

RWSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Minutes of Regular Meeting
August 26, 2002

A regular meeting of the Rivanna Water and Sewer Authority (RWSA) Board of Directors was held on Monday, August 26, 2002, at 2:03 p.m., in the Conference Room, Administration Building, 200 Franklin Street, Charlottesville, Virginia.

Board members present: Mr. William Brent, Mrs. Judith Mueller, Mr. Gary O'Connell – Presiding, and Mr. Robert Tucker

Board member absent: Dr. Richard Collins

Authority staff present: Mr. Lawrence Tropea, Mr. Lonnie Wood, Mr. Stephen Bowler, Mr. Richard Defibaugh, Mr. Norman Wescoat, Mr. Chuck Kent, Mr. Bruce Edmonds, Ms. Anne Bedarf and Mrs. 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. Gary O'Connell, in the Chairman's absence, on Monday, August 26, 2002 at 2:03 p.m., and a quorum was present.

2.0 Minutes Of Previous Meeting

Upon a motion by Mr. Brent, and seconded by Mr. Tucker, the Board of Directors voted to approve the minutes of the regular Board meeting held on Monday, July 22, 2002 with the following correction to Item 2.0, Minutes of Previous Meeting, line 5, "Mr. Brent" should be added and "Mr. Graham" should be deleted from the minutes. By a vote of 4-0, the minutes were approved as corrected.

3.0 Executive Director's Report

Mr. Tropea reported on the following items:

MANDATORY WATER USE RESTRICTIONS/RESERVOIR LEVELS: Mr. Tropea stated that the mandatory water use restrictions imposed by the City of Charlottesville and the Albemarle County Service Authority, along with the ever-worsening drought conditions in other localities in Central Virginia, point to the fact that we are experiencing a regional water crisis of uncertain duration.

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Mr. Tropea also reported that on Friday, RWSA announced that it was reluctantly reducing its instream releases from the South Fork Rivanna Reservoir and from the Sugar Hollow Reservoir. He stated that RWSA felt it was a prudent action to take, and the action was consistent with RWSA's policy of trying to match the inflow to the reservoirs to what releases are made. Mr. Tropea further stated that the South Fork Rivanna Reservoir release was reduced to 2 million gallons per day and the Sugar Hollow Reservoir release was cut to 100,000 gallons per day. He noted that the natural inflow to those reservoirs is still actually less than the new instream release rates. He added that RWSA would continue to closely monitor the situation and that further reductions may be warranted if conditions do not improve.

Mr. Tropea stated that as of today the reservoirs levels were at 68.5 percent, compared to 73.9 percent last Monday. He further stated that when mandatory water use restrictions were announced last Friday, reservoir levels were at 70.8 percent.

Mr. Tropea reported that the water demand last week from Monday to Thursday, averaged about 13.24 MGD. He stated that one day last week the demand for water reached 14 MGD. He further stated that from Friday to Sunday, water demand fell to 11.97 MGD, which is about a 10 percent reduction from the level recorded earlier that week. Mr. Tropea commented that with the arrival of University of Virginia first-year students over the weekend and the fact that mandatory water use restrictions had just been announced on Friday morning, he felt the community had made a good start in its water conservation efforts. He added that through the mandatory water use restrictions, he believed that the area's water demand could be reduced by 30 to 40 percent.

Mr. Tropea asked Mr. Brent and Mrs. Mueller if they had any comments regarding the mandatory water use restrictions. Mr. Brent announced that County residents could report violations of the water use restrictions by calling the Albemarle County Service Authority's number. He further stated that the Albemarle County Service Authority would follow up on these calls, issue warnings, and take legal action against those who continue to violate the restrictions. Mr. Brent added that his staff is in the field, day and night, to observe water usage by his customers. In response to a question from Mr. Tucker, Mr. Brent stated that violation of the mandatory water use restrictions is a Class 3 misdemeanor which carries a fine of up to \$500. Mrs. Mueller reported that the City is also issuing warnings, which are identical to those issued by the Albemarle County Service Authority, and they are taking calls 24-hours a day.

