ORANGE WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY

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

MEETING SUMMARY
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE
May 14, 2015 at 5:00 PM in the OWASA Boardroom

Committee Members present:	Steve Dear, Chair; Terri Buckner, Quinton Harper, Michael Hughes and John Young (Ex-Officio)
Other Board Members present:	Amy Witsil
Staff:	Ed Kerwin; Stephen Winters, CPA; Denise Battle; Patrick Davis; Greg Feller
Citizens:	Sharron Reid, Family Services Coordinator, Orange County Habitat for Humanity

1. Discussion of 12-Month Progress Report on Affordability Outreach Pilot Project

The Committee received a brief summary on the draft 12-month progress report on the affordability outreach pilot project. Comments in the Committee's discussion included:

- There have been several positive outcomes from the pilot project. We have established new working relationships with several local social service and affordable housing agencies; as a result, we have been better able to help customers in need.

- Our collaboration with the Jackson Center on the Northside News article about reducing water and sewer bills is a great example of effective, low-cost strategies for reaching customers in need.

- We need to work with partner agencies to inform the community about the work we have done and will be doing.

- Some Committee members suggested the following priority activities for the next twelve months:
  - complete the evaluation of the Inter-Faith Council for Social Service's pilot retrofit project;
  - enhance our education and outreach materials and efforts, including articles in local newspapers, workshops, etc.;
  - expand the partnership;
  - pursue funding support; and
  - implement strategies to reach rental property owners and renters.

- Staff should:
  - provide a summary of what we have learned, including what has worked well, and what has not worked well;
  - seek our partner agencies' feedback as to their priorities for the next 12 months, and provide that to the Committee; and
  - provide a list of the partner agencies that have participated in our affordability outreach pilot project.

Ms. Sharron Reid, Family Services Coordinator for Habitat for Humanity of Orange County, stated that Habitat has benefited from participation in the affordability outreach project and she looks forward to continuing the partnership.

2. Discussion of next steps and future meetings

The Committee will meet at 5:30 pm on Tuesday, June 23, 2015 to continue discussion of the Affordability Outreach project.

The 12-month progress report is scheduled to be presented to and discussed by the Board of Directors at the June 25, 2015 Business Meeting.

The Committee adjourned at 5:58 PM.

Prepared by:



Patrick Davis
Sustainability Manager