



## 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' Virtual Work Session on June 11, 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 June 11<sup>th</sup> meeting that was held virtually are available [here](#).

#### The Board of Directors:

- Approved the annual operating and capital improvements budget and rates, fees, and charges for the 2021 Fiscal Year as well as the Capital Improvements Program for Fiscal Years 2021-2025. The approved budget includes roughly \$23.2 million for operating expenses, \$20.3 million for capital projects, and \$9.1 million for debt service. Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic the Board decided against implementing a planned 5 percent rate increase. To balance the budget, certain investments in the community's infrastructure have been deferred to future years.
- Received an update on OWASA's response to COVID-19 and a phased plan for returning to normal operations. OWASA continues to take proactive measures to ensure we provide the Carrboro and Chapel Hill communities with high-quality and reliable water, wastewater, and reclaimed water services during the COVID-19 pandemic. OWASA opened the lake recreation season on May 29, 2020, utilizing an electronic reservation system and COVID-19-specific guidelines (visit [owasa.org](http://owasa.org) for more details). Lake-use fees will be collected beginning June 12 via credit or debit card transactions only. OWASA will continue the suspension of service disconnection for non-payment through at least the end of July 2020 and will keep the Board informed on plans for customer payment plans and utility billing assistance. Chair DuBose will send a letter to our State elected officials providing support for state funding support of utility bill assistance.
- Approved a resolution affirming OWASA's Diversity and Inclusion values and supporting a community free of hatred. OWASA's Diversity and Inclusion Program, which was implemented in 2016, has provided training for staff and Board members as well as the updating of policies and practices to further promote diversity and inclusion. OWASA supports the recent statements and actions by our community governmental leaders regarding racial injustice.
- Elected Ray DuBose as Chair, Bruce Boehm as Vice Chair, and Jody Eimers as Secretary of the Board of Directors effective on July 1, 2020.

The Board will hold its next meeting remotely on Thursday, June 25, 2020 via Microsoft Teams at 6 PM; a link will be provided on OWASA's website at [www.owasa.org/board-of-directors-meetings](http://www.owasa.org/board-of-directors-meetings). OWASA's administrative office is closed to the public to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Customers in need of assistance can still contact OWASA from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday through Friday by calling (919) 968-4421, emailing [customerinquiries@owasa.org](mailto:customerinquiries@owasa.org), or using the chat function available in the bottom-right corner of [www.owasa.org](http://www.owasa.org). Please allow for additional time for OWASA staff to respond during this time. We appreciate your patience.

