



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 Meeting on July 9, 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, recordings of Board meetings on second and fourth Thursdays of the month. The agenda and related information for the July 9th meeting that was held virtually are available [here](#).

The Board of Directors:

- Approved a resolution honoring Ed Kerwin for his 24 years of service as OWASA's Executive Director and congratulating him on retirement. The Board also voted to name the training room in the OWASA Operations Center as the Ed Kerwin Team Room. Kerwin's last day with OWASA is July 10.
- Authorized staff to move forward with developing a potential conservation easement on private land in the Cane Creek Watershed. The potential easement would provide for expanded, permanently protected buffers along a stream running through private land near Cane Creek Reservoir. Staff will bring information back to the Board before final approval is given.
- Received an update on OWASA's compliance agreement with the US Environmental Protection Agency. OWASA has received grants from the EPA in the past and as such is subject to review by the EPA of its compliance with various federal laws and regulations.
- 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 community with high-quality and reliable water, wastewater, and reclaimed water services during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Received an update on OWASA's Diversity and Inclusion work. These updates are provided three times per year. The work since the last update in January 2020 has included: continuing progress toward developing a training module for mandatory, annual employee training; implementing staff meetings where Team members can check in and discuss non-work-related topics; in early June, Black supervisors were invited to an informal meeting with Executive Director Ed Kerwin and Director of Human Resources and Safety Stephanie Glasgow to discuss recent events regarding social justice; all OWASA Team members were invited to voluntary open forums in June to discuss recent events regarding social justice; the Board of Directors in June adopted a resolution affirming OWASA's Diversity and Inclusion values and supporting a community free of hatred.
- Agreed to cancel the July 23, 2020 Board Meeting.

The Board will hold its next meeting remotely on Thursday, August 13, 2020 via Microsoft Teams at 6 PM; a link will be provided on OWASA's website at 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, or using the chat function available in the bottom-right corner of www.owasa.org. Please allow for additional time for OWASA staff to respond during this time. We appreciate your patience.

