown hike that goes across a 65 mile island – Isle of Skye. The island depends on hikers and tourist to support its local communities.

We'll be spending money in hotels, restaurants, trains, food, etc — all which support local people. Why not have that same support in NC?

We appreciate OWASA's willingness to take a positive look at this endeavor by voting yes to extend the MTS trail through this glorious section of NC.

We have participated in several meetings sponsored by neighbors, Orange Co Parks and Rec, and recently the OWASA board. We have been very surprised and dismayed at the loud minority voice that is trying to speak for people who do support the MTS trail.

At some of these meetings we have heard from the vocal minority who talk of "rapist, murderers, arsonists, and thieves" using the trail which the data does not support. Any reasonable person realizes that this is not accurate depiction of hikers. We are both hikers and we know that the hiking culture is one that goes in to nature to enjoy the beauty and solitude of a trail. A criminal, statistically speaking, is someone who is looking for an easy mark and a quick getaway — not someone who'll have to hike miles to escape.

Please feel free to give us a call if you have any questions or comments. Again, we appreciate OWASA's willingness to look at this important effort!

Thank you,

Karen Bley

Luther Livermon

Wendy and Ken Feldman

Thank you very much – we appreciate the input and the information. Although we are not interested in the MTS coming through our own land, we recognize that the proposed route brings it near us, and appreciate being kept in the loop as information is shared.

Thank you,

Wendy & Ken

June 29

Bob Johnson

I spoke briefly at your June board meeting and I'd like to share a few more thoughts on MST on OWASA Property. I've done this via the attached PDF – please let me know if that does not work and I'll copy/paste into the body of an email

Thanks!

Bob Johnson

OWASA's response:

Hi Bob,

Thank you for joining us last week and for following up with your input, framework, and analysis. I'm sure the board members will value this. And thanks to you and your family for your good neighbor-ness, too! It was very reassuring to hear and see your comments about your experiences with OWASA as a neighborhood.

Thanks,

John

July 1

Greg Smith

Dear Ed and Ruth and OWASA Board Members,

In follow-up to last Thursday's meeting, I would like to share some additional information which I think is relevant to the discussion underway related to the proposal to route the MST through OWASA property.

Many communities currently have, or are in the process of creating, recreational trails in the watersheds of their public water supplies.

In addition to Falls Lake and other examples in North Carolina, below are a few illustrative examples of communities in other states which have integrated recreational trails into their watershed areas while protecting biodiversity, the privacy of neighboring landowners, the integrity of the watershed forests, and, most importantly, the water quality of their public water supplies.

All of these public lands, like Cane Creek Reservoir and its surrounding watershed, are unique. These examples provide compelling evidence that trails are enhancements, not detriments, to nearby landowners and communities and they illustrate that the watershed and the reservoir can be both protected and enjoyed by the public at the same time.

I hope this information is helpful as you and the Board continue your evaluation and review of this issue.

Those of us who support the MST are hopeful the Board will see the many merits of using OWASA land for the MST.

We have an opportunity to make Segment 11 through OWASA property the crown jewel of the MST.

Sincerely,

Greg

Virginia:

An excellent and perhaps very comparable example to Chapel Hill and Cane Creek Reservoir is the university town of Charlottesville, Virginia, which has recently opened new trails within the

980 acre Ragged Mountain Natural Area (RMNA) near Charlottesville to hiking and some other recreational activities.

The Ragged Mountain Natural Area contains the Ragged Mountain Reservoir which serves as a source of Charlottesville's water supply.

From the Visit Charlottesville Web link:

"The Ragged Mountain Natural Area is a 980 acre preserve surrounding the Ragged Mountain Reservoir and is owned by the City of Charlottesville. Approximately five miles of trails skirt the reservoir to maximize lake vistas while avoiding sensitive areas and possible erosion sites. In order to protect the serenity of the wildlife and the trails, dogs, bikes, motorized vehicles, jogging, camping, fires, hunting and nature specimen collection are prohibited. The trail is managed by the City of Charlottesville Parks And Recreation Department."

I spoke with Chris Gensic, park and trail planner with Charlottesville Parks and Recreation, who was very knowledgeable about the RMNA. He may be reached at 434-970-3656 and email at <gensic@charlottesville.org>. He said he would be glad to provide you with additional information.

It is my understanding that the Rivanna Water and Sewer Authority owns the reservoir and controls water recreation. The lake used to be just under 100 acres or so but was recently enlarged to 170 acres following raising of the dam.

The city of Charlottesville owns the surrounding Ragged Mountain Natural Area. About 650 acres are open to the public for hiking and the trails have been located and constructed to protect water quality and biodiversity. In a few places trails may come within 20 to 50 feet of the shoreline, but for much of their route, they are located somewhat farther away. This was done purposely to prevent incremental erosion and to protect biodiversity which tends to be higher along the shore line. The city's Parks and Recreation Department is currently in the process of completing a Masterplan for additional allowable uses of the RMNA. They have completed an ecosystem analysis and have identified biological hot spots as part of their evaluation and decision making process. Drafts of these may be found in the City of Charlottesville attachment.

Additional information may be found in the Ivy Creek Foundation attachment and the following link:

http://ivycreekfoundation.org/raggedmountain/trailmaps.html

A map of the reservoir showing existing trails, proposed trails and a proposed bridge over one section of the reservoir is also attached and may be found at the following link:

http://ivycreekfoundation.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/NewRMNATrails.pdf

Printed below from the following link:

http://www.charlottesville.org/departments-and-services/departments-h-z/parks-recreation-/parks-trails/city-parks/ragged-mountain

The new trails at Ragged Mountain Natural Area are now open to the public.

The City of Charlottesville now has full management of RMNA. Inquiries regarding the uses and accessibility of the Ragged Mountain Natural Area should addressed to Chris Gensic of Charlottesville Parks & Recreation. He can be e-mailed at gensic@charlottesville.org. Click here for a MAP of the trails Trails are still being constructed, contact Chris to sign up for volunteer work days.

The Ragged Mountain Natural Area near Charlottesville, Virginia, is a beautiful 980-acre forest of mature oak, hickory, poplar, pine, and maple trees with a lake that serves as part of the community water supply, and more than four miles of shoreline. Seven miles of trail lead through majestic forest, along rugged terrain, and through areas rich with wildlife and offer a unique opportunity for wilderness hiking within minutes of town.

Dogs, bicycles, and jogging are not allowed at Ragged Mountain natural area.

Fishing is allowed at Ragged Mountain, and requires a valid state fishing permit. Non-gasoline powered boats are allowed on the reservoir. There is not currently a public boat ramp, so smaller boats are encouraged.

NEWS – the lake is nearly full, and many new trails have been built to replace those that were lost with the higher lake level. When the lake has filled to capacity, a floating trail bridge will be installed to complete the trail loop. The upper maintenance road around the north and west sides of the property is partially privately owned and is not currently open for public use.

A PUBLIC MASTER PLANNING PROCESS WILL BE UNDERTAKEN IN 2016 for the area. Dates for public meetings are being set now and will be announce soon. Part of the discussion will include proposals to allow dogs on leash, bicycles, and jogging on the trails in the natural area. There are studies underway to determine any special flora and fauna areas to avoid and/or to showcase before new trail alignments for any public use are finalized and constructed. If you would like to assist in the trail construction efforts or the bio-blitzes and eco-studies, please contact Chris Gensic, Park and Trail Planner, at 970-3656 or gensic@charlottesville.org.

Visiting the Natural Area

The Ragged Mountain Natural Area parking area is located at 1730 Reservoir Rd., off Fontaine Avenue, south of Charlottesville, VA. (Google map). Open 7:00 a.m. to sunset.

Creation of the Ragged Mountain Natural Area

The property was acquired by the City in the late 1800's to provide a supply for water to serve the growing community and university. A dam was built at that time, and a second dam was built in the 1920's to expand the lake capacity. A new dam was completed in 2014 to further expand the capacity of the lake.

In April 1997, with the goal of providing long-term protection to the watershed of the Ragged Mountain Reservoir, the Ivy Creek Foundation (ICF) approached the City of Charlottesville with a proposal to designate the Reservoir property as a public natural area reserved for quiet hiking, fishing, and wildlife observation. Under this proposal ICF agreed to fund, design and construct a rustic parking lot, conduct a biological survey, establish and maintain a trail system, and provide

maps. The Ivy Creek Foundation decided in 2014 to let the City take over management of the natural area.

With financial help from the Emily Hall Tremaine Foundation, the Virginia Department of Forestry, and with the hard work of hundreds of volunteers, Ragged Mountain Natural Area was opened to the public in March, 1999.

Ecology of the Ragged Mountain Natural Area

The area is rich in birdlife with native woodpeckers, yellow-bellied sapsuckers, and northern flickers in the winter. In the spring, keep an eye out for songbirds migrating through such as blue-winged and Tennessee warblers. Fall brings the migrant blackpoll and bay-breasted warblers as well as hermit thrush. Nesting neotropical songbirds include pine, yellow-throated, and yellow warblers, northern parula, yellow-breasted chat, chipping and field sparrows, and red-eyed and yellow-throated vireos are best seen in early spring before the foliage gets too heavy.

Other wildlife includes the upland chorus and northern cricket frogs are in residence here, as is the American toad and spring peeper. Several species of bats are known to hunt insects here including eastern pipistrelle, evening bat, and bag brown bat. Many, many species of mammals live here. Among the large mammals, the white-tailed deer is particularly abundant. Occasional visits by black bear and sightings of bobcat are also not uncommon.

Massachusetts:

The next two links relate to Lincoln, Massachusetts and the surrounding area. Flint Pond serves as the primary drinking water source for Lincoln. A more detailed description of the trails around it may be found by clicking on Flint Pond on the second page. This area seems to have done an outstanding job of integrating protection of water quality and protection of biodiversity into their trail system. It is impressive to see how neighboring private landowners have granted access over their private properties for the linking of trails. Please note the trail use rules and guidelines in the Lincoln trail map link.

http://www.lincolnconservation.org/PDFTrailMaps.html

http://www.lincolnconservation.org/files/Map3_Flint_sPond.pdf

Maine:

The attached powerpoint is a personal experience.

On a vacation to Acadia National Park several years ago, our family hiked and biked along the old carriage trails near Eagle Lake which serves as the public water supply for Bar Harbor. See attached pictures. Several other lakes and ponds in the park also serve as public water supplies to Bar Harbor and other nearby towns as shown in the following link:

https://www.nps.gov/acad/planyourvisit/watercraftrestrictions.htm

The links in the power point show many beautiful pictures of trails near these public water supply lakes.

OWASA's response:

Dear Mr. Smith,

Thank you for joining us at the June 23rd meeting and for providing this additional information on the potential for the MST to run through OWASA property. I'm sure my fellow board members value the examples of how recreational trails are implemented and managed in the watersheds of other public water systems.

Thanks,
John
Chair, OWASA Board of Directors

July 4

Grace and Tony Hackney

Dear Friends,

I am Grace Hackney, writing on behalf of my husband, Tony Hackney and I. We are relatively new residents of Thunder Mountain and are wholeheartedly in favor of extending the MTS trail through the Cane Creek reservoir land, as has been proposed.

First, let us say how grateful we are for your good work, diligence, and careful listening. I know this task must not be easy.

I am a clergy person in the United Methodist Church. My husband and I recognize the benefits of such careful listening, and also for the need to build consensus. That said, we are also aware that there will always be "nay-sayers" who demand our special attention. We trust that you are doing that, and that the facts will prove that the hesitations voiced by Mr. Silva and others are unfounded (as others of our neighbors have so eloquently expressed).

We are living in interesting days. For Tony and I to be able to own and live adjacent to such beautiful property seems pure gift, meaning we are not only eager, but obligated, to share it, with proper respect for creation – including humankind, water, land, bird, fish and other creatures. Conflict over land is nothing new – and we should not be surprised that conflict should arise over the proposal for a trail adjacent to homeowners.

We hope the trail will be approved so that we can use it in our lifetime, and so that we can invite others to use it as it was intended. We are not at all worried about theft, fire, or lack of privacy. To do so would mean that we have bought into a culture of fear, which I am afraid some of our neighbors have done.

I am not sure we have all the right persons addressed in this email. We are happy for you to share this email as needed.

As it happened, the recent meeting in our community landed on our son's birthday, and we had already made plans to be celebrating with him. Otherwise, we would have been present.

In support (and I might add – praying!) for your work,

Grace G. Hackney

OWASA's response:

Dear Ms. Hackney,

Thank you for writing us and expressing your kind words and views on the potential for the MST to run through OWASA property. We will make sure to keep you informed about upcoming OWASA board discussions about the MST. Perhaps you will want to join our discussion of MST on August 25th at Chapel Hill Town Hall.

Thanks,
John
Chair, OWASA Board of Directors

July 15

John Kenan

Dear Ed, and members of the OWASA Board,

My wife, Leigh Sweet, and I live at 6538 Mt Mitchell Rd with our three elementary school-age children, and we are supportive of the Mountain To Sea Trail. I wanted to share a comment I left to the online article published by Chalpelboro and WCHL, which I felt represented a biased and unfair negative public opinion of the trial:

http://chapelboro.com/featured/mountains-to-sea-trail-draws-concern-from-orange-county-citizens

I have witnessed John Silva's antics in community meetings, and feel his tactics are underhanded and manipulative. He attempts to sway the pendulum towards negative public perception of the MST through sheer volume and boisterousness, and unfortunately, his tactics seem to have worked at least with Chapelboro and WCHL.

Please do not believe for a minute there is a majority of members in the local communities of Thunder Mountain, Mt. Mitchell, and Apple Mill that are aligned with Jon Silva and are against the trail coming through the Cane Creek Reservoir area. On the contrary, there is a majority who are for it. This majority has been silent unfortunately, and we have not garnered signatures on petitions to show our support. But rest assured that by NOT having our signatures on Silva's petitions, we are showing support, because he or someone has come by every house in the neighborhood asking for that signature (again in an underhanded way that makes it seem like there is a reasonable concern, which he then wields to reporting agencies as a petition against the trail).

The proposed trail comes closest to our house than any other – within 400 feet. And while I have asked Rich Shaw if there is any possibility of adjusting that immediate section of the route

slightly further away from our home, we still want to see this Trail come through the Cane Creek watershed. With the appropriate by-laws in-place, which I expect would include no overnight camping, fires, or horseback or mountain bike riding, there is virtually no risk to the watershed as a result of this trail coming through. The benefits are huge, primarily that a beautiful part of North Carolina very near major city centers is able to be enjoyed by the public, and protected for the long term – though public awareness of the critical need to preserve areas like this from logging, development, and pollution – especially given this area's proximity to major urban development. The MTS in the Cane Creek Reservoir area is a means to that end, and there are many of us 'locals' who share deep support for seeing the MTS materialize here.

The comments I made to the Chapelboro article are below. Thank you for your consideration, and please feel free to reach out if there are any questions.

Sincerely,

John Kenan

Comments to Chapelboro Article:

Very disappointed with Chapeboro/WCHL's coverage here. Very poor representation of the local community around Thunder Mountain, Mt. Mitchell and Apple Mill. You state Sylva's quote of "Active Resistance from community...". The only real active resistance is coming from him and certainly some others. However, the majority of neighbors in this area are very much in support, and are vocal in that support with OWASA. Sylva has been very vocal to have his opinion heard. The squeaky wheel gets the grease, and it seems your coverage favors the sqeaky wheel – and this will be most people's takeaway given the headline you chose to use. Very disappointed in the bias you promote here, and especially for such a great cause – where the likely bylaws will include no fires, no overnight camping, no bikes, etc and will likely be strickly a hike-thru trail that makes available to the community a gorgeous area of North Carolina's public land. The proposed trail comes closest to my family's home in this area, and we are neighbors who feel this area belongs to all, not to be fenced or exclude others. It needs to be shared and preserved, and the MTS is a means to that end.

