

**FLUVANNA COUNTY CITIZEN WATER COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

April 1, 2010

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Joe Chesser, Board of Supervisors Representative
Shelly Wright, Interim County Administrator
John Robins, Public Works Director
Vicki Karabinus, Economic Development Coordinator
Darren Coffey, Planning and Community Development Director
Roger Smith, Utilities Specialist
Alan Batson, Chairman FUSD Advisory Board
Richard Schwarz, LMOA
Elizabeth Franklin, Chair of Fluvanna Taxpayers Association
Dennis Holder, Fluvanna Friends of Rural Preservation
Scott Marshall, Chairman Economic Development Authority

ALSO PRESENT:

Mozell Booker, Fork Union Supervisor
Shaun Kenney, Columbia Supervisor
Ben Saunders, Columbia Town Council
Bill Hughes
Neil Phillips
Keith Smith
Minor Eager
Patricia Eager

CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME

Ms. Shelly Wright, Interim County Administrator, called the meeting of April 1st, 2010 to order at 7:08 p.m. in the Historic Courthouse of Fluvanna County in Palmyra, Virginia. Ms. Wright welcomed the attendees and public.

Ms. Wright asked the committee what their thoughts were regarding public comment at committee meetings. Mr. Holder suggested a three minute period at the beginning of each meeting and an open time at the end of each meeting. Mr. Batson felt that some level of public comment is imperative. Ms. Wright expressed concern over the time constraints it might place on the committee and suggested the following: 1) the size of the audience would be a determining factor in the decision whether to allow three minutes or five minutes for each individual to speak; and, 2) in no event will the public comment section at the beginning of the meeting be allowed to go over 30 minutes. The committee agreed to that format with Ms. Wright being the regulator of the time limits. The same comment period would apply at the end of each meeting for up to 30 minutes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Hughes expressed concern over an “open mike policy” and the impact that it may have on the committee’s ability to devote adequate time to its work.

REVIEW AND ENDORSEMENT OF MINUTES

Ms. Wright asked if there were any changes to the March 25th minutes. The minutes were amended to clarify that the objectives discussed at the meeting were tentative and to be finalized at this meeting (April

1st). After general discussion and agreement on the proposed change, the minutes were endorsed by the committee.

COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

The plan, as drafted, identifies a goal and suggests a series of strategies to implement the goal. Strategies include expansive use of the Internet, press, use of existing public comment opportunities, and planned events, meetings, and other media.

Ms. Wright has explored partnering with a local Internet expert, Bill Hardin (of Save Your Data), to establish an RSS feed for notifications. There will be a link to the James River Water Authority (JRWA) information, but that information will not be directly located under the Water Committee's section.

Ms. Wright emphasized the need for more technical expertise in order to be able to provide two-way communications through the website. She asked the committee if this would be a desirable project to pursue. Mr. Holder expressed concern over one-on-one committee dialogue being interrupted. He stated that the concept is good though.

Ms. Wright asked Mr. Kenney's opinion on the subject given his technical experience with that type of media and his role as the head of the Board's technology committee. Mr. Kenney stated that it was feasible, but depended on the objective of the committee. The forum could be limited to the committee or open to all. He felt that if the intent was to get ideas on the table it may be most desirable to limit the active discussion to committee members with other parties being able to view it openly.

Ms. Wright suggested that it begin as a committee only discussion and work with the Technology Committee to set up the system as soon as possible.

Mr. Coffey stated that meeting ads will run weekly to advertise the meeting dates and times.

Mr. Robins suggested that the Board and Planning Commission meetings be used as a vehicle to present committee updates to the public and both bodies with an opportunity for public comments on the updates. Ms. Wright stated that each agenda could be structured to accommodate this format with the Chairman's approval.

Ms. Wright suggested the library be used for the central space for hard copies of committee information.

Ms. Wright stated that the social media idea will be pursued via the Technology Committee, however, the recordation of the meetings in terms of taping or otherwise audibly recording is not feasible due to limited staff resources.

Ms. Franklin suggested the use of civic groups to solicit opinions on specific issues such as through an email of an opinion survey or flier to be disseminated. Ms. Wright agreed to tie in groups to the email list serve that will be set up.

Mr. Chesser suggested giving presentations to civic groups as requested. He also requested that meeting materials be forwarded with the agendas if possible.

Mr. Robins agreed to do that as much as possible, but due to the tight timeframe of the first two meetings, being only one week apart, it just wasn't feasible.

OBJECTIVES

Mr. Robins reviewed the committee's purpose – better communications, review of decision process, and select a recommended course of action. The process includes identifying and defining objectives that each alternative should meet, develop alternative approaches, and evaluate alternatives using the objectives.

