

RWSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Minutes of Regular Meeting
December 16, 2002

A regular meeting of the Rivanna Water and Sewer Authority (RWSA) Board of Directors was held on Monday, December 16, 2002, at 2:03 p.m., in the Conference Room, Administration Building,
200 Franklin Street, Charlottesville, Virginia.

Board members present: Mr. William Brent, Dr. Richard Collins – Presiding, Mrs. Judith Mueller, Mr. Gary O’Connell* and Mr. Robert Tucker*

Mr. O’Connell arrived at 2:05 p.m. and Mr. Tucker arrived at 2:12 p.m.

Authority staff present: Mr. Lawrence Tropea, Mr. Lonnie Wood, Mr. Richard Defibaugh, Mr. Norman Wescoat, Mr. Chuck Kent, Mr. Bruce Edmonds, and Mrs. Mary Knowles.

Also present: Mr. Kurt Krueger - RWSA Attorney, Mr. David Hirschman – Water Resources Manager for Albemarle County, Mr. Mark Graham – Director of Engineering and Public Works for Albemarle County, 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 Dr. Richard Collins on Monday, December 16, 2002 at 2:03 p.m., and a quorum was present.

2.0 Minutes Of Previous Board Meetings

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, November 25, 2002. The minutes were approved by a 3 – 0 vote.

3.0 Executive Director’s Report

Mr. Tropea reported on the following items:

RESERVOIR LEVELS / WATER DEMAND: Mr. Tropea stated that both the South Fork Rivanna and the Sugar Hollow reservoirs are full and overflowing. He further stated that the Ragged Mountain reservoir system is about 3-1/2 feet below capacity. He added that the overall reservoir capacity is at 95.6 percent. Mr. Tropea also reported that the Beaver Creek and Totier reservoirs are both full, and he pointed out that last year the Beaver Creek reservoir never achieved full capacity.

Mr. Tropea reported that water demand has not risen significantly since the water use restrictions were lifted. He stated that water consumption last week averaged

7.94 million gallons per day.

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3.0 Executive Director's Report Cont.

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DROUGHT OF 2002: Mr. Tropea stated that he did not believe the drought was over for our area and asked Mr. David Hirschman, Water Resources Manager for Albemarle County, to give his perspective on groundwater conditions.

Mr. Hirschman distributed hydrographs to the Board which illustrated water levels for both area streams and wells. He stated that the Mechums River flows were represented on the first graph, which compares this year's real-time flow data to the long-term stream flow average over 30 years. He added that the Mechums River numbers were a good barometer for stream flows in the watershed which supply the reservoir system. Mr. Hirschman pointed out that even after the recent precipitation events, the Mechums River was still just a little over historic low flows on this date.

Mr. Hirschman reported that the other two hydrographs reflect data from two groundwater wells, which are located in Clark County and Fairfax County. He stated that the U.S. Geological Survey ("USGS") maintains 267 groundwater-monitoring wells, but these are the only two sites in Virginia that compile real-time numbers. He explained that although both of the wells are shallow, and their geological composition is somewhat dissimilar to that of our watershed, they do reflect a rise in groundwater levels after the recent storm events. Mr. Hirschman added that the County staff would continue to closely monitor the groundwater levels during the winter season.

Mr. Tropea inquired if USGS maintained any groundwater monitoring wells in Albemarle County or nearby counties which were not real-time groundwater monitoring wells. Mr. Hirschman replied that he believed the agency operated two such wells in Albemarle County, but that the closest USGS wells with data accessible to the public were located in Orange, Louisa and Buckingham Counties.

In response to a question from Mrs. Mueller, Mr. Tropea stated that he hoped that Governor Warner would address the issue of water resources data collection in his new initiative on water planning. Mr. Tropea further stated that there is a need for real-time groundwater and surface water monitoring stations in Albemarle County for sound water supply planning.

Dr. Collins discussed strategies by which funds could be raised to cover the costs associated with the construction and maintenance of groundwater and surface water monitoring stations.

WATER SUPPLY PLAN IMPLEMENTATION – Mr. Tropea reported that the community water supply plan implementation was proceeding very well. He stated that Ms. Anne Bedarf had been in contact with the Army Corps of Engineers last week concerning the dredging and Mechums River pump station projects, and RWSA hopes to have the permit approvals in the very near future.

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GOVERNOR WARNER'S PROPOSED WATER PLANNING LEGISLATION:

Mr. Tropea stated that he applauded the Governor's leadership on this issue. He also commented that he felt the Governor's proposal to initiate water supply planning at the local government levels, with State oversight, and then integrate individual local plans into a State water plan was a good strategy. He added that he hoped the Governor would get the needed support to enable this important legislation on long-range water supply planning to become a reality.

