

Orange Water and Sewer Authority
Virtual Work Session of the Board of Directors
March 11, 2021

The Board of Directors of the Orange Water and Sewer Authority (OWASA) held its duly noticed regular work session by virtual means in accordance with law, on Thursday, March 11, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. utilizing Microsoft Teams software.

Board Members present: Raymond (Ray) DuBose (Chair), Bruce Boehm (Vice Chair), Jody Eimers (Secretary), Robert Morgan, John N. Morris and Bruce Runberg. Board Members absent: Yinka Ayankoya and Kevin Leibel.

OWASA staff present: Mary Darr, Monica Dodson, Jesse DuClau, Robert Epting, Esq. (Epting and Hackney), Vishnu Gangadharan, Robin Jacobs (Epting and Hackney), Andrea Orbich, Dan Przybyl, Ruth Rouse, Allison Spinelli, Todd Taylor, Mary Tiger, Stephen Winters and Richard Wyatt.

Others present: Peg Carlson (UNC School of Government), Meg Holton (UNC Water Resources Manager), Simon Lobdell and Kelly Satterfield.

Motions

1. Robert Morgan made a Motion to approve the Minutes of the February 11, 2021, Work Session of the Board of Directors; second by Jody Eimers and the Motion was unanimously approved.
2. Robert Morgan made a Motion to approve the Minutes of the February 25, 2021, Closed Session of the Board of Directors for the Purpose of Discussing a Personnel Matter; second by Jody Eimers and the Motion was unanimously approved.

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Announcements

Chair Ray DuBose announced that due to COVID-19 public health concerns, the OWASA Board of Directors held the work session virtually utilizing Microsoft Teams software. Mr. DuBose stated that Board Members, General Counsel, and staff participated in the meeting remotely.

Mr. DuBose asked if any Board Member knew of a conflict of interest or potential conflict of interest with respect to any item on the agenda tonight to disclose the same at this time. None were disclosed.

Mr. DuBose announced that effective June 30, 2021, Bruce Runberg (Chapel Hill Appointee) will resign from the OWASA Board of Directors.

Mr. DuBose said the update on the March 1, 2021 ad hoc Committee Meeting will be provided at the March 25, 2021 Board meeting.

Todd Taylor, Executive Director, announced that Vishnu Gangadharan is OWASA's new Director of Engineering and Planning effective March 10, 2021.

Item One: Minutes

Robert Morgan made a Motion to approve the Minutes of the February 11, 2021, Work Session of the Board of Directors; second by Jody Eimers and the Motion was unanimously approved. Please see Motion 1.

Item Two: Minutes

Robert Morgan made a Motion to approve the Minutes of the February 25, 2021, Closed Session of the Board of Directors for the Purpose of Discussing a Personnel Matter; second by Jody Eimers and the Motion was unanimously approved. Please see Motion 2.

Item Three: Community Engagement Summary on the Update of OWASA's Long-Range Water Supply Plan

Ruth Rouse, Planning and Development Manager, provided a summary of the community engagement process and a review of the public feedback on the update of OWASA's Long-Range Water Supply Plan.

The Board agreed to move forward to the next step of developing guiding principles to use in evaluating final alternatives for potential water sources. The Board also expressed appreciation to those individuals (local entities and public individual) who provided comments and requested Staff provide the March 11, 2021 Board meeting material to local partners and the public.

Item Four: Draft Fiscal Year 2022 Operating and Capital Equipment Budgets

The Board received and discussed a presentation from Stephen Winters (Director of Finance and Customer Service) as well as other Staff on the draft operating expenses and capital equipment budgets for Fiscal Year 2022.

Item Five: Review Board Work Schedule

There were no items of note.

Item Six: Discuss Staff and General Counsel Feedback Received on Board Self-Assessment

The Board reviewed and discussed the results of the Staff and General Counsel Feedback received on the Board Self-Assessment. This discussion was facilitated by Peg Carlson, Director, Center for Public Leadership and Governance at UNC School of Government.

The following items have been noted by the Board to address improvement identified from Staff and General Counsel feedback, to ensure Board Member requests to Staff originate from a Board consensus about the need for information, not just from an individual Board Member.

- Increase use of designated time in Board meetings to bring up suggestions and/or petitions for Board discussion (this is currently underutilized and is intended to be a space for exploration of ideas and proposals from individual Board Members).
- Executive Director will discuss the survey results with Staff to get a better understanding of the types of Board requests that are especially time-consuming.
- Include more information about the role of the Board and how individual Board Members can bring ideas before the Board in new member orientation.
- When asking staff to research a topic, Board will clarify whether it is for informational or analysis purposes. Board encourages the Executive Director to raise concerns if he feels that a proposed solution is not viable and/or not worth the effort of researching.
- Board Members will copy the Executive Director on any email request to staff.

Item Seven: Summary of Work Session Items

Todd Taylor said staff will provide the March 11, 2021 Long-Range Water Supply Plan agenda material and minutes to local governing boards and other commentors.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



Andrea Orbich
Executive Assistant/Clerk to the Board