OWASA's response:

Dear Mr. Kenan,

Thank you for sharing your input on the potential for the MST to run through OWASA property and other nearby properties, including yours. The OWASA board of directors are scheduled to pick up discussion of MST again on Thursday, August 25th. We invite you to join us for this meeting.

Thanks,
John
Chair, OWASA Board of Directors

July 20

Prity Kukovich

OWASA Board Members and Orange County Commissioners,

My name is Prity Kukovich and I have lived at 7113 Thunder Mountain Road with my husband Travis and 2 children Liam (11) and Veda (6) for the last 9 years. Due to the recent article in the Independent and information shared by Chapelboro, I feel that the silent majority of residents closest to the proposed Mountain-to-Sea Trail have been grossly under represented. As with most things, the squeaky wheel always gets the grease, and Mr. Silva has created so much noise around his minority opinion, that most people have not been heard fairly.

My husband and I are very supportive of the trail. The land around the Cane Creek Reservoir is so beautiful, it seems unfair not to make it more accessible so that more people can enjoy it in a safe environmentally conscience way. We think property values will go up. We do not think there will be an increased risk of fire (no more than what could be caused by lightening). We find the fear mongering around crime and thuggery is ridiculous. If you think objectively, it is clear that NO ONE will be hiking for miles just to cause harm. No criminal (or teenagers as some fear) will carry alcohol for miles OR travel off the trail through an additional amount of brushy wooded area just to get to someone's home. Not to mention that the homes that will be seen from the trail are in complete support of it! (Kenan's on Mt. Mitchell and Keating's on Thunder Mountain). I believe everyone else's home is hidden from the trail (based on the last proposed map I saw).

At the onset of the MST discussions, we gathered our neighbors on Thunder Mountain who specifically share property lines with OWASA. We agreed to parameters that we all felt were reasonable and presented them in September of 2012 at the BOCC. I have attached the slide presentation we created for your information. But most importantly, below you can see that in our Thunder Mountain neighborhood, ALL property owners who share property lines with OWASA are in complete support of the MST.

Lastly, I want to note that many people that move out to this area tend to be private and keep to themselves. Our area is so beautiful and quiet and is perfect for those of us who want to "get away." Most of my neighbors are not concerned with or want to be involved in neighborhood or county politics. They avoid engaging in any confrontation with their neighbors at all costs. With that said, I do talk to many of my neighbors as friends and I know that most of them are supportive of the MST. They remain silent because frankly they just don't want Mr. Silva or anyone else harassing them. I feel this is a very important point to consider when making decisions around the MST.

OWASA has been a good neighbor to us and we appreciate all your efforts on this important project.

Warmest regards,

Prity Kukovich

VP, Senior Program Director

OWASA's response:

Dear Ms. Kukovich,

Thank you for sharing your views and those of your neighbors on the potential for the MST to run through OWASA property. I know my fellow board members value this input. As you probably understand already, the OWASA board of directors will discuss the MST on August 25th at Chapel Hill Town Hall. We welcome your participation.

Thanks,
John
Chair, OWASA Board of Directors

July 23, 24 and 25

Brenda McCall, Phil Duckwall and Bill Charles

July 23

Hello Mr. Morgan,

A group of neighbors from Mt Mitchell Rd have identified a beautiful alternate MST route through OWASA property which avoids close proximity to private properties. Phil Duckwall, Bill Charles and I would like to meet with you to discuss this at a time and place convenient to you. I am happy to host the meeting at my house if that works best for you.

You can reach me by email or at 919-819-0594. We look forward to talking with you.

Thank you in advance for your time.

Brenda McCall
Bill Charles
Phil Duckwall

OWASA's response:

Ms. McCall,

Thanks for your invitation. I would suggest that you petition the OWASA Board to consider your proposed route. In this manner the entire Board is aware of your proposal.

Best Regards,

Bob Morgan

Brenda McCall -- July 23

Mr. Morgan, Thanks for getting back to me so promptly. Who do I contact to set up a discussion about our proposed route with the board?

OWASA's response:

Ms McCall,

The next Board meeting will be August 25 at the Chapel Hill Council Chambers at 7PM. At the beginning of each meeting the Chair will asks the public if anyone wishes to petition the Board. You can request the Board at that time to consider your proposal. The Board can then decide how it wishes to proceed with your proposal.

If you want to share any information before the meeting you can give it to Board's Clerk, Andy Orbich.

Bob Morgan

Brenda McCall -- July 23

Thanks for your help

Brenda McCall, Phil Duckwall and Bill Charles on July 24

Hello OWASA Board Members and thank you for taking the time on June 23, 2016 to hear input from the community regarding the proposal to route the NC Mountains to Sea Trail through OWASA property. As you suggested, we are writing to document some of the thoughts and concerns we shared at that meeting. We are all supportive of the MST but feel that routing the trail through OWASA property brings unnecessary risks not only to OWASA but also to surrounding neighbors.

1) We are concerned about the increased safety risks to our persons and our property related to having unmonitored visitors on trails near our isolated homes and properties. In previous meetings police and fire officials (March 28, 2012; Tommy Holmes, Butch Clark and Lindy Pendergrass) clearly told us that assisting people in distress or putting out fires would be very difficult due to lack of access. Most hikers are upstanding citizens. But fire knows no boundary and careless people or those with criminal intent don't follow the rules.

2) We have been advised that our property insurance rates would increase due to the increased risks incurred by having a hiking trail near our private property. This would be an undue financial burden on all and a true hardship for some.

3) As residents of Mt. Mitchell Rd and the Cane Creek/Mickey subdivision we ask that OWASA abide by the covenants agreed to in our road maintenance agreement prohibiting recreational access points in our community.

4) We are puzzled by the push to place a MST hiking trail through OWASA property. Supposedly this trail is envisioned as a small piece of the 20+ mile portion of MST proposed between Saxapahaw and Hillsborough. However, we are unaware of any concrete plans for the completion of this long trail which will require the cooperation of large numbers of private property owners. We fear this long trail will never be completed and a trail through OWASA property will become an isolated hiking trail attracting mostly local day hikers. Since there are no plans to monitor the trail and, indeed it would be difficult to monitor effectively, we fear that one seemingly small incident like a camp fire spark could wreak havoc on the forest, reservoir and surrounding private properties.

5) We were alarmed by a petition presented to OCBOCC (November 17, 2015) by our neighbors Greg Smith and Alan Green along with several other people who do not even live in our community. Smith and Green expressed their support of the trail on OWASA property near them. However, they were not so enamored of having a parking lot and trail access near them. So they volunteered trail access via the cul-de-sac in the Apple Mill Rd neighborhood. Needless to say, the residents of Apple Mill Rd, Cane Creek Dr and Mt. Mitchell Rd who would bear the increased risks and inconvenience associated with having trail access and parking in or near our small isolated neighborhoods were not happy with the proposal of Smith and Green.

6) Those who would be directly impacted should have a greater voice in an inclusive decision making process. Most of the people who have spoken in favor of the MST route through OWASA property do not live on Apple Mill, Cane Creek, Teer, Lilymont or Mt Mitchell Roads. They will not be directly impacted or bear the costs and risks of a trail or access area near their property. Why should small rural residents, land owners and communities be expected to incur the burden of increased risks and costs and give up their privacy when there are safer, less intrusive route options in Orange County?

7) We have encouraged OC Parks and Recreation to consider other routes for the MST which would avoid use of OWASA property near large numbers of private citizens who are in opposition. We have identified a route on OWASA property which meets this criteria and is also more accessible for fire control and safety access. We would like to make this information available to you prior to your next meeting on August 25. We welcome opportunities for dialogue. May we meet with your planning staff to discuss this route?

8) We are attaching a petition signed in March 2016 by 35 neighbors who would be directly impacted by and oppose the routing of the trail on OWASA lands near their homes and property. (See attachment below)

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to working with you.

Brenda McCall

Phil Duckwall

Bill Charles

Brenda McCall -- July 25

Good Morning All,

I'd like to correct an omission. I should have included Thunder Mountain in item #6 as it is also a neighborhood that would be directly impacted by the MST crossing OWASA property.

Again, thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Brenda McCall

July 24

Kendall Hetterly

Dear Mr Kerwin and the OWASA Board of Directors,

I am writing to express our full support for the Mountain to Sea Trail (MTS) and especially for the segment of the trail that could cross OWASA property.

My husband and I own some lots on Thunder Mountain and have lived on one of them for 20 years. While none of our lots border OWASA property, we have walked the trails in our area for many years with our dogs. I know, and want to point out to you and the OWASA Board, that some of our neighbors who are opposing this segment of the MST trail have also been walking these same trails.

I also walk the Riverwalk in Hillsborough. Many people use that delightful walk and every person, child, parent, friend or dog that I pass always looks so happy.

We should mention that we have reviewed the five conditions for support of the MST trail that were presented by the Keatings of Thunder Mountain during a hearing on the trail in 2012 and we support the parameters contained therein.

My husband and I look forward to seeing the OWASA segment of the trail completed in the near future. We believe that it will be a very positive legacy for future generations.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely yours,

Kendall Hetterly

OWASA's response:

Dear Ms. Hetterly,

Thank you for sharing your views on the potential for the MST to run through OWASA property. I know my fellow board members value this input. As you probably understand already, the OWASA board of directors will discuss the MST on August 25th at Chapel Hill Town Hall. We welcome your participation.

Thanks,
John
Chair, OWASA Board of Directors

August 8

George Poehlman, MD

I have been a practicing physician for forty years, years devoted to helping others stay healthy. A cornerstones to good health and longevity is living a healthy lifestyle. And, a key component to a healthy lifestyle is being and staying active.

In this era of fast paced living, there is too little time to enjoy recreational activities that contribute to this end. One key feature that encourages recreational activities is making opportunities available and enjoyable. That is why I volunteer with the Mountain to Sea Trail (MST) organization to develop walking trails available to all North Carolinians for recreational use. Upon completion of the MST, the trail will extend over 1100 miles across North Carolina. Already this has become a gem of the State for the few through-hikers who have accomplished its length, but more and more day users are discovering its beauty and benefit - a opportunity to enjoy being active!

At this time, Orange County and OWASA serve a critical role in making the completion of this trail a reality. The trail is almost all off road from the western Haw river in Alamance County to Saxapahaw and from Hillsborough through Durham County to eastern Wake County. One of the missing links is connecting Saxapahaw, on the Haw, to Hillsborough, on the Eno; Cane Creek Reservoir is the keystone in making this connection.

Permission to extend the trail through Cane Creek Reservoir is critical, so I ask that you support the guidelines that your staff has developed for the connection. Note that this trail will serve as a major contribution to the people of Orange County in providing recreational opportunities as well as secondary financial returns -- already seen in Saxapahaw and Hillsborough through trail related activities.

I am aware that there is opposition by a few, near-by land owners, but public land should be for the good of the public and not the exclusive use of an entitled few. I believe there is a misperception that those who access the trail are “ill doers”; to the contrary, in all of my years and miles on the MTS Trail and other trails, I have only encountered those who love and care about preserving and improving our natural treasures.

Please, when you consider this proposal on the 25th of August, approve your staff's recommendation to grant a right of way for the MST across Cane Creek Reservoir. There is already public park and water usage at the Cane Creek Reservoir so there will be no new precedence in this case by simply extending an existing policy. Join your State Park Service and neighboring counties in providing the opportunity for your citizens to realize a healthy lifestyle and an enhanced quality of life though walking and hiking and enjoying nature.

Sincerely,

George S. Poehlman, MD, MPH

OWASA's response:

Dear Dr. Poehlman,

Thank you for sharing your views on the potential for the MST to run through OWASA property. I know my fellow board members value this input. As you probably understand already, the OWASA board of directors will discuss the MST on August 25th at Chapel Hill Town Hall. We welcome your participation.

Thanks,
John
Chair, OWASA Board of Directors

August 11

Mike and Bea Keller

We just wanted to go on record to say that we think using OWASA land for the MST trail is a wonderful idea. We realize that there are always security concerns when it comes to an area's water supply but feel that there are ways to deal with that aspect (electronic surveillance, physical barriers etc.).

Thank you,

Mike & Bea Keller

August 11

Tom Kenan

Dear Greg,

I can't attend the meeting but I am sure your team will ensure that the water shed and the lake is well protected from trash and litter that could be discarded if many people use the trail. You have always been my best contact at OWASA . You do a great job of informing the public.

Best wishes,

Tom Kenan

OWASA's response:

Dear Mr. Kenan:

Thank you very much for your e-mail. We will share it with the OWASA Board.

Please feel free to get in touch whenever you have a question, request or comments for us in the future.

Best regards,

Greg Feller, OWASA Public Affairs

Glen Greenstreet

I wanted to express my support for the efforts to plan a suitable route for the MST through Orange County, and my optimism that the Trail is compatible with, and indeed complimentary to the OWASA lands and the community surrounding the Cane Creek Reservoir, as well as to OWASA's mission. I would like to share the following thoughts:

- It's a classic tenant of environmentalism that folks will value the places and spaces they experience. I think when the community experiences a trail in proximity to the reservoir they will SEE how meaningful and important the land and water are and better understand at a gut level the importance of the work OWASA does…why it all matters. I also think it will help the greater Orange County community understand the value of our rural lands and neighborhoods… and that benefits everyone.
- Last fall at an OWASA Board meeting, I heard both sincerity and resignation during a discussion of OWASA leadership's desire to support those in the community with limited economic resources. It was made clear in the discussion that OWASA is bound by State utility regulations and limited in using its rate structure to accomplish this goal. I wanted to point out that hosting a section of the Trail would be a tangible way OWASA can help offer a meaningful resource to community members across the whole spectrum of economic status. (Note that the MST passes right through Hillsborough and, as such, is accessible from all manner of public transportation.)
- I appreciate the importance of OWASA's responsibility to assess how/if a functioning trail will work in conjunction with maintaining and protecting the reservoir. I respect that staff and expert resources should and will examine the mechanics of such. I have to say that, intuitively from a lay-persons point of view and knowing how many established, successful foot paths co-exist with near-by bodies of water…and how much effort has gone into developing Best Practices for trail design in the last thirty years…I have to believe this is a do-able task. Myself and my family drink OWASA water every day; I have no concern that the trail jeopardizes the quality of that water.
- I can see the fairness issue…and even just the plain self interest for OWASA…of having good relationships with property owners and residents in proximity to any OWASA property or activity. I appreciate staff acting with Board guidance and community input to navigate and define "Good Neighbor" terms for any activity OWASA is associated with, and to use every opportunity to create the best possible outcomes. I do, however, think it is also fair-minded to say that the definition of "Good Neighbor" should be an aggregate of community standards rather than the opinion of an individual or individuals lobbying for a specific outcome on their own behalf. Being familiar with the type of trail being proposed and with much of the Cane Creek property, I am optimistic that the trail, its intended use, and its impacts can be hosted on the property in a manner that is reasonable for all stakeholders.

- Good planning and good leadership are not synonymous with omniscience. It would be disheartening to see the OWASA Board disqualify themselves from a leadership role in establishing a place for the MST in our community on the grounds that you all cannot know and control every possible event or circumstance that will ever take place on the Trail. I have no harsh words for those asking questions or expressing fears during the planning process…and indeed these types of discussions seem to take place whenever there is change in our personal worlds. But I can "predict" as many fortuitous "might-happens" from a trail being built as anyone else can predict the opposite. How many neighbors will help neighbors as they come and go to use a trail? How many good Samaritans will be in the right place at the right time to help a stranger in need or discover a problem that, but for their attention, would have escalated or brought harm to the community? In the absence of meaningful comparisons, models, and assessments, those lines of thought are all speculative. If public leadership grinds to a halt in the face of any unknown, there would be no public domain anywhere…ever. So I encourage you to be thoughtful about what REASONABLE measures by which you hold yourselves accountable…and, as such, what defines reasonable and prudent standards for the viability and design of the Trail.

I am optimistic about this whole project, from the quality and depth of the resources guiding it, to the folks that want to embrace it, and all the way through to imagining its impacts in years to come when it has become a reality. I hope it can and will be part of your vision for OWASA.

