

RWSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Minutes of Regular Meeting
March 25, 2002

A regular meeting of the Rivanna Water and Sewer Authority (RWSA) Board of Directors was held on Monday, March 25, 2002, at 2:00 p.m., in the Conference Room, Administration Building, 200 Franklin Street, Charlottesville, Virginia.

Board members present: Mr. Richard Collins, presiding, Mr. William Brent, and Mrs. Judith Mueller.

Board members absent: Mr. Robert Tucker and Mr. Gary O'Connell

Authority staff present: Mr. Lawrence Tropea, Mr. Gene Potter, Mr. Stephen Bowler, Mr. Lonnie Wood, Mr. Bruce Edmonds, and Ms. Mary Knowles.

Also present: Mr. Kurt Krueger, RWSA Attorney, members of the public and media representatives.

1.0 Call To Order

The regular meeting of the RWSA Board of Directors was called to order by Mr. Richard Collins, Chairman, on Monday, March 25, 2002, at 2:00 p.m., and a quorum was present.

2.0 Minutes Of Previous Meeting

Upon a motion by Mr. Brent, and seconded by Mrs. Mueller, the Board of Directors voted to approve the minutes of the regular Board meeting held on Monday, February 25, 2002, with a correction to page 9, paragraph 5, in regards to Item 5c), the second line was amended as follows: "voted to approve the foregoing Resolutions to update the Procurement Policy / Purchasing Manual." All members voted aye.

3.0 Executive Director's Report

RESERVOIRS: Mr. Tropea reported that the reservoir levels are currently at 84.5 percent of capacity, which is a significant improvement due to the rainfall over the last two weeks. He cautioned that it was too soon to celebrate as we are at the precipice of peak water demand. He stated that the increased use of lawn sprinklers, higher reservoir evaporative losses from rising surface temperature, and increased plant/tree water uptake from the soil and groundwater are some factors that will impact reservoir levels. He commended the City of Charlottesville and the Albemarle County Service Authority on their recent water conservation efforts.

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3.0 Executive Director's Report Cont.
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SUGAR HOLLOW RELEASE TO MOORMANS RIVER: Mr. Tropea reported that the release was discontinued sometime in mid-February due to reservoir levels much earlier falling below 80 percent capacity. He stated that RWSA has implemented operations measures to maximize water in the Sugar Hollow and Ragged Mountain Reservoir system by reducing production at the Observatory Water Treatment plant and increasing the water supply draw from the South Fork Rivanna Reservoir where we have had a continuous overflow for several months.

Mr. Tropea stated that he was aware that a commitment was made in 2000 whereby the release from Sugar Hollow Reservoir would be discontinued if the system reservoir fell below 80 percent. He explained that conditions today are different, and the Moormans River release has not been reinitiated at this time based on several considerations. He noted that our area is obviously experiencing an extraordinary period of drought, and it has not yet been shown that we can sustain an 80 percent storage level in the reservoir system over an extended period of time.

FUTURE WATER SUPPLY RECOMMENDATION: Mr. Tropea reported that he made a presentation to the Albemarle County Service Authority Board of Directors last Thursday, March 21, 2002, on the future water supply recommendation. He shared with the ACSA Board the strategy that was presented at the February 25, 2002, Board meeting. He felt that the meeting went well and that thoughtful questions were raised. Future presentations have been scheduled with the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors for April 3, 2002, and with the Charlottesville City Council on April 15, 2002. Mr. Tropea noted that later today he would be requesting Board approval for a public hearing on the future water supply recommendation.

ROUTE 29 BYPASS HEARING ON DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT: Mr. Tropea reported that he will be asking today for the Board to authorize submission of RWSA's supplemental comments, which are included as an item in the Consent Agenda, along with his March 14, 2002 statement that he presented at the VDOT hearing. He stated that the RWSA testimony was consistent with the Board's position regarding the bypass alignment, and our comments were solely focused on the water supply aspects of the draft statement.

PANTOPS TANK PAINTING: Mr. Tropea reported that RWSA is in the process of painting the Pantops water storage tank. He stated that the tank was taken out of service on March 11, 2002, and the work is progressing nicely.