Mr. Robins gave an overview of the proposed objectives from the March 25th meeting –

1. Ensure availability of water to the CPA's for the long term.
 - namely Fork Union, Zion Crossroads, Palmyra, Rivanna, and including identifying viable supply sources for Scottsville and Columbia

The committee discussed the viability of supplying water to all the CPAs, the legality of serving certain areas, and the feasibility. The committee agreed that, on the whole, it is a worthy objective to include all in the analysis of each alternative that is considered.

2. Ensure availability of water to primary County facilities.
 - Central Elementary
 - Existing High School
 - New High School
 - Government complex at Pleasant Grove
 - Government complex at Palmyra Village

Mr. Robins stated that once alternatives are analyzed the degree of need for each facility needs to be determined. The committee agreed to the list of facilities.

3. Show that the alternative is viable through a cost/benefit analysis (CBA).

Mr. Robins presented a slide for the Committee's review, indicating that the data for the analysis would mostly come from the existing studies. Benefits could include revenues, real estate and business tax base increases, value of reduction in trips, value of the reduction in use of groundwater, etc. Similarly, costs could include construction, borrowing, operations, maintenance, sewer system, etc.

- ~~4. Identify feasible alternatives.~~

Since this is a primary function of the committee, this is not really an objective so it should be removed. The committee consented.

4. Protect the rural preservation area.

The committee agreed that this is a valid objective to consider with each alternative. How to measure and quantify this is difficult. It could be measured through miles of potable water through a rural preservation area, number of connections projected, etc.

Mr. Robins requested any business expertise with the future application of a CBA. Mr. Marshall agreed to assist however possible.

Ms. Franklin suggested a fifth objective –

5. Lowest possible current and deferred tax impact.

This would be measured by the annual and long term tax impact for a given alternative.

With the exception of Ms. Franklin, the committee agreed to the five objectives as outlined.

REVIEW OF WATER SUPPLY ALTERNATIVES

Mr. Robins began the alternatives review by highlighting four primary components – source water, treatment, points of distribution of clean (potable) water, and storage.

- Supply sources include groundwater, small tributaries and impoundments, the Rivanna River, and the James River.
- Treatment includes one or more plants and their location(s).
- Areas to be served drive the points of distribution of clean water.
- Storage should use a reservoir for storage although it is not necessary. Tanks throughout the system should also be utilized.

Mr. Robins began an overview of the past alternatives that have been presented and considered by the Board of Supervisors.

- The first alternative was a James River source system. The alternative would use the East Coast Transport, Inc. (ECTI) pipeline to Rt. 649 (near the High School and Central Elementary), treat the water in that area and serve the schools and transport the clean water to Fork Union and then Palmyra to Zion Crossroads via Rt. 15 (2003 option).
- The second alternative placed the treatment plant at Pleasant Grove and utilizes the ECTI pipeline to a power easement (parallel to Rt. 53). Treated water is then transported to Rt. 15 for north and south distribution to Palmyra, Zion Crossroads, and Fork Union.
- The third option was treated at the James River and runs near the ECTI route, but in a separate pipeline to Rt. 649, then north on Rt. 15 to Palmyra and Zion Crossroads.
- The fourth option was treated at the James and runs north on Rt. 15 the length of the county.
- The fifth option was drawn from the James near Columbia and then ran west on Rt. 6, connected to FUSD, and ran north on Rt. 15 to Zion Crossroads.
- The sixth option was the one last considered by the Board and is reflected in the current comprehensive plan. It runs up the ECTI line to the power easement, treats the water at Pleasant Grove, and runs down 600 by Lake Monticello, then to the state prison.
- Another alternative was proposed to the County by AquaVirginia. This option would utilize the ECTI line, run adjacent to the Colonial Pipeline north to Rt. 250 and then east to Zion Crossroads. Another line would go east on Rt. 53 (by the high school) to Rt. 15 and then south to Fork Union.

Mr. Robins suggested a drawing exercise to explore each alternative and any new alternatives agreed to by the committee. A “Do Nothing” option is on the table, but that doesn’t require a map to illustrate at this time.

Mr. Holder suggested eliminating the Columbia source option since the town has a new well source that will serve its projected needs.

The committee had a general discussion on various options. They agreed that option five is not a necessary option to consider, groundwater and small tributaries are not desirable as a primary source, and the James River is a desirable source but it does not have to be an immediate source. The AquaVirginia option, or some variation of it, should be examined further as a potential alternative. Phasing options are a critical component to the analysis of any of the alternatives. Service to Fork Union, Zion Crossroads, Palmyra, and Rivanna CPAs should be considered. The committee accepted the drawing exercise as homework to be continued at the next meeting.

SET AGENDA FOR UPCOMING MEETING

- A. Finish examining alternatives
- B. Cost/benefit analysis methodology & criteria
- C. Evaluate construction costs

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Phillips announced that the National Association of Public/Private Partnerships was hosting a conference regarding water issues. He encouraged any interested committee members to attend.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Ms. Wright adjourned the Citizen Water Committee meeting of April 1st, 2010 at 9:30 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Darren Coffey.

Approved by Committee Consent on April 15th

Approved