Thanks for your consideration,

Glen Greenstreet

OWASA's response:

Dear Mr. Greenstreet,

Thank you for sharing your views on the potential for the MST to run through OWASA property. I know my fellow board members value this input. We welcome your participation at the OWASA board meeting on August 25th at Chapel Hill Town Hall.

Thanks,
John
Chair, OWASA Board of Directors

August 15

Eddie Mann

To The Board: Often proposals have come before the Board that although they have a measure of support they are not good for the protection of our Reservoir. Sometimes it has taken a measure of.courage to stand in principle against a proposal, but that is the right thing to do in many instances.

The most important responsibility of serving on the OWASA Board, in my judgment, is to protect the water quality. Every time we open up the Reservoir to another use we are exposing it to potential abuse of the water supply, although it might be unintentional and subtle. Those of us serving on the Board at the time the Reservoir was constructed knew that by including recreation as a permitted use we would open the door to a never ending series of requests from various agencies for this use. I believe that a possible good step to take at this time as we consider the request for a trail across the property for hiking purposes is to get an Environmental Impact Study to learn of the various impacts that will be involved. This will cost some time and money, but it will allow for an impartial assessment of the proposal. It will protect the Reservoir, and it will protect the OWASA Board members in their water quality protection responsibility.

Personally, I remain opposed to this project. Ours is a big state, and there are many possible locations for the MTS Trail. It is not necessary to include the OWASA location in order to make the Trail a successful venture. Some locations publicly want the Trail in their area, for example Hillsborough. It is better to select locations such as this for the Trail. We must protect our water quality first and foremost.

Another concern is the invasive aspect of locating the Trail in our immediate community. Having the Trail as it is proposed will expose those of us who live in the immediate area to unwanted intrusion by strangers on a continuous and ongoing basis. It is not understood how the Trail will be controlled as to the numbers and hours of usage of the Trail. It is my understanding that the neighbors to the Reservoir who are property owners are in the great majority opposed to the Trail coming to our area. With this opposition, it is difficult to see how the Trail is even feasible, as it will be necessary to get cooperation from certain property owners to gain actual physical access to the OWASA property where the Trail is projected to go.. We know from experience that such controversies breed lawsuits. For example the application for a permit from the Corps of Engineers to dam up the Cane Creek was delayed some seven years because of a lawsuit. It's no small thing.

Those of you serving on the OWASA Board are to be commended for your willingness to take such a responsibility as to oversee our water supply. I thank you for your willingness to do this.

Eddie Mann

OWASA's response:

Hello Mr. Mann,

Thank you for sharing your views on the potential for the MST to run through OWASA property. I want to acknowledge that the board members received your email. I know my fellow board members value this input, especially given your years of leadership at OWASA and in the community. As you probably understand already, the OWASA board of directors will discuss the MST on August 25th at Chapel Hill Town Hall. We welcome your participation.

Thanks,

John
Chair, OWASA Board of Directors

Loren Davis

Dear Board,

As a resident and homeowner in Carrboro, I wish to voice my support for the proposed Mountains-to-Sea Trail. Once the trail is completed, I doubt that there will be much impact on OWASA property.

In fact, likely the most impact in our area, is the highway and bridge that cross the end of University Lake. I also support the establishment of a nature trail at University Lake created in cooperation with UNC.

Sincerely,
Loren Davis

OWASA's response:

Hello Loren,

Thank you for sharing your views on the potential for the MST to run through OWASA property. I want to acknowledge that the board members received your letter. I know my fellow board members value this input. As you probably understand already, the OWASA board of directors will discuss the MST on August 25th at Chapel Hill Town Hall. We welcome your participation.

Thanks,
John
Chair, OWASA Board of Directors

August 17

Bill Boyarsky

Dear OWASA Board members

I spoke briefly at the last meeting, but will be out of town for the Aug 25th meeting, so am submitting my input by email.

I am a 40 year resident of northern Orange County (having spent most of the rest of my life in Durham County), an avid hiker, and a regular volunteer with the 'Friends' of the MST. I have worked as a FMST volunteer for years on the MST in Guilford, Alamance. Orange, Durham and Wake counties.

In addition to your mission of providing clean water to Orange County citizens, you are also the steward of a significant parcel of public land which is in a strategic location to further the MST.

Following the excellent set of guidelines suggested by your staff would enable the MST to transverse the OWASA land with no measurable impact on the quality of your water.

In addition, it would open the land for use previously unavailable. I suspect even the vocal few who are protesting this usage would welcome increased availability of those land resources (for themselves).

In addition to providing in the near term a beautiful trail, it would have a massive impact on future connections. The very large swath of land that is southwest Orange County currently is an amorphous 'target'. A trail on OWASA land would focus future easement acquisition and possible land purchases, with the new OWASA connection points.

I'd like to speak a bit to some of the objections I've heard at the several meetings I've attended.

The fears (littering, fire, and crime) expressed by the vocal few are 'real', but should be viewed in proper perspective.

I am the adopt-a-highway coordinator for my road, so adopted for almost 20 years. I am no stranger to the blight of littering. I have done my share of trash pickup on parts of the MST, and can attest that trash is not a major problem out on the trail. Truthfully, it sometimes is more common at the access points, just like it is on my road (litterers are a sad fact of life). The FMST volunteers regularly add trash pickup to their list of tasks: littering is just another problem to be managed, and it works.

The fear of fire is real. I live on 16 acres, mostly woods close up to my wood house, heated with wood stoves. For the first 10 years we were out here we were not part of a rural fire district. I have helped fight two multi-acre wildfires, both on windy days and both within 1/2 mile of my house (both started by careless neighbors, burning trash). I've had two nearby neighbors' houses burn to the ground (both electrical 'freak' accidents). I get the fear of fire....but I also keep it in pespective.

The compelling fact about crime and fire is how very rare those events are, as attributed to users of the MST. I submit that a very, very small chance of such an adverse event, is not a compelling reason to deny a project that otherwise has massive, and permanent benefits to our state.

I am 68 years old, and will not live to see the MST completed across the state. But having helped complete it across Durham County, I sure would love to do the same for Orange County. I'll be on hand if y'all give the go-ahead..

Thanks for your consideration.

Bill Boyarsky

OWASA's response:

Hello Mr. Boyarsky,

Thank you for sharing your views on the potential for the MST to run through OWASA

property via this email and your comments at the June meeting. I know my fellow board members value this input.

Thanks,
John
Chair, OWASA Board of Directors

Chris Lutes

I'm a Bingham Twp resident and I support OWASA hosting the Mt to sea trail.

OWASA's reply:

Dear Mr. Lutes:

Thank you very much for your comments about the Mountains-To-Sea Trail and OWASA land.

We shared your e-mail with the OWASA Board.

We also encourage you to attend and participate in the Board's meeting on August 25th, when the Board will receive additional comments. The Board will meet at 7 PM in the Chapel Hill Town Hall, 405 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.

Comments in Board meetings are limited to 4 minutes, but more detailed comments are welcome by letter, e-mail, etc.

Sincerely,

Greg Feller, OWASA Public Affairs
919 537 4267

August 19

Jean Earnhardt

My family and I fully support the plan to allow MST and Orange County to build this section of the trail on the Cane Creek Reservoir.

We have known Kate Dixon for 20-some years, going back to the days she was the executive director of the Triangle Land Conservancy. She is devoted to appropriate land use; any plan she has a part in developing will be well thought out and carefully executed. We trust her judgement completely.

Please support the addition of this link in the MST. We'd be proud to have Orange County as a part of this visionary project.

Sincerely,

Jean A. Earnhardt and family

OWASA's reply:

Hello Jean,

Thank you for sharing your views on the potential for the MST to run through OWASA property. I want to acknowledge that the board members received your letter. I know my fellow board members value this input. As you probably understand already, the OWASA board of directors will discuss the MST on August 25th at Chapel Hill Town Hall. We welcome your participation.

Thanks,
John
Chair, OWASA Board of Directors

August 20

Winston and Caroline Dean

Dear Ms. Rouse,

We are unable to attend the OWASA Board meeting scheduled for August 25, 2016. As property owners who would be adversely affected by the Mountains-To-Sea Trail on OWASA property, we would appreciate it if you would convey to the Board Members our opposition to the proposal as set forth below. Thank you.

Since 1974, we have owned 18 acres of undeveloped real estate that has substantial frontage on Apple Mill Road in Efland, North Carolina. This property is contiguous to Apple Mill Pond and Cane Creek Reservoir. Each year we pay a substantial amount of property tax to Orange County. This year the tax bill is $1,586. Since we do not live in Orange County, we do not use county services. We do expect, however, that OAWSA would take appropriate action to protect the Cane Creek Reservoir, OWASA property, and the property of nearby taxpayers from unnecessary and detrimental endeavors.

The primary function of the reservoir is to provide a source of safe water for the citizens of Orange County. The establishment of a trail on OWASA property would inevitably result in trash, erosion, camp fires, and other untoward activities that would be extremely detrimental to the primary purpose of the reservoir. Furthermore, a trail on OWASA-controlled land would, without a doubt, result in illegal trespassing on the nearby private property of taxpaying owners. Such trespass is not idle speculation. When the reservoir was completed and Apple Mill Road was severed, that part of the road nearest Apple Mill Pond and our property became a favorite location for people to party and throw their refuse on our land and defile Tom's Creek, Apple Mill Pond, and the Cane Creek Reservoir. With the help of the neighboring land owner, we managed to get the section of Apple Mill Road nearest the reservoir designated as private property and block vehicle entrance to the reservoir. This action did not completely solve the

issue, but it did ameliorate some of the problems. We do not need to repeat this experience by having a trail established in the area that would obviously result in even greater problems.

Finally,it cannot be gainsaid that OWASA lacks the resources to monitor and enforce adequately any regulations that may pertain should a trail be approved. **For these reasons, we adamantly oppose any proposal to authorize a Mountains-To-Sea trail on property owned or controlled by OWASA**. If you have any questions or concerns about these comments, you may contact us at 301-871-1409 or via e-mail at metalcard@comcast.net.

Thank you for your careful consideration of our position on this important issue.

Winston J. Dean, J.D., M.P.H.

Caroline P. Dean, J.D.

> ***OWASA's reply:***
>
> *Hello Mr. and Ms. Dean,*
>
> *Thank you for sharing your views on the potential for the MST to run through OWASA property. I want to acknowledge that the board members received your letter. I know my fellow board members value this input.*
>
> *Thanks,*
> *John*
> *Chair, OWASA Board of Directors*

Kevin Swain

While I know that you get special interest group requests all the time, I do hope you will allow the Mountains to the Sea Trail to pass through to Oconeechee Mountain State Park from Alamance County. Like most trails, the MST has had a history of safety and responsible users who care for the right of way. The MST club organizes trail maintenance days and to keep it safe and useable. While the trail would go through sensitive ecological areas, I know that people using the trail are using it to see the beauty of our state.

As an elementary school teacher, promoting our state's history, natural resources, and parks and ecological areas to our students helps them feel connected and responsible for our state's future. Getting students to actually see and use the trail would go a long way to help ensure our land is protected in the future. If the students have been through the protected areas, they will be willing to do what they can as future leaders to keep the land safe from overdevelopment.

Help the citizens of Orange County promote good stewardship of our lands by allowing the MST to continue here for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Kevin Swain

August 21

Mike Kelley

Dear OWASA Board Members,

As a long term citizen of Orange County, I am writing to urge you to support construction of the MST trail at Cane Creek. Friends of MST has worked hard to design a reasonable plan for the trail that carefully and adequately considers concerns of Orange County residents, including privacy of neighbors of the proposed trail, water quality, and environmental considerations.

An Orange County MST would provide opportunity for healthful recreation and enhance the community feel of our county. This segment of trail is an essential link in the 1000 mile state-wide trail. Walkers, hikers, runners, and cyclists will all enjoy the scenic beauty around Cane Creek. Many communities throughout North Carolina have enjoyed enhanced desirability after completion of similar trails, including the spectacular Eno River trail in HIllsborough.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mike Kelley

cc: CHTC, CBOA, OCBOC

> ***OWASA's reply:***
>
> *Hello Mr. Kelley,*
>
> *Thank you for sharing your views on the potential for the MST to run through OWASA property. I want to acknowledge that the board members received your letter. I know my fellow board members value this input. As you probably understand already, the OWASA board of directors will discuss the MST on August 25th at Chapel Hill Town Hall. We welcome your participation.*
>
> *Thanks,*
> *John*
> *Chair, OWASA Board of Directors*

August 22

Margaret McCann

I recently kayaked at Cane Creek Reservoir for the first time. What a beautiful area! I am thrilled that the Mountains-to-the Sea trail could make the area more accessible. This is public land and therefore it is imperative that the use of the land be maximized for the public.

I have lived across the road from one of the busiest access points for Duke Forest (on Whitfield Road) for 30 years. My neighborhood has never experienced the various problems that naysayers to the MST bring up repeatedly.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of the issues. I hope that you will approve the MST path through Cane Creek Reservoir land.

Best wishes,
Margaret McCann

OWASA's response:

Hello Ms. McCann,

Thank you for sharing your views on the potential for the MST to run through OWASA property. I want to acknowledge that the board members received your letter. I know my fellow board members value this input. As you probably understand already, the OWASA board of directors will discuss the MST on August 25th at Chapel Hill Town Hall. We welcome your participation.

Thanks,
John
Chair, OWASA Board of Directors

Nancy Luberoff

I am writing to you to provide input for your meeting on August 25, when you will vote on whether to allow a portion of the Mountains to Sea Trail to be built on Cane Creek Reservoir land. I am very sorry that I won't be able to attend the meeting in person.

I strongly urge you to allow the trail on the beautiful land of Cane Creek Reservoir. As an avid hiker and Orange County resident, I am certain that the trail can be constructed so that it protects water quality, preserves the quiet and privacy of neighbors, and becomes a beloved gem in our county.

I am very concerned that a small group of very vocal landowners will block the construction of this vitally important trail, a critical link connecting our state via the Mountains to Sea Trail. I am disappointed that Orange County lags so far behind other counties in creating trails to help complete the Mountains to Sea Trail.

I am an avid hiker, and try to hike on trails that are no more than 30 minutes from my home in Chapel Hill. I've enjoyed beautiful hikes at Eno River State Park, Occoneechee Mountain State Natural Area, the Riverwalk in Hillsborough, the Occoneechee Speedway trail, and many miles of the Mountains to Sea Trail in Durham and Wake Counties.

Along the way, I've found tranquility in nature, good exercise, and some of the most wonderful people. The trails are incredibly friendly places, and everyone I meet is appreciative of the beauty, peace, and accessibility of these trails. I've experienced so many instances of great kindness on the trails – helping with directions, sharing water, helping when someone is hurt, helping to carry children, and just great conversation and connection. I've met people I would never otherwise meet in my regular daily life. I've never felt unsafe on these trails.

I will be so happy to be able to hike from Hillsborough to the Haw River! A trail on Cane Creek Reservoir will be vital to creating this link. I will be so proud to welcome hikers from North Carolina, from around the country, and from around the world, to the beauty of the trails at Cane Creek Reservoir. I am ready and willing to volunteer to help maintain this trail and to serve as a trail "angel".

Please don't let the voices of a small minority prevent you from moving forward to open Cane Creek Reservoir to a community of respectful, nature-loving, friendly hikers.

Thank you for considering my input, and I hope your vote on August 25 will be in support of the trail.

Sincerely,

Nancy Luberoff

OWASA's response:

Hello Ms. Luberoff,

Thank you for sharing your views on the potential for the MST to run through OWASA property. I want to acknowledge that the board members received your letter. I know my fellow board members value this input.

Thanks,
John
Chair, OWASA Board of Directors

Bonnie Yankaskas

How wonderful for Orange County to have MST come through. We will be on the map as supporting outdoor healthy living, and clean recreation. Please support letting MST pass through the Cane Creek Reservoir land. I am a kayaker who often uses the Cane Creek Reservoir, and I have no reservations at all as to the effect of the trail on this pristine area. Having also been on many parts of the MTS trail, I have never seen it that crowded, or seen vandalism or even trash. I think most who want to see it go through love the outdoors and respect it. It would be a shame for OWASA to put a kink in the progress of the MST when our neighbors are enthusiastically supporting it through other parcels in Orange County.

