



## ORANGE WATER & SEWER AUTHORITY

*Quality Service Since 1977*

AGENDA #5b

November 1, 2005

Mayor Kevin Foy  
Town of Chapel Hill  
306 North Columbia Street  
Chapel Hill, NC 275 16

Chairman Moses Carey  
Orange County Board of  
Commissioners  
Post Office Box 8181  
Hillsborough, NC 27278

Mayor Michael Nelson  
Town of Carrboro  
310 West Main Street  
Carrboro, NC 275 10

Dear Mayor Foy, Chairman Carey, and Mayor Nelson:

Enclosed is our quarterly report for July through September, 2005. We believe that this summary of recent and upcoming activities reflects OWASA's commitment to a high level of customer service and environmental stewardship, efficient management, affordable rates, and community collaboration to which you and our customers are entitled.

Please feel free to contact me or our staff if you would like an in-person presentation or further details about any of the items in the enclosed report.

Sincerely,

Mac Clarke, Chair  
Board of Directors

Enclosure

c: Mr. W. Calvin Horton, Chapel Hill Town Manager (with Enclosure)  
Mr. John Link, Orange County Manager (with Enclosure)  
Mr. Steven Stewart, Carrboro Town Manager (with Enclosure)  
OWASA Board of Directors (with Enclosure)  
Ed Kerwin, Executive Director



## **Quarterly Report to Local Governments November 1, 2005**

### **Background and Purpose**

OWASA's September 6, 2005 *Annual Report to Local Governments* summarized major accomplishments and activities for Fiscal Year 2005 (July 2004 – June 2005). This abbreviated report provides new or updated information for the most recent (July – September 2005) quarter. Additional materials are available on request. OWASA Board members and staff will be glad to provide in-person presentations if desired.

**Local Comprehensive Plans and OWASA Demand Forecasts** - We are aware that on October 24, 2005 the Chapel Hill Town Council considered a petition from Council Member Jim Ward to request an OWASA briefing about the effects that potential changes to the Town's Comprehensive Plan may have on OWASA's long-term demand forecasts. The OWASA Board and staff look forward to working closely with the Town on these issues.

**Annual Update of OWASA's Comprehensive Water and Sewer Master Plan** - OWASA staff updated the *2001 Comprehensive Water and Sewer Master Plan* with recent data, strategic trends, and commentary through September 2005. Printed copies and supporting graphics of the full update report are available on request from OWASA, or can be viewed online at <http://www.owasa.org/pages/MasterPlanRev05.pdf>.

**Offsite Odor Elimination at the Mason Farm Wastewater Treatment Plant** - Odor control improvements currently underway are expected to achieve the goal of offsite odor elimination. OWASA hosted a community meeting on September 15, 2005 to discuss with neighbors our plans for monitoring odor emissions. Staff is scheduled to present an update to the Chapel Hill Town Council on November 14.

**Other Improvements to the Wastewater Plant** - Other milestone objectives at the wastewater treatment plant will be completed on schedule before the end of this year. These will include start-up of the new deep bed filter complex, which will provide increased levels of total nitrogen and solids removal; and a new ultraviolet light disinfection system, which will replace the existing and less environmentally friendly chlorine disinfection system.

**OWASA/UNC Water Reuse Project** - Negotiations over specific contract provisions between OWASA and UNC are proceeding smoothly and are nearly complete. Planning and design work for the reclaimed water pumping, storage and pipeline facilities is underway with construction expected to begin during the next fiscal year. Town of Chapel Hill approval will be needed for certain reclaimed water pumping, storage, and transmission facilities. Of current community interest is the route of a major reuse water transmission line to be installed in conjunction with OWASA's Meeting-of-the-Waters

sewer line upgrade in the Manning Drive/Pinetum vicinity. Selection of a final route, design, and construction of the reuse transmission line may affect the timing of the overall reuse project.

**Meeting of the Waters Creek Sewer Replacement** – Potential routes for the reuse water transmission line from Mason Farm WWTP to the southern campus areas are under evaluation along with alternatives for the Meeting of the Waters sewer replacement in the Manning Drive/Pinetum area. OWASA held neighborhood meetings with stakeholders in July and September, and the Board of Directors received citizen comments on the projects on October 13, 2005. We will continue to keep the neighbors informed and invite their questions, comments, and suggestions throughout the planning, design, construction and site restoration phases of these projects. A detailed tree survey is currently underway, and measures for mitigating project impacts are being investigated. In January 2006 the OWASA Board of Directors will receive additional information about these projects and may make a decision regarding the preferred route at that time.

