

Water and Sewer Management, Planning and Boundary Agreement (WASMPBA) Background

This agreement provides a comprehensive county-wide system of utility service areas upon which signatory entities can rely when making decisions related to issues such as planning, land use, annexation, zoning, and growth management. Available at <https://www.orangecountync.gov/DocumentCenter/View/13804/Water-and-Sewer-Management-Planning-and-Boundary-Agreement-PDF>. Attempts to define water and sewer service boundaries for Carrboro, Chapel Hill, Hillsborough, OWASA, and Orange County began in earnest in the mid-1980's. This followed the creation of Orange Water and Sewer Authority (OWASA) in 1977 and the initiation of extraterritorial jurisdiction expansion/joint planning in southern Orange County in 1979.

Several water supply-related planning efforts took place in the 1980s, lead by the Town of Carrboro and OWASA. Development regulations for the University Lake watershed were revised three times over a decade, culminating with the framework that followed North Carolina state provisions pertaining to water supply watersheds.

In 1994 a Task Force of elected officials from each municipality and two members of OWASA's Board of Directors formed to discuss these boundaries.¹

In 1999, the task force presented a draft agreement to the Orange County Board of Commissioners (BOCC). On December 14, 1999, the Carrboro Board of Aldermen responded, stating they did not accept the agreement as written but reaffirmed the Town's commitment to defining this boundary.² Over the next year, stakeholders discussed and amended the draft. Notably, Carrboro asked to include the Rangewood and Heritage Hill subdivisions in the boundary, as OWASA had already been providing service for many years there.³ In April of 2001, Orange County unanimously approved the draft and sent it to Town staff and OWASA for review.⁴ Chapel Hill requested that the proposed water and sewer boundary be amended to match their new Comprehensive Land Use Plan, adopted in 2000, pursuant to an OWASA policy that precluded water or sewer connections to structures outside Chapel Hill's Urban Services Area.⁵

On December 3, 2001, after making Chapel Hill's requested amendments to the service area map and changes requested by Carrboro and Hillsborough, the agreement was approved by Orange County, and later signed by requisite elected officials and staff of each stakeholder. In June of 2002, Carrboro approved an amendment to the Joint Planning Agreement (JPA), that linked the plan to WASMPBA.⁶

In 2010, changes were proposed to WASMPBA to implement recommendations to amend the boundary as detailed in the Hillsborough-Orange County Strategic Growth Plan (developed jointly in 2006). The Board of Alderman discussed the amendment over three meetings, hearing from representatives of the Efland-Mebane Small Area Plan Implementation Focus Group, and the Orange

¹ Water and Sewer Management, Planning and Boundary Agreement. December 2001.
http://www01.townofcarrboro.org/BoA/Agendas/2010/04_06_2010_D3A.pdf

² Town of Carrboro. Board of Aldermen Minutes. December 14, 1999, see Page 6
http://www01.townofcarrboro.org/BoA/Minutes/1999/12_14_1999.pdf

³ Town of Carrboro. Board of Aldermen Minutes. June 27, 2000.

⁴ Orange County. Board of County Commissioners Minutes April 17, 2001.
<http://server3.co.orange.nc.us:8088/WebLink/0/doc/2368/Page1.aspx>

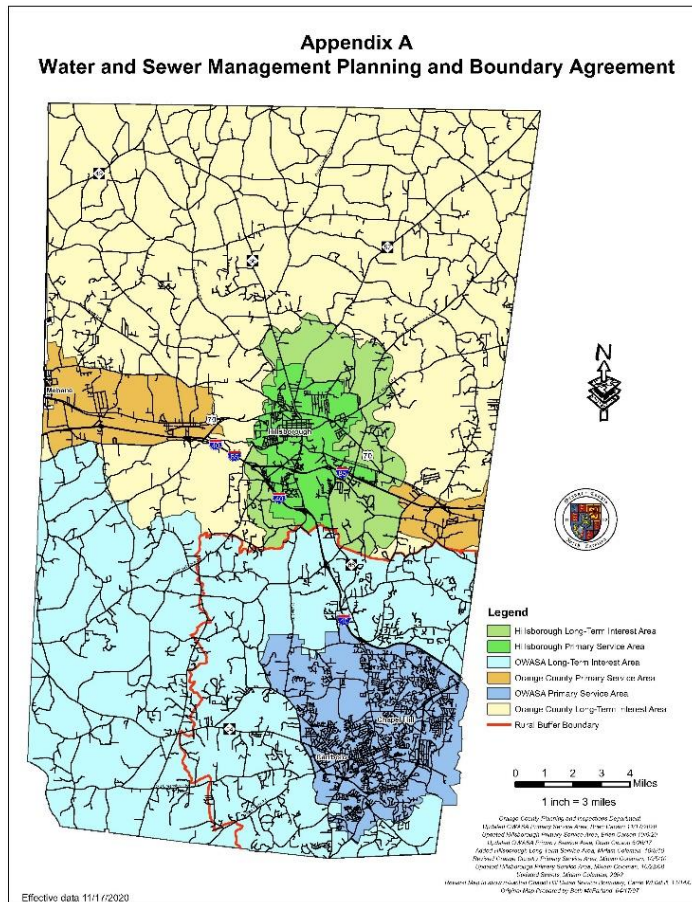
⁵ Town of Chapel Hill. Town Council Minutes. August 27, 2001.
<https://townhall.townofchapelhill.org/records/minutes/2001/010827.htm>