Thank you for doing the right thing.

Bonnie C Yankaskas

OWASA's reply:

Hello Ms. Yankaskas,

Thank you for sharing your views on the potential for the MST to run through OWASA property. I want to acknowledge that the board members received your letter. I know my fellow board members value this input. As you probably understand already, the OWASA board of directors will discuss the MST on August 25th at Chapel Hill Town Hall. We welcome your participation.

Thanks,
John
Chair, OWASA Board of Directors

August 23

Joanie Alexander

I live in Hillsborough east of town along the Eno river. The trail goes by my property. I hear voices and see people and dogs passing along the trail and it pleases me to know they are enjoying the trail and surroundings. Though the trail is across the river there is an easy log crossing by my house and rte 70 bridge two blocks away. It has never occurred to me that trail walkers would cause me problems. In fact I offer camping to through hikers. There have been some robberies in my neighborhood but not trail related. Riverwalk runs through Hillsborough, near many homes. I have not heard anyone speak of problems from trail trekkers.

Food for Thought re Trust -
https://www.ted.com/talks/joe_gebbia_how_airbnb_designs_for_trust/transcript?language=en

Joanie Alexander
Hillsborough
FMST volunteer
Eno River Assoc volunteer
ERSP trail steward

OWASA's response:

Hello Ms. Alexander,

Thank you for sharing your views on the potential for the MST to run through OWASA property. I want to acknowledge that the board members received your letter. I know my fellow board members value this input. As you probably understand already, the OWASA

board of directors will discuss the MST on August 25th at Chapel Hill Town Hall. We welcome your participation.

Thanks,
John
Chair, OWASA Board of Directors

Carl Shy

My name is Carl Shy. My wife and I are long-time owners of land adjacent to OWASA Cane Creek Reservoir property. I would like to suggest that there are five compelling reasons for the Board to approve the request to have the MST trail pass through the Reservoir property.

Firstly and most importantly to the mission of OWASA, the trail will have no adverse impact on water quality. There are many public trails that pass through public water supply reservoirs, including trails in the Charlottesville, VA reservoir, the Quabain reservoir serving the metropolitan Boston area, and others. None of these public trails have been shown to have an adverse impact on those water supplies or watersheds.

Secondly, the proposed section of the MST trail through the Cane Creek Reservoir property is an essential and key link between the MST trail in southeastern Alamance County along the Haw River, and the Hillsborough Riverwalk, then continuing on through the Eno River trail to join up with existing segments of the MST trail in Durham and Wake Counties.

Thirdly, the Cane Creek Reservoir property was purchased with public funds. It is appropriate that this land be further used for the common good of the citizens of Orange County, since this can be done with appropriate safeguards for the watershed.

Fourthly, allowing the trail to pass through this OWASA property will give the public access to an area of extraordinary beauty, with densely forested and rolling hillsides and occasional views of the lake. This will greatly increase the attractiveness of southwestern Orange County for public recreation and hiking, and will make this part of the county a part of the State Recreational and Park System.

Fiftly, Orange County is only one of 30 North Carolina counties selected to be part of the Mountain to Sea Trail. A state bond has been approved for the MST, and state funds will be distributed to Orange County to support the trail here. The economy of Orange County will surely benefit in several ways.

I wish to call the Board's attention to the fact that some 600 miles of the MST already exists, and that issues such as crime, fire hazard, and property liability are not problems for the many residents who live next to the existing trail. Based on secondary information, it is reported that most MST neighbors are fully accepting of the trail.

Thank you, and on behalf of the many Orange County residents who will benefit from the existence of the trail through the Cane Creek Reservoir property, I urge you to vote in favor of the MST request.

Read more here: http://www.newsobserver.com/news/local/community/chapel-hill-news/chn-opinion/article47972450.html#storylink=cpy

OWASA's response:

Hello Mr. Shy,

Thank you for sharing your views on the potential for the MST to run through OWASA property. I want to acknowledge that the board members received your letter. I know my fellow board members value this input. As you probably understand already, the OWASA board of directors will discuss the MST on August 25th at Chapel Hill Town Hall. We welcome your participation.

Thanks,
John
Chair, OWASA Board of Directors

Jennifer Miller

Please include my words in the public record regarding the issue of the MST trail crossing through lands included in the Cane Creek Reservoir.

The reservoir was built for public use and public health. Lands close to water should be free to the public to walk through and enjoy. The MST philosophy of "leave no waste and do no harm" is best suited for areas such as the Cane Creek Reservoir lands. Please don't stop something beautiful from occurring. A mountain to sea trail allows people to hope and to dream.

Thank you,

Jennifer Miller

OWASA's response:

Hello Ms. Miller,

Thank you for sharing your views on the potential for the MST to run through OWASA property. I want to acknowledge that the board members received your letter. I know my fellow board members value this input. As you probably understand already, the OWASA board of directors will discuss the MST on August 25th at Chapel Hill Town Hall. We welcome your participation.

Thanks,

John
Chair, OWASA Board of Directors

August 24

Linda Schoonover Smith

Attached is my letter of support for the proposal to route the Mountains-to-Sea Trail through OWASA property.

Thank you for all of your hard work on this issue.

Sincerely

Linda Schoonover Smith

Text of letter:

August 24, 2016

Dear Mr. Chairman and Board Members:

Like many of my neighbors, I support the proposal to route the NC Mountains- to-Sea Trail through OWASA property. My support is based on many reasons, but here are three which have not yet been highlighted in the discussion of this issue.

1. Routing the MST through OWASA property would increase recreational opportunities in our rural area and thereby encourage a public health strategy of health promotion and disease prevention. Health promotion and disease prevention was a significant focus of my career as a nurse practitioner and Associate Professor of Nursing at UNC. Data from the 2015 Orange County Community Health Assessment speak to the need for our adults and high school students to get more exercise and attain healthy weights. Surveyed residents wanted walking and hiking trails, and believed that these would have a positive effect on their physical and mental health and well being. The Parks and Recreation Facility Locator Map for Orange County shows that 42 parks and recreation facilities are clustered around towns or cities and are mainly located in Hillsborough or Chapel Hill. The rural southwest corner of Orange County has a lack of parks and recreational activities, especially in the non-town areas, and could be described as a desert of recreational opportunities. One of our former Thunder Mountain residents who was a supporter of the MST in 2012 stated it so eloquently in 2012:

"I am personally in favor of the trail as is (husband). We would love an opportunity to walk in the shade without cars, bicyclists, etc. I have walked on many Orange County trails and have never encountered any problems with the trails. They are very well maintained and people do not party on them."

Most of us who walk on Bradshaw Quarry Road and other nearby roads for exercise agree with her. Routing the MST through OWASA property offers an inexpensive, accessible, convenient, and safer way to exercise and relax in order to maintain and improve our health.

2. Routing the MST through OWASA property would encourage increased connectivity between people in our rural area. We are a unique community with many different types of people who are interesting, and unique, but when we see each other it is usually at the mailbox or the waste recycling center. The MST can create community and it already has. The MST has brought many of our neighbors to the discussion table and some have already become friends. It would be delightful to have a place to see and greet each other and socialize while improving our health. Whenever we do get together in our rural area, people always say "we should get together more often." It would be lovely to see our neighbors of all ages on the trail. Social connections between people and neighbors could be fostered in a number of ways. Trail users and builders could have monthly trail walks, work days and pot lucks and celebrations. The trail could be a place which builds social bonds between families and loved ones. And, the local scout troops could get involved in trail building and maintenance.

3. Routing the MST through OWASA property offers users an opportunity to connect with the natural world. Due to our fast paced lives, technological attachments, and daily responsibilities, connection with the natural world is being lost. This is especially true for our youth. The MST offers our young people and students of all ages the opportunity to enter the natural world and experience its positive benefits.

Literature is growing on the positive effect of exposure to the natural world on student education. Routing the MST through the OWASA property would offer students time in the natural world which could inspire their creativity, stimulate their imagination, brighten their observation ability and provide them with opportunity for inquiry and discovery as they exercise. Many authors in this area of educational research believe that direct experience in nature is critical to a student's development--intellectually, socially, spiritually, physically and mentally.

In 2015, Dr. Scott Morrison, Assistant Professor of Education at Elon University told of orchestrating a class field trip into a regional park. Upon entering the woods, one student became upset. When the teacher went to investigate, the student told him, 'I am afraid of going into the woods.' When asked why, the student said that their playground sign at school stated, 'Stay on the playground and do not go into the woods.' That Alamance student had never been in the natural woods before. Shouldn't all of our students have that opportunity?

On a personal note, our twin daughters, now 26 years old, grew up on Thunder Mountain, exploring the beauty and intricacies of the natural world around them. As graduates of the International Baccalaureate Program at Cedar Ridge High School, they incorporated their knowledge and experiences into their high school work and later into their college work. One daughter is now a 5th grade science and math teacher in Asheville. As a result of her exposures to nature as a youth, her students are becoming learners about the important complex interrelationships of the natural world. Her twin is now an architect in Raleigh. When she graduated from her program in architecture at NCSU, her Chairperson told me that her childhood and youth experiences in the natural world heavily influenced her sensibility and artistic vision in both design and architecture. I never predicted that. Their cousin, who grew up in Miami, also visited and explored Thunder Mountain and then went on to tour our national parks. She was the first student to graduate from Duke's Nicholas School of the Environment with a degree in both

Forestry and Environmental Science and Toxicology. Recently graduated, she works at Duke as Coordinator for National Geographic's Big Cats Initiative. She also works to develop stewardship in her family's Miami company by planting trees in Third World countries to offset carbon. What caused these three young women to apply and integrate their interests in the natural world into their life's work? Was it parental bribes? Recessive genes? My bias is that the chief determinant was repetitive exposure to the natural world which created an ever evolving appreciation and respect for the planet, its ecosystems, and biodiversity which sustain all of us. For a young person to be exposed to the natural world, study its contents, marvel at its beauty, and see its interrelationships is to begin to help that young person to become a creature of conservation, a user of trails, parks, and wild areas over their life, a citizen who cares about becoming a steward of the land, one who cares about our ecosystems and biodiversity, a consumer of public water who understands its source and the need to protect the watersheds that ensure its supply and quality, and other benefits yet to be imagined. Surely, North Carolina and America needs such citizens and OWASA can help to bring that about.

In closing, I want to thank you for your work, for listening to every voice at the table, and for helping to facilitate constructive dialogue among all concerned parties.

In much appreciation and gratitude,

Linda Schoonover Smith

> ***OWASA's response:***
>
> *Hello Ms. Smith,*
>
> *Thank you for sharing your views on the potential for the MST to run through OWASA property. I want to acknowledge that the board members received your letter. I know my fellow board members value this input. As you probably understand already, the OWASA board of directors will discuss the MST tomorrow, August 25th, at Chapel Hill Town Hall. We welcome your participation.*
>
> *Thanks,*
> *John*
> *Chair, OWASA Board of Directors*

William and Patricia Frey

I'm sorry that we won't be able to attend the upcoming meeting to consider the Mountain-to-Sea Trail in southern Orange County.

My wife and I have lived on Bradshaw Quarry Road near Cane Creek for almost 30 years. We support the building of the Mountain-to-Sea Trail through our neighborhood.

We understand the concerns about safety and security expressed by other residents who oppose the Trail. Our opinion is that nothing in life is guaranteed. Living without taking any risk isolates

us rather than connects us; it diminishes us rather than enriches us. Trails such as the one proposed have been built in many other locations without loss of property or life, so we feel the risks of concern to some residents are worth taking. The chance of a mishap is quite small, while the benefit to all of our citizens is great. We recently walked on similar trails in England and found a peaceful coexistence between the landowners and the hikers.

We understand that no one will be forced to accept the Trail. People will still exercise their right to object. I would hope that those who object would not stand in the way of those, like us, who would like to see the Trail completed as a State treasure.

If the Trail is built, we would definitely use it and support its presence in our neighborhood.

Thank you for listening to the varied opinions.

Sincerely,

William and Patricia Frey

> ***OWASA's response:***
>
> *Hello Mr. Frey,*
>
> *Thank you for sharing your views on the potential for the MST to run through OWASA property. I want to acknowledge that the board members received your email. I know my fellow board members value this input.*
>
> *Thanks,*
> *John*
> *Chair, OWASA Board of Directors*

Emily Jack

I'm writing in support of the proposal to build a section of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail on OWASA land near the Cane Creek Reservoir. I'm an OWASA customer in Chapel Hill and a longtime supporter of the MST. I was thrilled to learn about the proposal to build this section so close by, and I'd love to see the proposal be approved. This particular parcel of land would be a great way for Orange County to put its best features forward. MST supporters across the state will be watching this vote; I'd love for them to see OWASA and Orange County as a willing part of this wonderful collaborative effort.

Best regards,

Emily Jack

OWASA's response:

Hello Ms. Jack,

Thank you for sharing your views on the potential for the MST to run through OWASA property. I want to acknowledge that the board members received your letter. I know my fellow board members value this input. As you probably understand already, the OWASA board of directors will discuss the MST tonight

at Chapel Hill Town Hall. We welcome your participation.

Thanks,
John
Chair, OWASA Board of Directors

John Cates

catesbrosfarm@gmail.com

I am writing to voice my support for the approval of the MST and its request to route the trail through the Cane Creek Reservoir. My family has owned a farm off Orange Grove Road bordering the Cane Creek for generations. We are enthusiastic about The Mountain to Sea Trail and support its partnership with the NC State Parks to provide hiking trails across our wonderful state.

As a neighbor of the Cane Creek Reservoir, I am very excited about having the opportunity to hike through this beautiful landscape. I have always wanted to hike near the reservoir, however as I hike the Cane Creek from my property, I have encountered the OWASA "No Trespassing" signs. I know this is some of the most beautiful land in our state. While it is very nice to be able to picnic or rent boats at the OWASA recreational area, it is disappointing that there is no trail system to allow our citizens the opportunity to hike near the lake. I also like the idea of being able to get on the trail and hike to Saxapahaw or Hillsborough. As an Eagle Scout, hiker, and outdoor enthusiast, I understand the many benefits to the public of natural outdoor experiences. As someone who has hiked trails all around North Carolina, I can tell you that this section of the MST will be one of the most beautiful trails in North Carolina, and will be a public treasure.

As your neighbor, I not only request your support for this worthwhile project, but I also pledge my support of the trail through the Cane Creek Community. I stand ready to assist with the construction and maintenance of the MST through Orange County.

Thank you for time and consideration.

Sincerely,

John Cates

Cates Farm at Cane Creek

OWASA's response:

Hello Mr. Cates,

Thank you for sharing your views on the potential for the MST to run through OWASA property and also your pledge of support for the trail if plans are further developed. I want to acknowledge that the board members received your letter. I know my fellow board members value this input. As you probably understand already, the OWASA board of directors will discuss the MST tonight at Chapel Hill Town Hall. We welcome your participation.

Thanks,
John
Chair, OWASA Board of Directors

Bo Howes

The New Hope Audubon Society writes today to wholeheartedly support locating the Mountains-to-Sea Trail on OWASA property. Unfortunately, our organization has a meeting tonight at the same time as your public meeting on this issue. Were it not for this meeting, representatives of New Hope Audubon would have attended your meeting.

The conditions outlined in the 2009 letter to the Orange County Board of Commissioners that

- There is not compromise of the water quality in Cane Creek Reservoir
- There is no expenditure of OWASA funds
- Arrangements would be made to minimize any additional security risks associated with hikers using the property around the reservoir

seem reasonable to us. Further the excellent memo prepared by OWASA staff for today's meeting outlines extensive background research and thoughtful consideration of conditions to make the trail a safe and inviting place to hike.

Finally, we agree with the OWASA staff recommendation to adopt a resolution approving conditions for use of OWASA land for the Mountains-to-Sea Trail.