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3.0 Executive Director's Report Cont.

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In response to a request by Mr. Collins, Mr. Brent gave an update on the current water conservation effort undertaken by the City of Charlottesville and the Albemarle County Service Authority. He stated that later this week a joint campaign would be launched urging a 10 percent voluntary water conservation effort by customers from both jurisdictions. Mr. Collins inquired as to the decision-making process involved with the discontinuation of the release to the Moormans River. Mr. Tropea stated that it was a decision made by RWSA, and he felt it was the appropriate action given the overall water supply situation. Mr. Collins further questioned whether there were any management rules regarding releases from the South Fork Rivanna River. Mr. Tropea replied that we are normally able to overflow at least 8 MGD, but during droughts we try to match the inflow with the outflow to the reservoir. He further emphasized that RWSA's first priority is to maintain a viable raw water supply situation so we can meet the needs of our customers, and that except under severe conditions, we can do so without adversely affecting in-stream water needs.

Mr. Brent provided some historical background as it related to the Sugar Hollow release guidelines. He stated that in the Year 2000, a request was received to make a voluntary release of .4 MGD a day to benefit the stream. He further stated that after a study was completed, the Board agreed to make a trial voluntary release and the Charlottesville City Council and the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors concurred with this voluntary release. He added that the conditions confronting us now differ from those existing when the voluntary release was initiated, as the voluntary release decision was made at the end of the summer peak water demand season and there was an expectation that the reservoirs would fill up during the winter.

4.0 Consent Agenda

Mr. Collins asked if there were any items that the Board members would like to pull for discussion regarding the Consent Agenda.

- 4a) Staff Report on Finance
- 4b) Staff Report on Operations
- 4c) Report of Ongoing Projects
- 4d) Staff Report on Employee Safety
- 4e) Route 29 Bypass, March 14, 2002 Testimony and Proposed Supplemental Comments

In regards to Item 4a), Staff Report on Finance, Mr. Wood responded to a question from Mrs. Mueller regarding projected budget deficits at the end of the fiscal year. He stated that

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4.0 Consent Agenda Cont.

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based on current trends, urban wastewater would end up around 10 percent below budget. He added that urban water usually picks up at the end of the year and should break even as predicted.

Upon a motion by Mr. Brent, and seconded by Mrs. Mueller, the Board of Directors voted to approve Items 4a), b), c), d), and e) of the Consent Agenda. All members voted aye.

5.0 Other Business

In regards to Item 5a1), the Approved Minutes of the February 20, 2002 Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting were accepted. There were no actions required by the Board.

In regards to 5a2), the Report on the Water Supply Strategy, Mr. Tropea reported that the Citizens Advisory Committee held a meeting to review the future water supply recommendation, as requested by the Board, and they have submitted the comments provided in the Board book. Mr. Tropea introduced Ms. Michelle Mattioli, Vice-Chairperson of the Citizens Advisory Committee, who stated that the Committee was essentially in agreement with the staff recommendations. The Board accepted the comments provided by the Citizens Advisory Committee and thanked the Committee for its efforts. Mr. Tropea stated the Citizens Advisory Committee comments would become part of the formal record for the public hearing.

In regards to Item 5b), Board Authorization of a Public Hearing on the Future Water Supply Recommendation, the Board authorized RWSA to conduct a public hearing on May 1, 2002. Mr. Tropea stated that the location had not been confirmed at this time, but that paperwork had been submitted to reserve the Forum at the Monticello High School.

6.0 Other Items From Board/Staff Not On Agenda

There were no other items from the Board or the staff.

7.0 Items From The Public

Ms. Lois Rochester suggested painting water conservation messages on the water towers or finding other creative ways to promote water conservation. Mrs. Mueller responded that the City will be placing signs on vehicles which she feels will be visible to more City and County residents.

8.0 Closed Meeting

There was no need for a closed meeting.

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9.0 Adjournment

Mrs. Mueller made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Brent, to adjourn this meeting at 2:25 p.m.

Respectively Submitted,

Mr. Robert Tucker
Secretary - Treasurer