There was further discussion by the Board concerning Governor Warner's water supply planning legislation and the possible future financial impact on localities. Mr. O'Connell suggested that RWSA prepare a briefing paper for the Board outlining the financial implications of the Governor's proposed legislation on the Authority. Mr. Tropea stated that this would be done in response to the Board's request.

THOMAS JEFFERSON PARTNERSHIP FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MEETING:

Mr. Tropea reported that he, along with Mr. Brent, attended a Thomas Jefferson Partnership for Economic Development meeting last Friday. He stated that at the meeting the Partnership, the Chamber of Commerce and the Planning District Commission expressed interest in working cooperatively with RWSA on a regional watershed/summit meeting sometime in the late spring. Mr. Tropea commented that he felt this was a very positive step forward. He further stated that with the Board's concurrence, RWSA would like to seek other sponsors and hold a planning meeting in January with that group.

Mr. Tropea stated that he felt a separate meeting was still needed to be held for Charlottesville City and Albemarle County residents to explain the water supply plan, more clearly define the structure and role of Charlottesville City, Albemarle County, Albemarle County Service Authority and RWSA in water supply planning, and rates. He added that he thought the meeting should be held prior to a regional watershed/summit meeting.

STATUS REPORT ON 54-INCH SEWER LINE REPAIR: Mr. Tropea reported that RWSA is pleased with the progress being made on the repair of the 54-inch sewer line at the Moores Creek wastewater treatment plant. He stated that the repair work has been completed, and the backfilling of the excavation and repaving the area should be finished in the next 30 days.

STATUS REPORT ON RECRUITMENT OF DIRECTOR OF WATER AND WASTEWATER OPERATIONS: Mr. Tropea stated that the second round of interviews have been completed. He further stated that RWSA intends to have one of the candidates meet with a Board panel.

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STATUS REPORT ON RIVANNA PUMP STATION ODOR CONTROL PROJECT:

Mr. Tropea apologized for the delays on this project and reported that delays in initiating this project were attributed to the need for RWSA to address critical drought issues and a staffing shortfall during this time period. He reported that based on the recommendation of the study group, Black & Veatch has been selected as the consultant on this project. Mr. Tropea further stated that he would be proposing later in the Agenda that the Board approve hiring Black & Veatch for this project.

STATUS REPORT ON CROZET INTERCEPTOR ODOR CONTROL PROJECT:

Mr. Tropea reported that RWSA had received two recent odor complaints on the Crozet Interceptor. He stated that as discussed in earlier Board meetings, RWSA had used a chemical addition that had done a good job of odor abatement. He further stated that based on the manufacturer's recommendation, the addition of the chemical was stopped once a certain temperature was attained. Mr. Tropea added that RWSA will be re-instituting the chemical addition to address the odor issue.

4.0 Items From The Public

There were no items from the public.

5.0 Consent Agenda

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

- 5a) Staff Report on Finance
- 5b) Staff Report on Operations
- 5c) Staff Report on Ongoing Projects
- 5d) Safety Manager's Report
- 5e) THM and HAA Results for RWSA
- 5f) Status Report on Ragged Mountain Dam Rehabilitation
- 5g) Status Report on South Fork Rivanna Dredging Project
- 5h) 2002 Holiday Schedule
- 5i) RWSA Wins Prestigious Grant from EPA Environmental Management Systems Project
- 5j) RWSA Agreement on Accessing Water from Lake Albemarle

In regards to Item 5a), Staff Report on Finance, Mr. O'Connell asked if year-end projection numbers were available to determine what affect there would be due to the emergency drought rate. Mr. Tropea stated that RWSA plans to bring this issue back to the Board in January and give the Board a perspective on whether the emergency rate can be reduced. He further stated that at that time RWSA would also be in a better position to make a

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recommendation on the proposed wastewater rate increase scheduled for a public hearing at the January meeting.

In response to a question from Mr. O'Connell concerning long-term financing for the \$13.2 million needed to fund the community water supply plan, Mr. Tropea stated that RWSA would be committing all its available funds for the Board-approved engineering and required studies. He added that RWSA could not move forward with the dredging project, for example, until formally directed to do so by the City and the Albemarle County Service Authority, which was tied to the cost sharing agreement.

Mr. Brent stated that in order for RWSA to sell bonds, it must have a better-defined project and a reliable cost estimate, and he inquired when RWSA would be able to furnish that information. Mr. Tropea responded that RWSA had those items but might have to reformat them based on the advice of bond counsel. Mr. Wood added that the Board would also need to pass a resolution stating the Board's intent to issue bonds and identify the specific project. Mr. Brent also commented that he did not feel the bond process could be completed before July 1, 2003. He stated that, in the interim, RWSA might need to rely on short-term borrowing until a new water rate could be developed to satisfy the debt service on the \$13.2 million.