If you have any questions or need additional information, then please contact me at bohowes@gmail.com. Thank you for your consideration.

Cordially,

Bo Howes, President, New Hope Audubon Society

Pdf of Mr. Howes' letter

RESOLUTION APPROVING CONDITIONS FOR USE OF OWASA LAND FOR THE MOUNTAINS-TO-SEA TRAIL

WHEREAS, the Orange Water and Sewer Authority (OWASA) is a public, non-profit utility whose mission is to provide high quality and reliable water, wastewater, and reclaimed water services through responsible and creative stewardship of the resources we manage; and,

WHEREAS, OWASA's primary mission is to protect its water supply reservoirs, Cane Creek Reservoir and University Lake; and,

WHEREAS, OWASA land and conservation easements on private land in the Cane Creek watershed were acquired for watershed protection purposes to ensure a safe and high-quality supply of water in the Cane Creek Reservoir; and,

WHEREAS, Rules governing the protection of public water supplies at 15A NCAC 18C allow the use of trails around public water supplies; and,

WHEREAS, the Mountains-to-Sea Trail (MST) is a trail that will extend over 1000 miles from the Great Smoky Mountains to Jockey's Ridge State Park on the Outer Banks and is part of the State Parks System; and,

WHEREAS, various portions of the MST are managed by different groups or local governments, and Orange County is the lead group planning the MST in Orange County; and,

WHEREAS, in December 2009 the OWASA Board of Directors sent a letter to the Orange County Board of Commissioners which stated that OWASA would allow the use of its property in the vicinity of Cane Creek Reservoir as long as three conditions were met: (1) there is no compromise of water quality in Cane Creek Reservoir, and (2) there is no expenditure of OWASA funds, and (3) arrangements would be made to minimize any additional security risks associated with hikers using the property around the reservoir; and,

WHEREAS, in April 2010, the Orange County Board of Commissioners (BOCC) approved a trail planning corridor proposed by North Carolina State Parks after working through the multi-jurisdictional Intergovernmental Parks Work Group, and a portion of the planning corridor is located on OWASA land; and,

WHEREAS, the OWASA Board of Directors invited, received, and carefully considered public comment on the use of OWASA land for the MST on June 23, 2016 and August 25, 2016; and,

WHEREAS, the *Conditions for Mountains-to-Sea Trail on OWASA Land* meet the conditions for siting the MST on OWASA land provided by the OWASA Board of Directors in December 2009; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors has determined that the *Conditions for Mountains-to Sea Trail on OWASA Land* will sufficiently protect the Cane Creek Reservoir water supply and OWASA's property.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE OWASA BOARD OF DIRECTORS THAT:

1. OWASA will allow the MST on its land provided that the defined trail meets the conditions outlined in *Conditions for Mountains-to-Sea Trail on OWASA Land Near Cane Creek Reservoir*, attached hereto*;* and

2. The final trail alignment on OWASA land is subject to approval by the OWASA Board of Directors to ensure it meets the *Conditions for Mountains-to-Sea Trail on OWASA Land Near Cane Creek Reservoir*, attached hereto.

Adopted this 25th day of August, 2016.

_____
John A. Young, Chair

ATTEST:

_____
Barbara M. Foushee, Secretary

Conditions for Mountains-to-Sea Trail on OWASA Land Near Cane Creek Reservoir

Overview

OWASA land and conservation easements on private land in the Cane Creek watershed were acquired for watershed protection purposes to ensure a safe and high-quality supply of water in the Cane Creek Reservoir, the primary source of drinking water for the Carrboro-Chapel Hill community. Any use of OWASA-owned land must be done in such a way as to not negatively impact OWASA's core mission of watershed protection and be fully consistent with all applicable policies and requirements regarding use of OWASA's assets and resources.

Watershed Protection

The conditions included in this section are intended to protect the water quality in Cane Creek Reservoir. The rationale behind some of these conditions is provided:

- A protected 50 foot riparian buffer around streams and lakes is common. Cane Creek Reservoir is located within the Jordan Lake watershed, and rules to protect Jordan Lake include riparian buffer rules (15A NCAC 02B .0267). These rules do allow trails within 50 feet of a water body covered by the rule as long as there is no practicable alternative.
- Rules governing the protection of public water supplies (15A NCAC 18C .1201) do not allow recreational activities on the water of certain reservoirs without the permission of the Commission for Public Health or the Department of Environmental Quality. Under the agreement between OWASA and the Commission for Public Health, OWASA may allow boating and fishing (with specific restrictions) on Cane Creek Reservoir, but swimming and wading are explicitly excluded.
- One of the main causes of impairment of water quality nationally is from erosion and sedimentation. Allowing only a natural trail for hiking only; keeping the trail 50 feet from the lake; designing the trail to avoid streams, wetlands, and steep slopes when practicable; stabilizing slopes;

constructing the trail during dry periods; and following best practices to design, construct and maintain the trail will minimize the potential for sediment impacts to the reservoir.

The following conditions will help protect Cane Creek Reservoir.

1. The trail shall be a natural trail for hiking only.
2. Hikers must stay on the trail. Leaving the trail is considered trespassing.
3. No swimming or wading permitted.
4. No pets allowed. Service animals to assist those with disabilities are permitted on a leash.
5. There shall be signs on the trail where hikers enter OWASA land informing them of the trail use requirements.
6. The trail shall be no more than 3 feet wide and constructed of natural material (no impervious surfaces).
7. Trail planning, design, and construction should avoid removing large trees or rocks. Trees should be protected during construction.
8. The trail shall be at least fifty (50) feet from reservoir at normal pool elevation (500 feet).
9. There shall be no large motorized equipment used for trail construction.
10. The trail shall avoid wetlands and streams and where practicable, the trail shall be located fifty (50) feet from streams. When wetlands and streams cannot be avoided, cross them in narrower places and bridge the wetland/stream. Materials for bridges shall not contain materials that could leach and impact water quality. Bridge design shall not cause any upstream drainage issues.
11. There shall be no bridge crossings over portions of the Cane Creek Reservoir (lake conditions at normal pool elevation of 500 feet).
12. The trail shall avoid steep slopes; where this is not feasible, the trail shall be constructed and maintained in a manner to prevent erosion.
13. Trail construction will not cause sediment runoff to Cane Creek Reservoir or tributaries.
14. Construction near streams and wetlands shall be completed during dry periods.
15. Slopes shall be stabilized as soon as reasonably possible.

16. Best management practices regarding watershed protection and fire prevention shall be followed for trail planning, design, construction, operation and maintenance.
17. Any trash and food scraps must be packed out. No littering.

Minimize Risks from Trail Use

The conditions included in this section are intended to minimize additional risks from having hikers on OWASA property. The Agreement OWASA has with the Commission for Public Health (see more details in Watershed Protection section above) also has clauses which pertain to fishing, boating, and hunting as summarized below:

- Boating access is restricted to areas designated by OWASA, and thus the reservoir should not be accessed from areas other than from our public access location. This enables OWASA to inspect boats used on the reservoir to ensure they do not carry aquatic weeds, are clean and free of trash, meet US Coast Guard standards, and are in good physical condition for water worthiness and safety equipment. Only electric trolling motors are allowed, and must be secured to the boat in an approved manner with the battery secured in a battery box.
- Fishing is restricted to boats launched at OWASA's public access point when it is open, designated areas on OWASA docks, and designated bank areas at OWASA's public access point.
- No hunting or trapping is allowed on OWASA's land at the reservoir.

While the agreement is focused on the use of the reservoir, the agreement specifies boats cannot be within 150 feet of the water supply intake structure. This condition minimizes risk to the water supply and potential safety issues. Similarly, not allowing the trail near the dam, spillway, and other structures minimizes risk to the structures and potential safety issues for the public.

The agreement also states that the lake may only be open during daylight hours. Restricting use of the trail during daylight hours along with not allowing camping will minimize the risk from campfires. Prohibiting smoking minimizes the risk of a manmade forest fire as well.

In addition to the conditions in the agreement with the Commission with Public Health, there are other conditions staff believes are important for reducing risk. Establishing written procedures and training regarding rules, requirements and emergency management will enable OWASA and public safety officials and law enforcement to respond quickly and effectively in the event of an emergency.

The potential for issues will be greatest at trail heads and parking areas. Thus, OWASA will not permit a trail head or parking area to be located on its property.

Other conditions listed below will help prevent erosion and minimize the noise impacts from the trail for our neighbors.

The following conditions apply to minimize risks from the MST on OWASA land.

1. The trail hours will be from dawn to dusk.
2. No fires.
3. No camping.
4. No picnic areas.
5. No use of alcohol.
6. No smoking.
7. No fishing.
8. No hunting.
9. No horseback riding.
10. No use of drones except as may be permitted in accordance with the Federal Aviation Administration.
11. No boat launching.
12. No use of bicycles, motor bikes, ATVs or any other types of vehicles (barriers prohibiting such access may be required).
13. There shall be no access to the trail near the Cane Creek Reservoir Dam, spillway, or other OWASA facility/structure.
14. Trailheads and parking areas shall not be located on OWASA property.
15. Possession of weapons on these premises is prohibited, except by active law enforcement officers, or as may be allowed under a valid Concealed Carry Permit. The discharge of any firearm upon or into these premises is prohibited.
16. No threatening, assaultive, or abusive behavior or foul language.

17. Violation of any rule may result in legal action against the hiker(s).
18. Establish written procedures and training for enforcement of rules and requirements, emergency management including EMS, police, and fire for trail security and emergency response.

General

The general conditions also help protect Cane Creek Reservoir, minimize risks from hiking, minimize OWASA's costs, and reduce impacts to neighboring property owners.

1. The County or its designee shall obtain all necessary federal, state, and local permits.
2. Planning, design, construction, operation, maintenance and monitoring of the MST on OWASA land shall be the responsibility of the County or its designee and must be done in compliance with all federal, state, and local requirements. OWASA shall have the right to review design and construction plans prior to commencement of work on its land, and to stop work it deems not in compliance with its approvals.
3. The exact location of the trail on OWASA property will be approved by OWASA and it may be altered by OWASA if necessary either pre- or post-construction.
4. Existing restrictions on OWASA's lands may require approvals from agencies with interest in the property or co-owners to allow MST uses.
5. OWASA retains the right to manage its land.
6. OWASA retains the right to close the trail for safety and security reasons.
7. OWASA seeks a Memorandum of Agreement, Interlocal Agreement, and/or trail easement which outlines terms and conditions of the trail on our property. OWASA reserves the right to revoke the agreement.
8. OWASA prefers that the trail be a minimum of fifty (50) feet inside our property boundary to provide some screening to our neighbors. If this is not feasible, the County shall work with the neighboring property owner to develop terms and conditions on use of the trail that will minimize potential impacts to the property owner.

9. The County shall secure easements from private land owners adjacent to the trail endpoints on OWASA land prior to opening the trail on OWASA land.
10. No unauthorized removal of natural or cultural resources.

No Expenditure of OWASA funds

This condition meets the third requirement of OWASA Board of Directors' December 2009 letter supporting the use of OWASA land for the MST.

1. Consistent with its obligations and requirements, OWASA will not spend any funds for trail planning, design, construction, operation and maintenance, including the monitoring and enforcement of applicable requirements and regulations.

AGENDA ITEM

- Preliminary Twelve Month Financial Report For the Period Ended June 30, 2016

PURPOSE

- To inform the Board of Directors of OWASA's financial performance and fiscal position.

BACKGROUND

- The financial report consists of a Statement of Net Position, an Income Statement that includes a budget to actual comparison, graphical presentations of financial performance indicators and a Financial Management Policy Report Card.

- Highlights of the report include:

  - All financial performance targets were met.

  - Operating Revenues for the period were about $158,000 or 0.4% over budget.

  - Customer Fees (Service Availability Fees) exceeded budget for the period by approximately $438,000.

  - Operating Expenses were about $970,000 less than budget.

  - Net Income less Debt Service was 20% or roughly $1.6 million over budget.

  - Capital Improvement Program expenditures were about 29% less than budgeted for the period.

  - Capital equipment expenditures were under budget by approximately $540,000.

ACTION NEEDED

- Receive and discuss the Financial Report for the twelve month period ended June 30, 2016.

August 25, 2016

ORANGE WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY

A public, non-profit agency providing water, sewer and reclaimed water services to the Carrboro-Chapel Hill community.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Directors

THROUGH: Ed Kerwin

FROM: Stephen Winters, CPA

DATE: August 19, 2016

SUBJECT: Preliminary Twelve Month Financial Report for the Period Ended June 30, 2016

Purpose

The financial report for the twelve month period ended June 30, 2016 is presented to inform the Board of Directors of OWASA's financial position and financial performance in relation to budget.

Contents

- Statement of Net Position
- Income Statement
- Graphs of Key Performance Indicators
- Financial Management Policy Report Card

Fiscal Performance

- As shown on page 10 of the financial report, all financial performance measurement targets were met for the period.
- Average drinking water sales for the period was 6.03 million gallons per day (MGD), 6.20 was projected. Combined drinking and reclaimed water sales for the period averaged 6.63 MGD versus a projection of 6.95.
- Total Operating Revenue was 0.4% or about $158,000 over budget.
- Revenue from new system connections was over budget by about $438,000. Timing of meter sets is projected based on data available at the time of budget setting. The primary reason for being over budget is that several large meters that were anticipated to be installed in FY 2015 were delayed and spilled over into FY 2016.
- Total operating expenses for the period were under budget by about $970,000.
    - General and Administrative expenses were under budget by about $400,000. Consulting costs accounted for most of the variance. Costs associated with Energy Management, the Total Compensation Study, and the Long Range Water Supply Plan, in total, were under budget by about $325,000.
    - Expenses in Water Supply and Treatment were over budget by about $188,000. Chemical expenses were over budget due to raw water quality; abnormal rainfall resulted in higher organic carbon and turbidity. Lab costs were also greater than budget due to increased sampling at our lakes, in our storage tanks, and at customer sites. Overtime costs exceeded budget primarily as a

result of vacant operator positions.

- Water Distribution expenses were about $67,000 under budget. Most of the variance is attributable to construction projects performed by OWASA personnel which were more than what was budgeted for the twelve months. (Labor and other costs associated with construction projects performed by OWASA crews are capitalized and therefore reduce expenses of the department.)
- Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) expenses were about $550,000 under budget. Costs related to a consulting project related to our plant monitoring and control system were about $130,000 under budget. Maintenance costs were under budget by almost $200,000; due to extended absences of key staff, several planned maintenance projects did not take place. Continued optimization of WWTP operations resulted in lower Chemical and Electricity costs ($80,000 and $50,000 under budget, respectively). Waste disposal costs related to the biosolids program were under budget by $115,000 due to increasing the percentage of land-applied biosolids versus transporting it to a third-party for composting
- Sewer Collections department expenses were about $140,000 under budget. Lower than budgeted maintenance costs account for about $65,000 of the variance. Wages were under budget for the year by about $30,000 due to position vacancies and health insurance costs were about $21,000 under budget.

- Net Income less Debt Service for the period was approximately $1.6 million or 20% more than budget.
- Capital equipment expenditures were almost $540,000 under budget. Delivery of two pieces of equipment (a utility truck and a truck for cleaning sewers) costing approximately $465,000 that were scheduled to be purchased in FY 2016 was delayed. We will most likely need to amend the FY 2017 budget to account for these funds being expended in FY 2017 instead of FY 2016. IT equipment costs were under budget because of the decision to postpone purchase of a lab information management system pending evaluation of the functionality of the new supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) system.
- Capital Improvements Program (CIP) expenditures were $7.5 million for the year; this is net of about $407,000 in expenditures for the Rogers Road Sewer Extension Project (OWASA is being reimbursed for the project's costs).

  Detailed information on FY 2016 CIP projects is included in the Semi-annual CIP Status Report beginning on page six of the agenda for the August 25, 2016 Board meeting.



