



ORANGE WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY

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

Kensington Drive Community Meeting

Tuesday, January 23, 2018 7:00 – 8:30 PM
Southern Human Services Center, Chapel Hill

Purpose/Background

On December 3, 2017, there was a break in the water pipe on Kensington Drive that disrupted service for 27 homes. This was the second water pipe break in the community within the last five weeks and as a result, OWASA hosted a community meeting on January 23, 2018 to communicate OWASA's actions related to the breaks, future work to be completed in the area, receive feedback and answer any questions that residents in the impacted community may have. About 35 community members attended and three OWASA staff members were present: Ed Kerwin, Executive Director, Randy Horton, Collection and Distribution System Manager, and Allison Reinert, Utilities Engineer.

Key OWASA Actions

Two main OWASA actions were communicated at the community meeting. The first action was that OWASA staff recommends replacing approximately 3,500 linear feet of asbestos cement water pipe located along Kensington Drive and the Beech Tree Court, Concordia Court, and Wellington Drive cul-de-sacs. The second action is that OWASA is working to improve effectiveness and timeliness of OWASA responses to water main breaks and implementing sediment control measures.

Overview of Potential Pipe Replacement

The recommendation to replace approximately 3,500 linear feet of water pipe along Kensington and the associated cul-de-sacs will be brought before the OWASA Board of Directors in Spring 2018 as part of the recommended Capital Improvements Program expected projects and budget request for the 2019 fiscal year. This project would include replacing the asbestos cement water mains with ductile iron pipe and replacing the home service lines from the water main to the meter boxes. Please see the attached map for more information on the expected location of water main work.

If the project is approved by the OWASA Board, it is expected that the design for the new water main would be finished by Spring 2019. Construction would be expected to begin by Summer or Fall 2019. The construction will last several months and the full duration will depend on the final design of the new water main as well as weather.

Construction impacts could include temporary water service interruptions, periodic lane or road closures, heavy equipment onsite, and temporary uneven and/or patched road surfaces.

Summary of Feedback

Feedback at the community meeting focused on the following:

- Faster response to leaks and deployment of sediment control measures,
- Displeasure that the Eastwood Lake (EWL) Association's claim for remediation for sediment resulting from water main breaks was denied by OWASA's insurance carrier,
- Consider measures for early detection of leaks prior to pipe replacement,
- Work with Town of Chapel Hill staff and EWL representatives to see if precautionary measures can be implemented to control sediment should there be future pipe breaks or leaks prior to pipe replacement, and
- Keep the community informed and engaged.

OWASA Staff Next Steps

OWASA staff will:

- Provide updates and reports to the Board of Directors and public with respect to enhancements and improvements in erosion and sediment control and response measures.
- Follow up with additional information for the neighborhood as new information about sediment and erosion control is available.
- Evaluate suggestions for early leak detection and precautionary measures for sediment control.
- Request board approval for the Kensington Drive water main replacement project. Additional public meetings will be scheduled as the design and construction of the Kensington Drive project moves forward.

Residents are requested to immediately call OWASA 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, at 919-968-4421 to report potential water main leaks and breaks.

OWASA welcomes all additional comments, questions and concerns related to Kensington Drive and looks forward to working with the neighborhood as we improve the water infrastructure.

Meeting Summary Prepared by:



Allison Marie Reinert, P.E

Distributed: January 26, 2018

Attachment