In regards to Item 5g), Staff Report on South Fork Rivanna Dredging Project, Mr. Tucker inquired if the Department of Environmental Quality's involvement in the permitting process had delayed the implementation of the project. Mr. Tropea stated that when Ms. Bedarf spoke to Army Corps of Engineers staff last Friday, they indicated that the Corps might not need to issue a permit for the dredging project and may allow the Department of Environmental Quality to handle the issue of the wetlands impact, which is a far different position from what the Corps had communicated to RWSA previously. Mr. Tropea added that RWSA is working with the project team to resolve these permitting issues.

There was further discussion by the Board regarding regulatory delays in the permitting process and the impact this will have on projects, such as the South Fork Rivanna Dredging Project, and possible ways to better communicate this problem to the public.

Upon a motion by Mr. Tucker, and seconded by Mr. O'Connell, the Board of Directors voted to approve Items 5a), b), c), d), e), f), g), h), i) and j) of the Consent Agenda. By a vote of 5-0, the Consent Agenda was approved.

6.0 Other Business

In regards to Item 6a), Water Supply Plan Implementation Approvals, Mr. Tropea reported that after the Board's discussion at the November 25, 2002 Board meeting, RWSA obtained a proposal from O'Brien & Gere in the amount of \$382,300 to move forward with

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engineering and construction activities at the Mechums River Pump Station, to accomplish the emergency elements associated with the South Fork Rivanna reservoir crest control project and to provide some ongoing engineering support. He stated that for the dredging project, engineering and construction of water plant improvements and detailed engineering and construction of the South Fork Rivanna reservoir crest controls, RWSA will develop specifications and put these projects out to bid on a prequalified bidder basis.

Mr. Tropea stated that RWSA is today requesting Board approval for the O'Brien & Gere contract in the amount of \$382,300. He added that \$300,000 is available in the remaining bond fund, which leaves a shortfall of \$82,300 that would need to be generated in order to move these projects forward.

In response to questions from the Board, Mr. Tropea explained that the \$382,300 would cover the costs for aerial surveys, the wetlands services, a cultural resources survey, engineering for the Mechums River pump station restoration, water plant improvements study, and preparation of the permit applications.

Upon a motion by Mr. Tucker, and seconded by Mr. Brent, the Board of Directors voted to approve authorizing the Executive Director to move forward with the Mechums River pump station project and those items identified in the staff report related to the \$382,300 proposal from O'Brien & Gere. The motion was approved by a 5 – 0 vote.

Upon a motion by Mr. O'Connell, and seconded by Mrs. Mueller, the Board of Directors voted to approve RWSA moving forward with competitive bidding and prequalifying potential bidders for the dredging project, the engineering and construction of water plant improvements and the construction of the South Fork Rivanna reservoir crest controls. The motion was approved by a 5 – 0 vote.

Mr. Tucker left the Board meeting at 2:45 p.m.

Mr. Tropea then reported on the revised scope for the Rivanna Pump Station Odor Control Project and stated that the initial proposal was for \$57,000. He stated that working with Black & Veatch, RWSA had fine-tuned the proposal to focus on making the existing odor abatement system more effective and to identify supplemental odor control technologies which could be added upstream of the current technology to improve performance.

Mr. Tropea added that the revised proposal was for about \$20,000, which would leave \$130,000 for the actual solution in the future.

Dr. Collins inquired if the Woolen Mills neighborhood association had been informed of the change in the scope of the project. Mr. Tropea stated that he had spoken to Ms. Patricia Shields, the designated project representative for the association, and she was in agreement.

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Upon a motion by Mrs. Mueller, and seconded by Mr. O'Connell, the Board of Directors voted to approve the contract for the revised scope of work for the Rivanna Pump Station

Odor Control Work Plan with a request that the Executive Director provide the Board with an updated timeline for the project as soon as the information becomes available. The motion was approved by a 4 – 0 vote.

Mr. O’Connell suggested that RWSA send a letter to the Woolen Mills neighborhood association updating the residents on the status of the odor control project. Mr. Tropea replied that this would be done.

Mr. Tropea also reported that the consultant for the odor control project has expressed concern about potential corrosion in the sewer system, which he believes is a separate issue from the odor abatement study. Mrs. Mueller suggested that the Technical Committee be asked to investigate this matter.

7.0 Other Items From Board/Staff Not On Agenda

Dr. Collins congratulated Mrs. Mueller on her appointment to the national Emergency Services, Law Enforcement and Public Health and Hospitals Senior Advisory Committee.

8.0 Closed Meeting

There was no need for a closed meeting.

9.0 Adjournment

Upon a motion by Mrs. Mueller, and seconded by Mr. Brent, the meeting was adjourned at 2:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Richard Collins – Chairman
for
Mr. Robert Tucker
Secretary - Treasurer