Stephen Winters, CPA
Director of Finance and Customer Service

Orange Water and Sewer Authority

Preliminary Financial Report
For the Twelve Month Period Ended
June 30, 2016

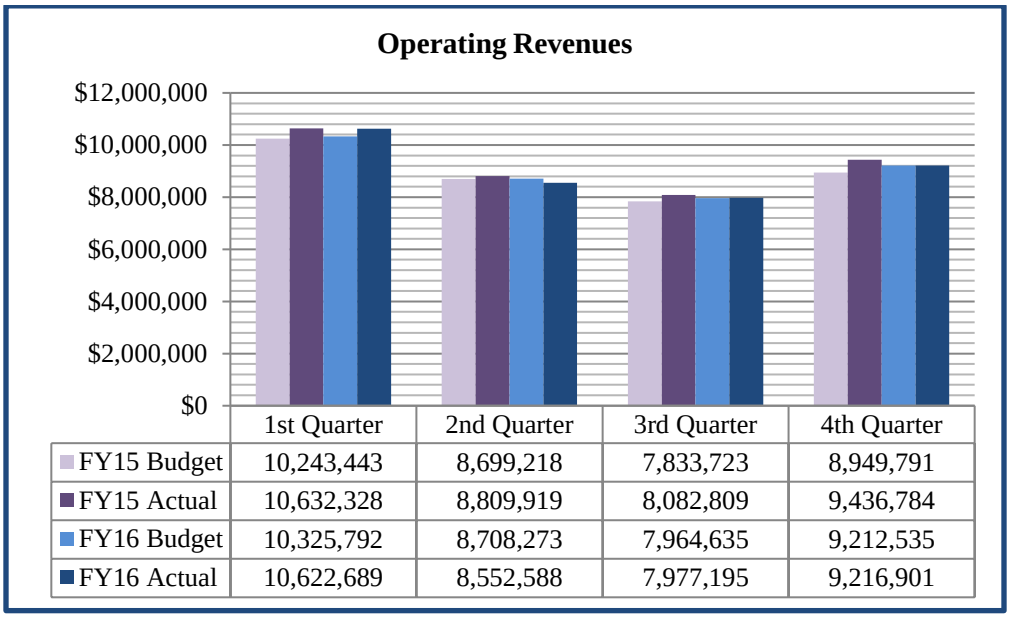
Orange Water and Sewer Authority
Statement of Net Position
June 30, 2016
(unaudited)

Assets	
Current Assets	
Cash	$27,872,710
Receivables	4,857,484
Inventory	892,145
Prepaid expenses	298,684
Restricted cash	7,193,045
Total Current Assets	41,114,068
Noncurrent Assets	
Capital assets (net of depreciation)	268,334,749
Other noncurrent assets	31,227,923
Total Noncurrent Assets	299,562,672
Total Assets	$340,676,740
Liabilities and Net Position	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	$3,538,975
Unearned income	214,972
Customer deposits	1,079,661
Total Current Liabilities	4,833,608
Noncurrent Liabilities	
Bonds payable	73,624,000
Other noncurrent liabilities	8,167,689
Total Noncurrent Liabilities	81,791,689
Net Position	
Contributed capital	115,628,125
Net position at the beginning of the year	131,762,085
Year-to-date accrual basis net income	6,661,233
Total Liabilities and Net Position	$340,676,740
Net income reconciliation:	
Accrual basis net income	$6,661,233
Depreciation, other post-employment benefits, and interest expense	11,304,816
Modified accrual basis net income	$17,966,049

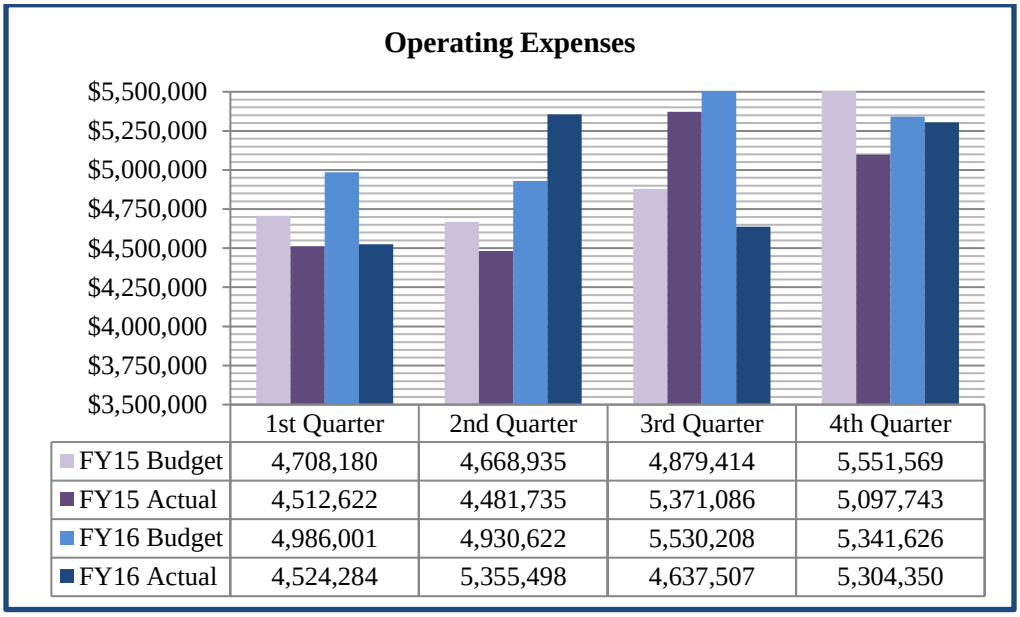
Orange Water and Sewer Authority
Income Statement
For the Twelve Month Period Ended June 30, 2016
(unaudited)

	Actual through June 30, 2016	Budget through June 30, 2016	Variance (effect on net change in Fund Balance)	Percent Variance
Operating Revenue:				
Water	$17,894,908	$17,990,169	($95,261)	-0.5%
Sewer	16,758,694	16,794,115	(35,421)	-0.2
Reclaimed Water	442,785	452,250	(9,645)	-2.1
Service Initiation Fees	169,660	158,421	11,239	7.1
Other	1,347,623	1,048,487	299,136	28.5
Refunds and Allowances	(244,297)	(232,207)	(12,090)	5.2
Total Operating Revenue	36,369,373	36,211,235	158,138	0.4
Non-operating Income:				
Customer Fees	1,397,652	959,582	438,070	45.7
Interest	20,663	34,571	(13,908)	(40.2)
Total Non-operating Income	1,418,315	994,153	424,162	42.7
Total Income	37,787,688	37,205,388	582,300	1.6
Operating Expense:				
General and Administrative	6,403,637	6,805,438	401,801	5.9
Water Supply and Treatment	4,889,336	4,701,591	(187,745)	(4.0)
Water Distribution	2,781,136	2,848,248	67,112	2.4
Wastewater Treatment	4,561,981	5,106,125	544,144	10.7
Wastewater Collection	1,185,549	1,327,055	141,506	10.7
Total Operating Expense	19,821,639	20,788,457	966,818	4.7
Net Income (modified accrual)	17,966,049	16,416,931	1,549,118	9.4
Debt Service	8,254,272	8,316,327	62,055	0.7
Net Income less Debt Service	9,711,777	8,100,604	1,611,173	19.9
Less: CIP Expenditures	7,538,017	10,615,000	3,076,983	29.0
Capital Equipment Expenditures	332,252	875,000	542,748	62.0
Net Change in Fund Balance	$1,841,508	($3,389,396)	$5,230,904	

Orange Water and Sewer Authority
Select Financial Data
For the Twelve Month Period Ended June 30, 2016

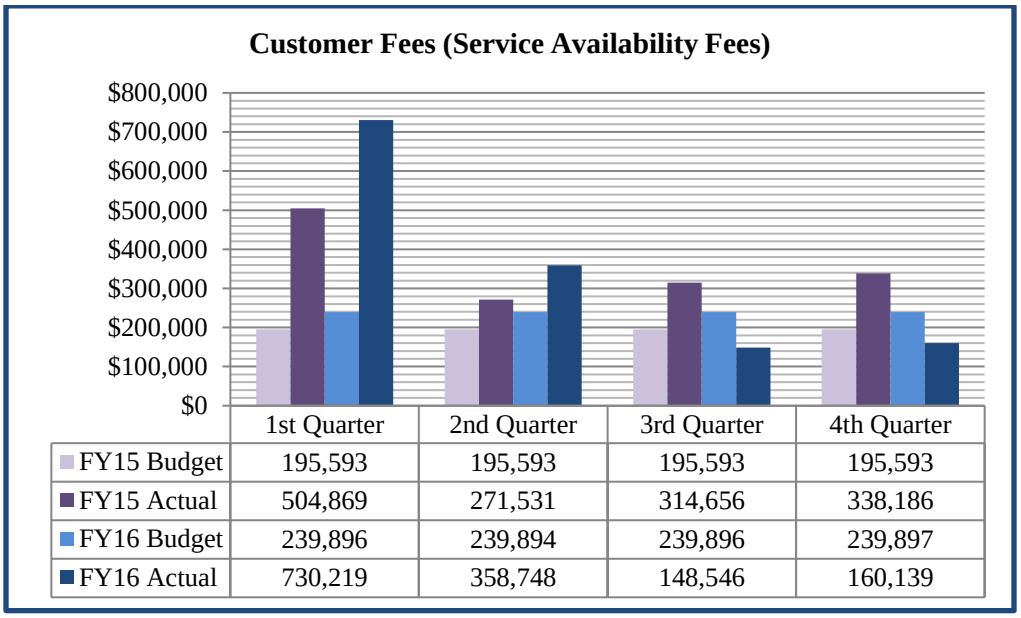


	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
FY15 Budget	10,243,443	8,699,218	7,833,723	8,949,791
FY15 Actual	10,632,328	8,809,919	8,082,809	9,436,784
FY16 Budget	10,325,792	8,708,273	7,964,635	9,212,535
FY16 Actual	10,622,689	8,552,588	7,977,195	9,216,901

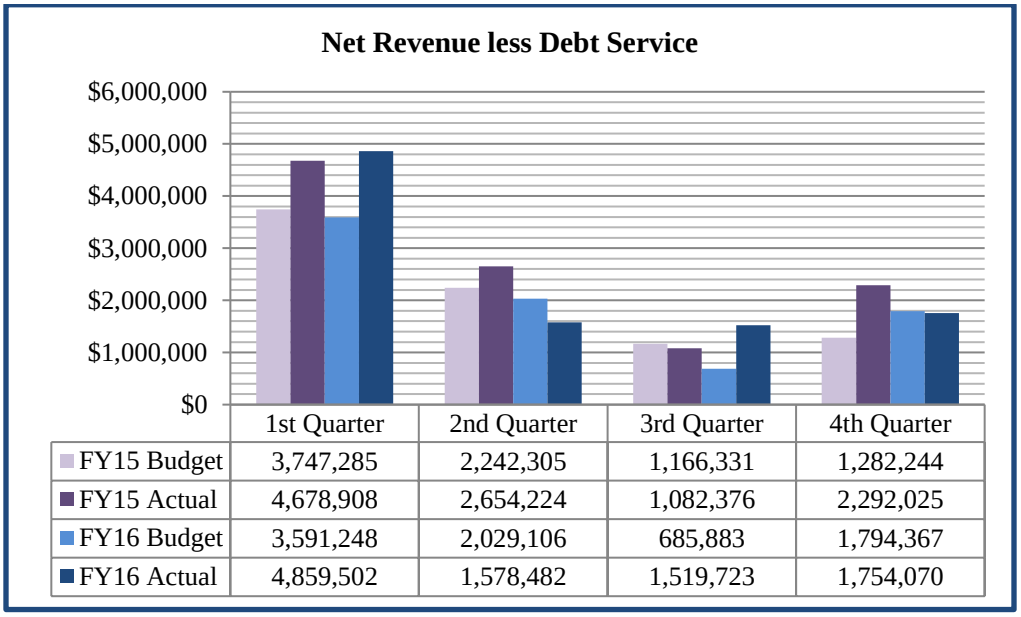


	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
FY15 Budget	4,708,180	4,668,935	4,879,414	5,551,569
FY15 Actual	4,512,622	4,481,735	5,371,086	5,097,743
FY16 Budget	4,986,001	4,930,622	5,530,208	5,341,626
FY16 Actual	4,524,284	5,355,498	4,637,507	5,304,350

Orange Water and Sewer Authority
Select Financial Data
For the Twelve Month Period Ended June 30, 2016

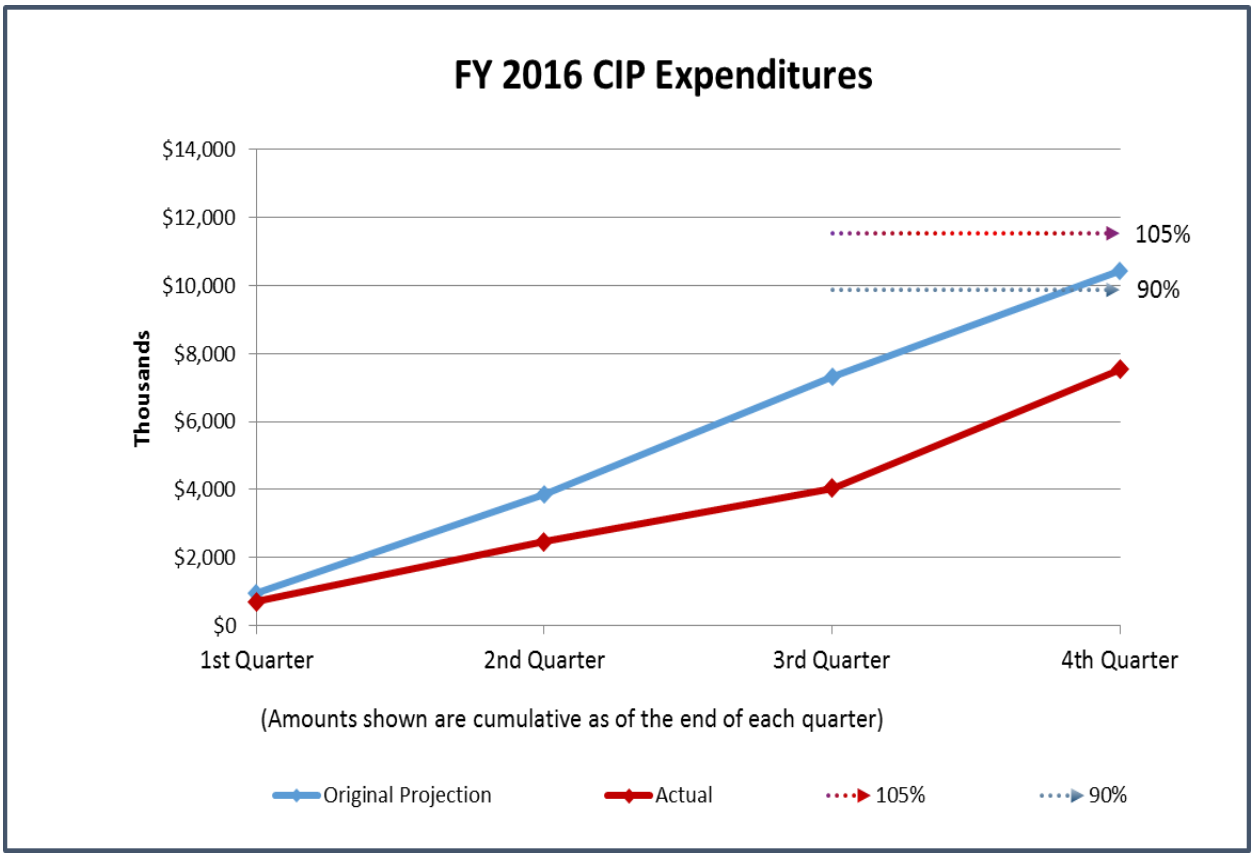


	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
FY15 Budget	195,593	195,593	195,593	195,593
FY15 Actual	504,869	271,531	314,656	338,186
FY16 Budget	239,896	239,894	239,896	239,897
FY16 Actual	730,219	358,748	148,546	160,139



