**Orange Water and Sewer Authority**

OWASA is Carrboro-Chapel Hill's not-for-profit public service agency delivering high quality water, wastewater, and reclaimed water services.

# Summary of the OWASA Board of Directors' Work Session on March 12, 2020

***Please note:*** *The summary below was prepared by staff and is not approved by the OWASA Board. OWASA's webpage with Board meeting information includes the Board's adopted minutes, agenda materials, staff's meeting summaries, audio recordings of Board meetings on second Thursdays of the month, and videos of Board meetings on fourth Thursdays. The agenda and related information for the March 12th meeting are available here.*

## The Board of Directors:

- Received an update on preparations regarding COVID-19. OWASA has temporarily suspended customer water and sewer service disconnections for non-payment during this time to help mitigate the spread of the virus and is encouraging customers to utilize bill payment methods other than paying in-person at the administrative office, including paying by phone, online, or through the drop-box in front of the office. The Board agreed to cancel the March 26 meeting. Currently, the Board's next schedule meeting will be on April 9, 2020 and is expected to be conducted remotely.

- Awarded construction contracts for two resiliency projects identified for OWASA's Jones Ferry Road Water Treatment Plant (WTP). One project was identified after the water emergency outside of the WTP on November 5, 2018. This work will involve replacing water mains from the WTP, adding new isolation valves, and providing further redundancy and resiliency to the community's infrastructure. The second project will involve replacement of and upgrades to several of the chemical storage and feed systems at the WTP.

- Received an update on OWASA's Forest Management Program. OWASA has worked with a consultant to prioritize our forested lands by greatest need for active management, focusing on OWASA's number one goal of protecting water quality. The roughly 83-acre Meadow Crest North property was identified as a high-priority site. A draft forest stewardship plan has been prepared and will be shared with near neighbors before the work will begin.

- Received an update on the draft Fiscal Year 2021 Budget. The draft includes about $24.3 million in operating expenses and $25.8 million in capital improvements. These planned expenditures support OWASA remaining a sustainable, responsible, and environmentally focused organization. The Board will continue budget discussions and hold public hearings in May before approving a final budget in June.