⁶ Town of Carrboro. Board of Aldermen Minutes. April 17, 2002.
http://www01.townofcarrboro.org/BoA/Agendas/2002/JointPlanning_041702.pdf

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County Board of Commissioners before approving the changes on September 7, 2010.^{7 8 9} The amendment to the agreement was finalized on October 5, 2010.

In 2011, a proposal to amend the agreement to clarify its applicability to the use of a Jordan Lake water allocation that OWASA had obtained and maintained was brought forward. The Board of County Commissioners discussed on January 20, and the Town of Carrboro reviewed on March 1, and May 17, and resolutions communicating the Board of Aldermen's comments were adopted.^{10 11} No amendment was adopted.



In 2017, the Board of Aldermen approved two amendments to WASMPBA to increase the development potential within the Hillsborough Long-Term Interest Area located immediately south of the Hillsborough Economic Development District and to change a 20.6 acre area in Carrboro's jurisdiction from Long-Term Interest Area to the Primary Service Area.¹² The Hillsborough change became effective following an associated change in the joint land use plan between Hillsborough and Orange County in 2020.¹³

In 2020, the Town Council and others approved an amendment to the

⁷ Town of Carrboro. Board of Aldermen Minutes. April 6, 2010. http://www01.townofcarrboro.org/BoA/Minutes/2010/04_06_2010.pdf

⁸ Town of Carrboro. Board of Aldermen Minutes. May 18, 2010.

http://www01.townofcarrboro.org/BoA/Minutes/2010/05_18_2010.pdf

⁹ Town of Carrboro. Board of Aldermen Minutes. September 7, 2010.

http://www01.townofcarrboro.org/BoA/Minutes/2010/09_07_2010.pdf

¹⁰ Orange County. Board of County Commissioners. Minutes January 20, 2011, see page 11.

<http://server3.co.orange.nc.us:8088/weblink/0/doc/21755/Page1.aspx>

¹¹ Town of Carrboro Board of Aldermen March 1 and May 17, 2011.

http://www01.townofcarrboro.org/BoA/Minutes/2011/03_01_2011.pdf and

http://www01.townofcarrboro.org/BoA/Minutes/2011/05_17_2011.pdf

¹² Town of Carrboro. Board of Aldermen Minutes. May 16, 2017.

<https://carrboro.legistar.com/MeetingDetail.aspx?ID=532853&GUID=D4BCC6CB-AD87-4982-913A-60D9A830EA88&Options=&Search=>

¹³ Orange County. Board of County Commissioners. September 15, 2020, see page 51.

<http://server3.co.orange.nc.us:8088/weblink/DocView.aspx?id=63286&searchid=2c969aa5-0bd4-4853-af58-a30ba0399b7f&dbid=0&cr=1>

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agreement to expand the OWASA Primary Service Area ¹⁴

Information on the 2023 request from the Town of Chapel Hill is available within the Carrboro Town Council agenda on January 9, 2024, ¹⁵.

¹⁴ Town of Carrboro Town Council Minutes November 10, 2020.

<https://carrboro.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=M&ID=802057&GUID=EA26A3D2-8C54-4EBA-B51F-AD10522C5855> and Orange County Board of County Commissioners Minutes November 17, 2020, see Page 16.

<http://server3.co.orange.nc.us:8088/weblink/DocView.aspx?id=63505&searchid=2c969aa5-0bd4-4853-af58-a30ba0399b7f&dbid=0>

¹⁵ Town of Carrboro Town Council Agenda January 9, 2024

<https://carrboro.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=6465970&GUID=3CC75E02-BE93-4879-8742-BFCDFDA63E93&Options=&Search=>