	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
FY15 Budget	3,747,285	2,242,305	1,166,331	1,282,244
FY15 Actual	4,678,908	2,654,224	1,082,376	2,292,025
FY16 Budget	3,591,248	2,029,106	685,883	1,794,367
FY16 Actual	4,859,502	1,578,482	1,519,723	1,754,070

Orange Water and Sewer Authority
Select Financial Data
For the Twelve Month Period Ended June 30, 2016

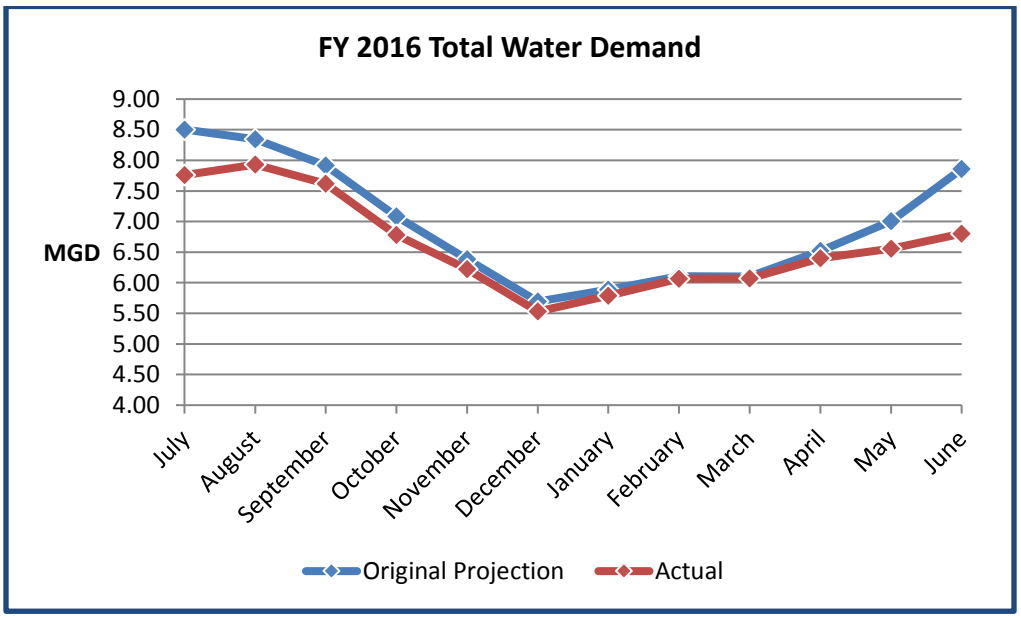


Orange Water and Sewer Authority
Select Financial Data
For the Twelve Month Period Ended June 30, 2016

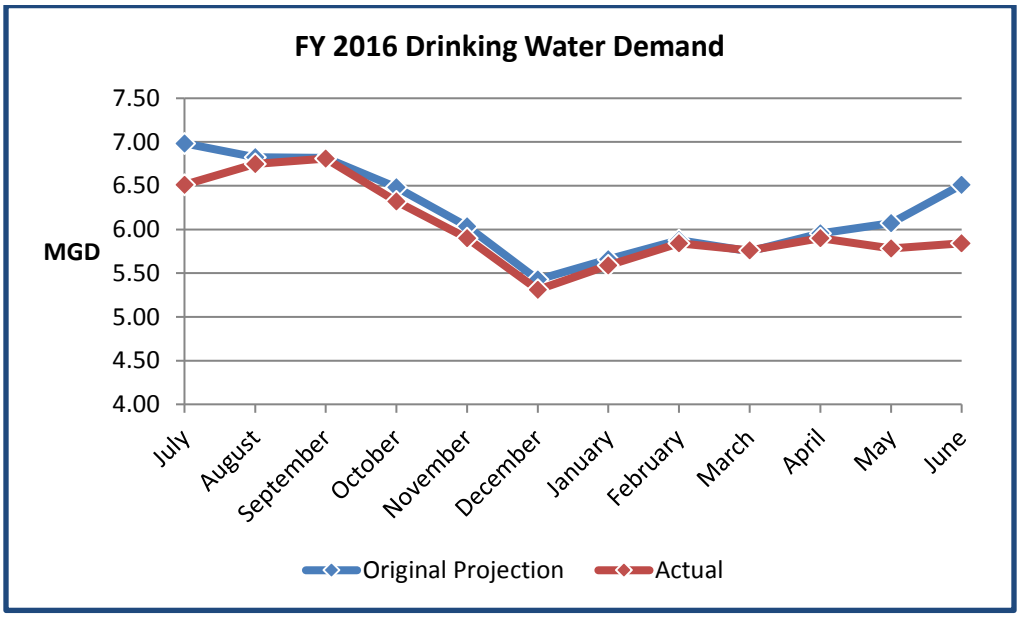
FY 2016 Water Sales Projection (Average Day)

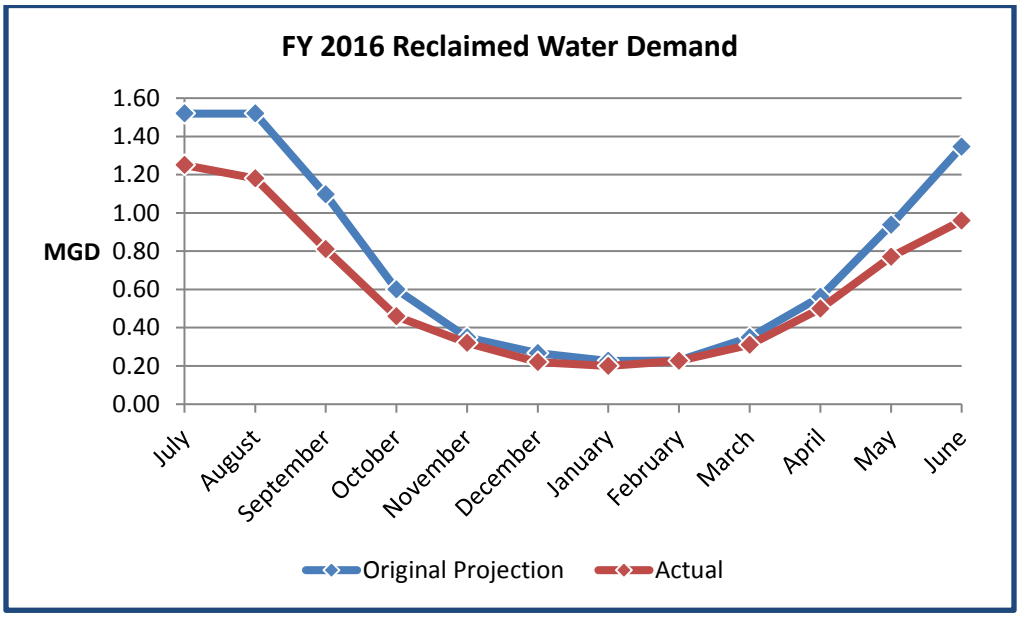
	Original FY 2016 Sales Projections		Actual FY 2016 Water Sales		Revised FY 2016 Sales Projections	
	DW	RCW	DW	RCW	DW	RCW
July	6.98	1.52	6.51	1.25	6.51	1.25
August	6.83	1.52	6.75	1.18	6.75	1.18
September	6.82	1.10	6.81	0.81	6.81	0.81
October	6.48	0.60	6.32	0.46	6.32	0.46
November	6.04	0.35	5.90	0.32	5.90	0.32
December	5.43	0.27	5.31	0.22	5.31	0.22
January	5.66	0.23	5.59	0.20	5.59	0.20
February	5.88	0.23	5.84	0.23	5.84	0.23
March	5.75	0.35	5.76	0.31	5.76	0.31
April	5.96	0.56	5.90	0.50	5.89	0.50
May	6.07	0.94	5.78	0.77	5.78	0.77
June	6.51	1.35	5.84	0.96	5.84	0.96
Average	6.20	0.75	6.03	0.60	6.03	0.60

Estimates shown in red

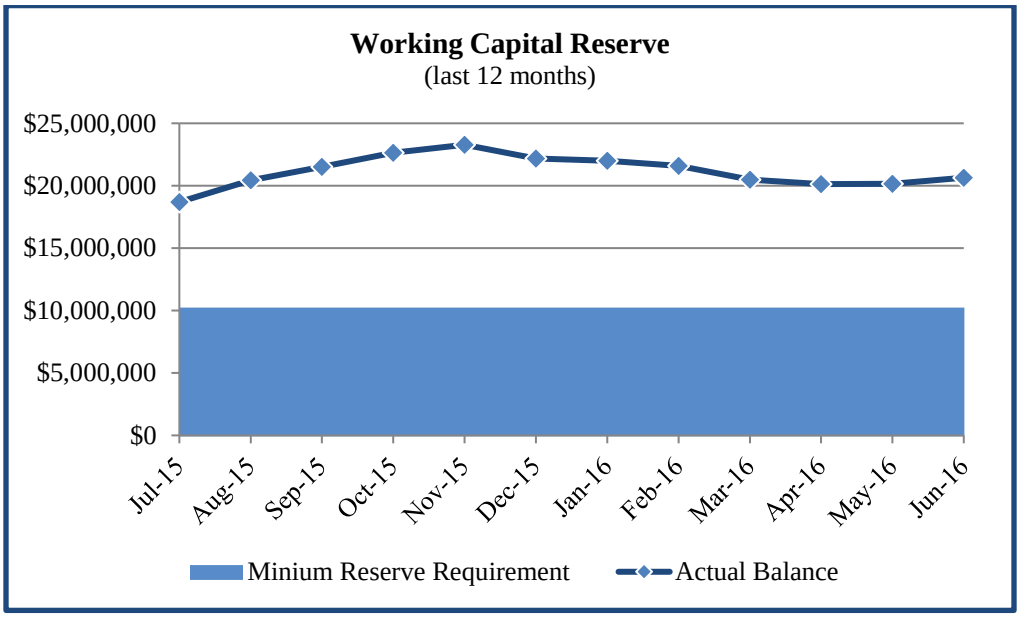


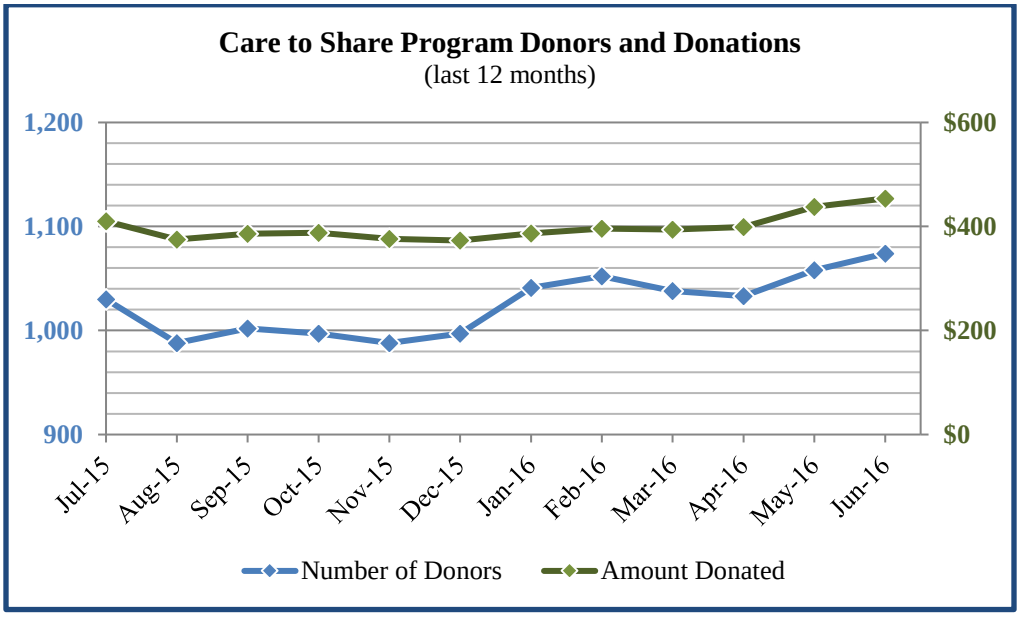
Orange Water and Sewer Authority
Select Financial Data
For the Twelve Month Period Ended June 30, 2016





Orange Water and Sewer Authority
Select Financial Data
For the Twelve Month Period Ended June 30, 2016





Orange Water and Sewer Authority
Financial Management Policy Report Card
For the Twelve Month Period Ended June 30, 2016

Measurement	Objective	FY15 Results	FY16 Goal	YTD FY16 Results
Working Capital Reserves	Greater of four months Operating expenses or 20% of succeeding three years CIP	$22.1M	$10.2M	$20.6M
Capital Improvements Reserve	2% of Net Capital Assets (Funding $400,000 per year until reach goal of approximately $6M)	$2.4M	$2.8M	$2.8M
Rate / Revenue Stabilization Reserve	5% of annual Water and Sewer Revenue (Funding $250,000 per year until reach goal of approximately $2M)	$1.5M	$1.7M	$1.7M
Debt Burden to Asset Value	Total Debt not more than 50% of Total Assets	27%	≤ 50%	25%
Sufficiency of Revenues above Debt Requirements	Annual Debt Service no more than 35% of Gross Revenue	21%	≤ 35%	23%
Cash Financing of Capital	Annual revenues and reserves provide at least 30% of CIP funding	91%	≥ 30%	100%
Debt Service Coverage Ratio	Annual Net Income not less than two times Annual Debt Service	2.3	2.0	2.2
Service Affordability Ratio [1]	Average annual OWASA bill not more than 1.5% of area median household income	1.42%	1.5%	1.39%

M = million

[1] FY 2016 Calculation based on median household income of $60,802 (per 2015 U.S. Census Bureau) and average monthly household water use of 4,000 gallons.

AGENDA ITEM

- Capital Improvements Program (CIP) Semiannual Status Report

PURPOSE

- To summarize project and program performance for OWASA's Capital Improvements Program (CIP) for fiscal year (FY) 2016 and provides a preview of the program for FY 2017

BACKGROUND

- The report consists of a discussion of FY 2016 performance and preview of FY 2017 projects, status updates for projects active during the reporting period, and Minority and Women Business Enterprise (MWBE) participation information

- Highlights of the report include:

    - FY 2016 CIP expenditures totaled approximately $7.5 million, which represents approximately 71% of planned CIP work

    - Over 65 projects were active during the reporting period. The majority of FY 2016 CIP expenditures (over 83%) was dedicated to the renewal and replacement of existing infrastructure.

    - Over the past five fiscal years, the CIP program has achieved 36% MWBE participation on formal and informal contracts, and has met the 10% MWBE participation goal on 55% of awarded contracts.

    - The CIP includes funding of $13.6 million for 54 projects in FY 2017, plus an additional $1 million in work planned for the Historic Rogers Road Area Sewer Extension, costs of which will be fully reimbursed by Orange County.

ACTION NEEDED

- Receive and discuss the report.

August 25, 2016

ORANGE WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY

A public, non-profit agency providing water, sewer and reclaimed water services to the Carrboro-Chapel Hill community.

