



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 August 13, 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 August 13th meeting that was held virtually are available [here](#).

The Board of Directors:

- 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 are providing (and can continue to provide) the community with high-quality and reliable water, wastewater, and reclaimed water services during the COVID-19 pandemic. OWASA field crews will be moving to a new phase of the Return to Normal Operations plan at the end of August that will allow for resumption of most preventative maintenance activities while also maintaining safety measures. We surveyed our employees regarding possible childcare challenges due to remote education and will do the best we can to work with those employees while meeting the essential nature of work.
- Received and discussed a presentation on the resumption of standard collection practices. Since March, OWASA has suspended disconnections for non-payment. OWASA plans to resume standard collection practices in late September, in alignment with both the expiration of the Governor's Executive Order and the County's State of Emergency. If the County extends the State of Emergency, the Executive Director will delay our resumption of standard collection practices accordingly.
- Discussed the Long-Range Water Supply Plan (LRWSP), including project history and a summary of supply and demand-management alternatives. The Board authorized staff to proceed to develop a process to modify the Drought Response Operating Protocol (DROP), which the Board will consider at a later date. The DROP constrains OWASA's ability to access its allocation of water from Jordan Lake. In addition, the Board authorized staff to continue to evaluate alternatives to provide access to OWASA's Jordan Lake allocation as part of the update of the LRWSP.
- Received a progress update on the Onboarding Program for the new Executive Director that was approved by the Board on May 14, 2020. The Board selected Todd Taylor to serve as the Executive Director on June 25, 2020.

The Board will hold its next two meetings remotely on Thursday, August 27, 2020 and Thursday, September 10, 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.