FUTURE WATER SUPPLY STRATEGY: Mr. Tropea reported that there is an agenda item today requesting Board action on the Future Water Supply Strategy. He stated that since the last Board meeting, RWSA has received a letter from the City of Charlottesville and a resolution from the Albemarle County Service Authority in support of RWSA proceeding

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with the implementation of the strategies with currently available funds. He further stated that he felt the current drought highlights the need to move forward with the water supply strategy. Mr. Tropea added that the four-foot crest controls, called for in the Future Water Supply Strategy, would give the South Fork Rivanna Reservoir an additional 7 MGD of safe yield.

WASTEWATER FLOWS: Mr. Tropea noted that in the Board packet there is material regarding the recent wastewater flows, which have fallen to their lowest level in the last ten years as a result of the dry summer season. He stated that this is a situation that RWSA will continue to monitor since it has significant budget implications.

Mr. Tropea stated that he hoped that Board and the public were finding the new graphical information included in the Board packet to be helpful, and that RWSA plans to continue furnishing this type of analyses.

RIVANNA PUMP STATION ODOR CONTROL PROJECT: Mr. Tropea stated that included in today's agenda is a report on the Rivanna Pump Station odor control project. He further stated that the selection committee, which included a representative from the Woolen Mills neighborhood, had conducted the interviews and that RWSA would be moving forward to negotiate with the committee's top-ranked firm.

CROZET INTERCEPTOR ODOR CONTROL PROJECT: Mr. Tropea stated that a report on the Crozet Interceptor odor control project is also included in the Board packet. He commented that during the trial period, the chemical addition had proven to be effective in controlling odors from this system.

CAMELOT WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT: Mr. Tropea also reported on the sulfur dioxide release that occurred at the RWSA Camelot wastewater treatment plant on Route 29 on Saturday. He stated that between 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon, the operator returned to the plant and detected the smell of sulfur dioxide. Mr. Tropea further stated that the response from the fire and rescue personnel was excellent. He commented that the report in the newspaper incorrectly indicated that 100 pounds of sulfur dioxide had been released when the actual amount was about 3 pounds of sulfur dioxide. Mr. Tropea stated that no one was hurt, and the incident gave RWSA the opportunity to review its procedures. He also stated that RWSA has offered to meet with the fire and rescue departments to critique the event and determine what improvements could be made in the event of any future incidents.

COMPLIANCE ISSUES: Mr. Tropea stated that he felt it was important to inform the Board and the public when RWSA has compliance issues, and he then reported on the following three items.

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- Mr. Tropea stated that RWSA's Moores Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant violated the ammonia limits in its permit during the early July time period. He explained that the operators were misled by some faulty instrumentation, which caused them to waste more sludge than was needed and thereby decreased the efficiency of the ammonia treatment. Mr. Tropea further stated that the ammonia treatment efficiency was restored by re-building the biological community, and RWSA returned to compliance sometime in mid-July. He added that the exceedance of the ammonia limit was reported to DEQ.
- Mr. Tropea stated that a leak in the RWSA Meadow Creek Interceptor line had occurred when the bottom of the line had become pitted which allowed a small amount of sewage to be released. He added that on Friday, temporary repairs were made to the line with the assistance of the City's Public Works Department. Mr. Tropea commented that this incident was also reported to DEQ.
- Mr. Tropea stated that a report was made to DEQ on August 20, 2002, concerning a continuous treated effluent release from a 54-inch effluent line at the Moores Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant. He further stated that RWSA is in the process of determining the best solution to eliminate the leak.

Mr. Tropea commented that RWSA's philosophy is to report any violations and to work cooperatively with the regulators to resolve the issues.

DROUGHT WARNING SYSTEM: Mr. Tropea announced that a tentative date for the drought warning system meeting has been established. Mr. Tropea stated that as outlined in the Board packet, the steering group would like to facilitate a citizen dialog without any pre-determined solutions in mind. He added that more information would be forthcoming once the meeting date has been confirmed.