TO: Board of Directors

THROUGH: Ed Kerwin

FROM: Vishnu Gangadharan, P.E., PMP

DATE: August 18, 2016

SUBJECT: **Capital Improvements Program (CIP) Semiannual Status Report**

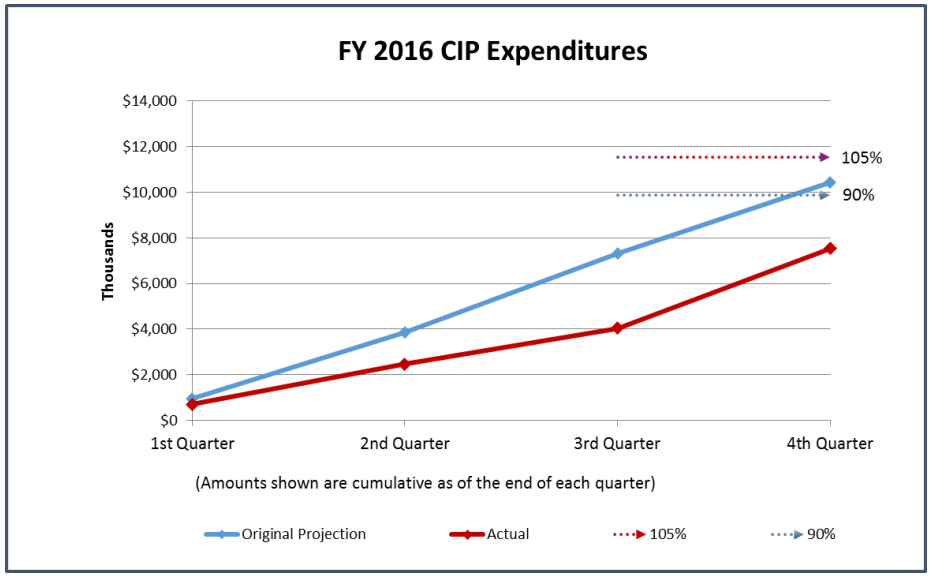
PURPOSE

This report summarizes project and program performance for OWASA's Capital Improvements Program (CIP) for fiscal year (FY) 2016 and provides a preview of the program for FY 2017.

DISCUSSION

FY 2016 Program Summary

Approximately $7.5 million was spent on over 65 CIP projects active during FY 2016, including 28 projects which were completed and closed out within the fiscal year. In addition, about $407,000 in design work was completed for the Historic Rogers Road Area Sewer Extension project (costs for this project are being reimbursed by Orange County). As is typically the case in a given year, the vast majority (over $6.6 million, or 83%) of CIP expenditures were dedicated to the renewal and replacement of existing infrastructure, including the rehabilitation of over 2.6 miles of sanitary sewer mains and the replacement of over 1.2 miles of water mains. Notable projects active during this reporting period included the construction of new water mains in Purefoy Road, Plum Lane, and Evergreen and Ridge Lanes; roof replacements at both treatment plants; ongoing construction for Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation contract; the Little Creek Interceptor replacement; and Digesters 1 and 2 Rehabilitation.



The $7.5 million in FY 2016 CIP expenditures represents approximately 71% of the budgeted CIP funds. Although this expenditure ratio is consistent with historical program performance to budget (an average 76% expenditure-to-budget ratio over the past 10 fiscal years), it falls short of the expenditure target range of 90% to 105% of budget.

As discussed during the third quarter financial report at the April 28 Board meeting, there are several potential reasons why expenditures can fall short of budgeted funds. Staff has analyzed the reasons behind the expenditure shortfalls for the FY 2016 projects and has broadly categorized these into four areas, along with corresponding action that may be taken going forward to mitigate these types of risks:

1. **Costs are less than planned or expected:** This includes major scope reductions, changes in conceptual approach, and differences in pricing or bidding from initial estimates. Some of these changes may be avoided through more in-depth project planning and project definition as is already done on many of the larger and more complex CIP projects, where planning efforts are completed prior to requesting or committing funds for design. Staff will continue to consider the benefits of this approach in consideration of individual project complexity, time, and cost constraints.

2. **Lower expenditures due to project delays related to unforeseen conditions encountered during construction:** These changes, by their definition, cannot be specifically anticipated during planning or design; the increased costs due to these types of changes are typically managed through the addition of contingency costs to construction estimates and budgets. However, for larger projects or construction issues, the impact on the current fiscal year expenditure can often be a cost *decrease* as time is spent identifying and resolving problems, and planned work gets delayed into the following fiscal year. No specific change is recommended for these cases.

3. **Other schedule delays on ongoing projects:** This category typically affects projects in the design phase and includes schedule slippage due to scope creep, lack of timely decision-making, and lack of progress due to other project priorities. In FY 2016, staffing issues were also a contributor to project delays, as one of the two Utilities Engineer positions was vacant between July and November 2015. In early 2017, staff intends to evaluate the planned timing of projects and workload in conjunction with the development of the draft FY 2018-2022 CIP to determine whether reinstatement of the third Utilities Engineer position (vacant since FY 2008) may be warranted. Other actions include a renewed focus and greater internal visibility of interim milestone targets and project scope.

4. **Programmatic or administrative changes:** These include programming changes such as the deferral of the Biosolids Conveyance and Loading Improvements and Filtrate Sidestream Treatment projects at the Mason Farm Wastewater Treatment Plant as a result of biosolids management decisions, or administrative changes such as UNC's reimbursement for chilled water main construction completed by our contractor during the East Cameron Avenue water main replacement project. No specific change is recommended to eliminate the risk of these types of changes; however, their impact may be mitigated through the ability to make reciprocal programmatic adjustments – i.e., acceleration of a future identified project or project phase. This approach is already used for projects such as the multi-year sanitary sewer rehabilitation contract, for which a backlog of rehabilitation needs has already been previously identified and prioritized.

Project Performance Summary

Attachment A includes a summary of project performance for all active projects during this reporting period. Schedule performance is assessed for projects which are far enough along to have a final completion established for the project. Conversely, budget performance is assessed against the budgeted funds for FY 2016. Explanations are provided for any schedule or budget variances indicated by red stoplights.

Minority and Women Business Enterprise (MWBE) Participation

Formal and informal construction contracts (totalling nearly $4.5 million) awarded during this reporting period included approximately $3.0 million participation by MWBE businesses, with approximately 60% of awarded contracts meeting the 10% participation goal. Contracts which fell below the goal either provided evidence of Good Faith Efforts to secure MWBE participation or else did not utilize subcontracts on the project.

The five-year averages for the CIP program include 36% MWBE participation on formal and informal contracts, and 55% of awarded contracts meeting the 10% participation goal.

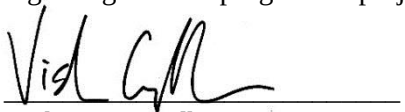
FY 2017 lookahead

Customers may visit our website (www.owasa.org) for information about our current major CIP projects and our FY 2017 - 2021 CIP book which provides additional information about the CIP and projects planned for the next five fiscal years.

The CIP includes funding of $13.6 million for 54 projects in FY 2017, plus an additional $1 million in work planned for the Historic Rogers Road Area Sewer Extension, costs of which will be fully reimbursed by Orange County. This FY 2017 funding includes projects to replace 2.3 miles of water mains and to rehabilitate or replace 1.5 miles of sewer mains. Other project highlights include the implementation of Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI), which is expected to increase efficiency and improve the customer service features of the metering process, and rehabilitation of the Rogerson Drive Pump Station. The FY 2017 CIP also includes funding for various needs assessments and planning efforts used to evaluate asset risks and associated future capital investments required for the water distribution system, the wastewater collection system, and the wastewater treatment plant.

The CIP program continues to evolve through the ongoing development and maturation of the Comprehensive Asset Management Program, which provides both the overall framework and various decision support tools which guide CIP investments. Other focal points for the program moving forward include improving various budgeting, project development, and project execution processes; strengthening the coordination efforts with other local agencies; integrating the processes and projects stemming from the Energy Management Program; refining the processes for stakeholder/community engagement on CIP projects; and further developing our working relationships with the consultant and contractor communities.

Please feel free to contact me at (919) 537-4248 or vgangadharan@owasa.org if you have any questions regarding the CIP program or projects.



Vishnu Gangadharan, P.E., PMP
Engineering Manager - Capital Improvements

Attachment – Project Performance Summary Table

TABLE 1
FY 2016 PROJECT PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

CIP No. (linked)[1]	Project Name	Current Status	FINAL COMPLETION[2]	SCHEDULE[3]	BUDGET[4]	Discussion of budget or schedule variance
270-04	Jordan Lake Raw Water Supply Allocation	n/a	-	🟢	🟢	
270-09	Stone Quarry Reservoir Development	n/a	-	🟢	🟢	
270-26	Cane Creek Permanganate Facility	Construction	**Apr-17**	🟢	🔴	**budget ($132k vs $64k):** unforeseen additional structural, electrical, and architectural design required
270-27	Cane Creek Reservoir Office HVAC	Complete	Feb-16	🟢	🟢	
272-10	Water Treatment Plant Hypo Tank Replacement	Construction	May-16	🔴	🔴	**schedule (3 month delay):** delays during initiation, design, and procurement **budget ($209k vs $0k):** project was planned to be completed as a minor repair in FY 2015, before need for full replacement was identified
272-14	Water Facility Security Upgrades	Construction	-	🟢	🔴	**budget ($14k vs $0k):** acceleration of project during FY 2016 due to urgency
272-31	Water Treatment Plant and Adjacent Facilities Paving	Construction	May-16	🔴	🟢	**schedule (3 month delay):** delay in procurement
272-32	Water Treatment Plant Spill Containment	Construction	Mar-16	🔴	🟢	**schedule (6 month delay):** delay in procurement
272-33	WTP Pulsator Rehab	Complete	May-16	🟢	🟢	
272-34	WTP Generator Building Louver Replacement	Construction	May-17	🟢	🟢	
274-13	Nunn Mountain Pump Station Evaluation	Planning	May-16	🔴	🟢	**schedule (4 month delay):** delay in initiation; additional analysis added during study
275-15	Water Main - Road Improvement Projects	n/a	-	🟢	🟢	
275-20	Brandywine Road WM	Planning	Jun-18	🟢	🟢	
275-20	Briarbridge Lane WM ***(CREW)***	Complete	Jun-16	🟢	🟢	
275-20	Chase Ave WM ***(CREW)***	Construction	**Oct-16**	🟢	🟢	
275-20	Chase Park WM ***(CREW)***	Complete	May-16	🟢	🟢	
275-20	Dogwood Drive WM ***(CREW)***	Complete	Oct-15	🟢	🟢	
275-20	E Main St / Roberson St Abandonment ***(CREW)***	Complete	Mar-16	🟢	🔴	**budget ($33k vs $25k):** encountered unforeseen conditions
275-20	Emory Drive WM ***(CREW)***	Construction	Nov-16	🟢	🟢	
275-20	Evergreen Lane and Ridge Lane WM	Complete	Mar-16	🟢	🔴	**budget ($463k vs $376k):** bids exceeded projected costs; encountered unforeseen buried conditions
275-20	Halifax Rd WM ***(CREW)***	Complete	Apr-16	🟢	🔴	**budget ($30k vs $0k):** acceleration of project during FY 2016 due to urgency
275-20	Plum Lane ***(CREW)***	Complete	Feb-16	🟢	🔴	**budget ($30k vs $0k):** acceleration of project during FY 2016 due to urgency; significant scope (roadway repair) not present or included during time of budgeting
275-20	Purefoy Rd WM	Complete	Jun-16	🟢	🟢	
275-20	Ridgewood Lane WM ***(CREW)***	Complete	Oct-15	🟢	🔴	**budget ($58k vs $0k):** encountered unforeseen conditions
275-20	The Glen WM ***(CREW)***	Complete	Sep-15	🟢	🔴	**budget ($31k vs $26k):** encountered unforeseen conditions
275-20	Valentine Rd WM ***(CREW)***	Complete	Jun-16	🟢	🟢	
275-20	Village Plaza WM ***(CREW)***	Complete	Sep-15	🟢	🟢	
275-20	Weiner St WM ***(CREW)***	Complete	Jun-16	🟢	🟢	
275-46	Dobbins Drive Water Main	Planning	-	🟢	🟢	
275-71	Rosemary, Henderson, and Hillsborough Streets Water Mains	Construction	May-17	🟢	🔴	**budget ($415k vs $0k):** acceleration of project during FY 2016 due to urgency and coordination with Town projects
275-76	Advanced Meter Infrastructure (AMI) System	Planning	Dec-18	🟢	🟢	
275-77	Galvanized Water Main Replacements	Planning	Jun-19	🟢	🟢	
275-77	West Main Street WM Replacement ***(CREW)***	Design	**Jun-17**	🟢	🟢	
276-17	Sanitary Sewer Condition Evaluation	Construction	Jun-17	🟢	🔴	**budget ($14k vs $0k):** acceleration of project during FY 2016 due to urgency

TABLE 1
FY 2016 PROJECT PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

CIP No. (linked)[1]	Project Name	Current Status	FINAL COMPLETION [2]	SCHEDULE[3]	BUDGET[4]	Discussion of budget or schedule variance
276-18	Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation	Construction	Jun-19	🟢	🔴	**budget ($1589k vs $1057k):** ongoing unit price construction contract was extended to address previously identified sanitary sewer rehabilitation needs
276-45	Bolinwood Dr Interceptor	Design	Jun-17	🟢	🟢	
276-47	Little Creek Interceptor	Construction	**Dec-16**	🟢	🟢	
276-53	Creek Crossing Access Improvements	Design	Jun-18	🟢	🟢	
276-54	Rogers Road Gravity Sanitary Sewer Extension	Design	Mar-18	🟢	🟢	
276-55	Easement Acquisition Program	Complete	Jun-16	🟢	🟢	
277-21	Force Main Condition Evaluation - Manning Drive	Complete	Jun-16	🟢	🟢	
277-24	Eastowne, Eubanks, Meadowmont 1 Pump Station Rehab	Design	Mar-18	🟢	🟢	
277-31	Rogerson Drive Pump Station Rehabilitation	Design	Jun-18	🟢	🟢	
277-34	Piney Mountain Pump Station Rehabilitation	Construction	Jun-16	🟢	🟢	
277-35	Knolls and Manning Pump Station Sitework	Complete	Jun-16	🟢	🟢	
277-36	Heritage Hills PS Rehab - Controls	Complete	Mar-16	🟢	🟢	
278-46	Comprehensive Coatings Program	Construction	Jun-16	🟢	🟢	
278-51	WWTP Polymer Feed System	Complete	Jun-16	🟢	🟢	
278-52	WWTP Digesters #1 & #2 Rehabilitation	Construction	**Jan-17**	🟢	🟢	
278-54	WWTP IPS Rehabilitation	Design	Jun-16	🟢	🔴	**budget ($87k vs $40k):** Study was initiated in FY 2015; a greater proportion of the study occurred inFY 2016 than initially projected.
278-57	WWTP Stormwater Pump Station Electrical Rehab	Construction	Jun-16	🟢	🟢	
278-58	WWTP Non Potable Water Pump Replacements	Planning	**Jun-17**	🟢	🟢	
278-59	WWTP and WW PS LED Lighting Upgrades	Complete	Jun-16	🟢	🟢	
278-61	WWTP Pavement Improvements	Construction	May-16	🔴	🟢	**schedule (4 month delay):** delay in initiation and procurement
278-62	WWTP Administration Building Renovations	Complete	Feb-16	🔴	🟢	**schedule (4 month delay):** delay in initiation and procurement
278-63	WWTP Secondary Clarifier Algae Sweep System Upgrade	Complete	Feb-16	🟢	🟢	
278-64	WWTP Solids Handling Biofilter Study	Complete	Mar-16	🟢	🟢	
278-65	WWTP Mixer Hyper-Pitch Blades Attachments	Complete	Mar-16	🟢	🟢	
278-66	WWTP Piping Heat Tracing and Insulation	Deferred	Feb-16	🔴	🟢	**schedule (8 month delay):** delay in initiation and procurement
278-68	Water and Wastewater Facilities Roofing	Complete	Jan-16	🟢	🟢	
278-69	WWTP Biosolids Conveyance and Loading Improvements	Deferred	-	🟢	🟢	
278-71	WWTP Filtrate Side Stream Treatment	Deferred	-	🟢	🟢	
280-06	Administration Building HVAC System Upgrade	Planning	Mar-18	🟢	🟢	

NOTES:

1. Project numbers are linked to description in CIP book where available.
2. Final completion dates typically established following completion of planning phase. Dates shown in **bold** have been re-baselined as a result of major pr
3. Schedule stoplights are red where project is delayed by more than 2 months to scheduled final completion.
4. Budget stoplights are red where FY 2016 expenditures are more than 5% above FY 2016 budget.