**Public Hunting on OWASA Land** – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has not yet issued a decision on OWASA's request to modify conditions of the permit under which the Cane Creek Dam and Reservoir construction were authorized. We have asked the Corps to formally recognize OWASA's land acquisition/conservation easement program in the Cane Creek watershed as “exemplary compliance with the primary goal of Wildlife Habitat Replacement required under the original Permit,” and to accept this program in lieu of any requirement for hunting on or near the Reservoir. We have also offered to allow the NC Wildlife Resources Commission to implement a limited bow-hunting program for deer on OWASA's 490-acre Mitigation Tract near Buckhorn Road.

**Capital Improvement Projects** – OWASA's capital improvement program includes several projects that will involve local permits and/or may affect local neighborhoods.

Closing of the **Cleland Drive Pump Station** and replacement of the **Cleland Drive water and sewer lines** will likely begin during the first half of 2006 and will require about four months to complete. This project will involve excavation along **Cleland Drive between Burning Tree Drive and Rogerson Drive**.

A similar sewer project in Carrboro will allow the **Lloyd Street and Starlite Drive** pump stations to be eliminated and will provide sewer service to several unserved properties. These pump stations were constructed by the Town of Carrboro before OWASA was created. Design has been completed and OWASA staff is acquiring needed easements and permits. Construction will begin during the first half of 2006 and require several months to complete. Approvals are still needed from both the Towns of Carrboro and Chapel Hill.

More than a mile of sewers need to be replaced in a major project along **Bolin Creek between Estes Drive Extension and Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard**. Property owners in the project area have been notified by letter. OWASA staff will meet with

Friends of Bolin Creek representatives during November to exchange information and listen to concerns. Other neighborhood meetings will be held to receive questions and feedback from interested citizens. A preliminary engineering report evaluating alternative sewer alignments is being developed. When completed, the findings will be discussed with stakeholders. Engineering design will likely begin in early 2006.

Water line replacements were recently completed in the vicinities of **Markham Drive, Velma Road, and Old Oxford Road**. A similar project is underway on **Michaux Road**, and others will occur during the coming months in **Colony Woods, Brookside Apartments**, and on **Willow Drive**. Further details are available on request.

The closing of OWASA's Clayton Road sewer pump station will require about 2,000 linear feet of new sewer line, which will be installed between **Clayton Road and Estes Drive** near the **Chapel Hill Library**. Portions of this route will run through **Pritchard Park**, where a sewer easement was reserved several years ago. Zoning Compliance, Engineering, and Resource Conservation District permits will be requested from the Town of Chapel Hill. OWASA staff is working closely with Town staff to minimize the project impacts. Construction is expected to begin sometime in 2006.

**Reimbursement to Developers Who Install Water or Sewer Infrastructure with Excess Capacity** – OWASA staff and Board are developing policy and procedures to address the cost of installing water and sewer lines with excess capacity. This issue arose during discussions of Chapel Hill's Operations Center project on Millhouse Road and the County's Twin Creeks school and park project off of Old Highway 86. The OWASA Board is scheduled to discuss the issue at its November 10, 2005 meeting.

**Full Compliance with National Standards for Lead in Drinking Water** – Recently completed testing of water from 30 homes in Chapel Hill and Carrboro confirmed that OWASA's tap water continues to be better than the drinking water standards for lead. In each of the 30 water samples gathered from July through late September, lead results were below the detectable level of 3 parts per billion.

**Quality and Value of OWASA Drinking Water** – The Board of Directors has authorized staff to proceed with a program to publicize the quality and value of OWASA-supplied drinking water. This program will begin this fall and winter.

**Strategic Financial Review and Rate Study** – OWASA expects to conduct a comprehensive review of our financial capacity and long-term strategies during 2006. This will be done in conjunction with a review and modification, if necessary, of all customer rates and fees. The last such rate study was completed in 1997. A qualified consultant will be retained to complete the rate study. Recommendations may be available in time for incorporation into the Annual Budget and rate-making decisions for Fiscal Year 2007.