4.0 Items From The Public

Mr. John Martin, Free Union, stated that he had concerns with the decision-making processes as it related to the Future Water Supply Strategy. He further stated that there is a section of the Virginia Authority's Act which provides that the City and County each must hold public hearings and approve a resolution authorizing future water supply projects, which did not happen in this case. He added that due to the complicated nature of the issue, he would not be able to discuss the matter in further detail in the three-minute time frame permitted for public comment. He further stated that he gave Mr. Tropea a copy of the referenced statute and also submitted written comments on the issue.

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4.0 Items From The Public Cont. August 26, 2002

Mr. Tropea asked Mr. Krueger to address the Board on his research into this matter. Mr. Krueger stated that Mr. Martin quoted the statute (Section 15.2-5111) correctly, which does require, when governing bodies create authorities and specify the projects that such authorities are to undertake, that additional projects have to be undertaken with resolutions, after public hearings, by the bodies that created the authority. Mr. Krueger explained that what RWSA is seeking at this time is to do surveys and studies to determine if it is feasible to construct the proposed bladder and what impact the bladder would have on the footprint of the reservoir. He further stated that at the point of actually raising money for the construction of the bladder, or approving the plans for the bladder, the statute would come into play. In response to a question by Mr. Tucker, Mr. Krueger stated that the statute does not prohibit conducting joint hearings in the approval process.

Mr. Martin pointed out that the community followed the process outlined in the statute when the Buck Mountain Reservoir was approved, and a joint resolution was entered into by the City and County at the appropriate time.

Michele Mattioli stated that she was speaking today as a private citizen to advocate the sale of rain barrels by the Rivanna Conservation Society. She further stated that if anyone were interested in purchasing a rain barrel, to leave their email address with her today and she would send them an order form. Ms. Mattioli added that the price for each 60-gallon rain barrel is \$60.

5.0 Consent Agenda

Mr. O'Connell 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) Staff Report on Ongoing Projects
- 4d) Safety Manager's Report
- 4e) Staff Report on Crozet Interceptor Odor Control Project
- 4f) Ragged Mountain Dams Upgrade
Phase I – Alternatives Analysis
- 4g) Rivanna Pump Station Odor Study Update
- 4h) RWSA Instream Flow Report
- 4i) Public Discussion on South Fork Rivanna Reservoir Watershed Management
- 4j) Status Report on Comprehensive Drought Warning System

Upon a motion by Mr. Tucker, and seconded by Mrs. Mueller, the Board of Directors voted to approve Items 4a), b), c), d), e), f), g), h), I), and j) of the Consent Agenda. By a vote of 4-0, the Consent Agenda was approved.

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6.0 Other Business

In regards to Item 5a), Staff Recommendation on the Future Water Supply Strategy, Mr. Tropea stated that the recommendation was presented and discussed at the July 22, 2002 Board of Directors meeting. He further stated that RWSA is in receipt of a resolution from the Albemarle County Service Authority and a letter from the City of Charlottesville, both requesting that RWSA move forward with the design effort with the understanding that RWSA's efforts are limited to the available funds that exist in its last bond issue, which is approximately \$300,000. He added that before moving forward with the substantive project expenses, it is RWSA's intent to bring the matter back to the Board with a financial plan and schedule. Mr. Tropea commented that negotiations would also have to occur at that time between the City and the Albemarle County Service Authority to arrive at an equitable distribution of the costs. He concluded by stating that he hoped the Board would approve the recommendation today in order to move forward on the much needed four-foot crest controls on the South Fork Rivanna Reservoir.

Mr. Tucker stated that the County has been directly involved in the public hearings and discussions regarding this matter. He further stated that the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors, at their meeting three weeks ago, endorsed the recommendations as proposed here by the Executive Director.

Mr. Tucker therefore moved to approve the Staff Recommendation on the Future Water Supply Strategy, seconded by Mrs. Mueller, and approved by the Board of Directors by a 4-0 vote.

7.0 Other Items From Board/Staff Not On Agenda

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

8.0 Closed Meeting

There was no need for a closed meeting.

9.0 Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Robert Tucker
Secretary - Treasurer