

**FLUVANNA COUNTY CITIZEN WATER COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES**

**April 29, 2010**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Bill Hughes  
Neil Phillips  
Adrian Miller  
Keith Smith  
Wayne Schmidt  
Jacques Ruch  
Erick Gomez  
Shaun Kenney, Columbia Supervisor

**CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME**

Ms. Shelly Wright, Interim County Administrator, called the meeting of April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2010 to order at 7:06p.m. in the Historic Courthouse of Fluvanna County in Palmyra, Virginia. Ms. Wright welcomed the attendees and public.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Ruch, Rivanna District, stated that after the Fluvanna Taxpayer's meeting on Tuesday, he has concluded that there is no immediate need for water in the county. Any of the 12 identified plans will need further, detailed cost analysis. Louisa should be notified that we cannot partner with them at this time. He stated that the County cannot afford this project.

Mr. Schmidt, Rivanna District, stated that he also attended the FTA meeting on Tuesday and feels that the Aqua proposals are not advisable due to their track record with projects in the county.

**REVIEW AND ENDORSEMENT OF MINUTES**

Ms. Wright asked if there were any changes to the April 15<sup>th</sup> minutes. After general discussion and agreement on the proposed amendments, the minutes were endorsed by the committee.

**WATER DEMAND**

Mr. Robins passed out summary information from the newly drafted, and state mandated, Water Supply Plan. Mr. Coffey gave a brief overview of the content and history of the plan.

Mr. Robins suggested that committee members absorb the information individually prior to the next meeting, and began a brief summary of the groundwater and surface water system withdrawals.

A general discussion on the topic of economic development ensued.

Mr. Chesser stated that economic development and groundwater should be included in the committee's objectives and that they are conspicuously absent. Mr. Holder disagreed on the basis that the County does not have enough information on groundwater. He asked questioned what is meant by good economic development, and what data has been presented showing the need and benefit.

Ms. Franklin stated that it is an equation (certain types of business vs. others vs. rooftops).

Mr. Batson said that the Board of Supervisors has supported economic development and still does.

Chesser emphasized that the County must have proper infrastructure in place first.

Ms. Kurre agreed that good economic development is important, but emphasized that no one will come without the proper infrastructure – water, sewer, telecommunications, etc.

Mr. Holder stated that retail has the tightest margins, the lowest paying jobs, and attracts lower cost housing and more children as opposed to commercial development such as corporate headquarters. He reiterated the need to have data to support the stated objectives even if they seem to be reasonable.

Mr. Coffey spoke about the Comprehensive Plan that was adopted last year and discussed by the current Board at their work session in February. He stated that the Comprehensive Plan was very specific about the County's economic development vision and goals/strategies. He asked how the committee could choose to support certain sections of the Comprehensive Plan such as the rural preservation goals and fiscal impact goals, and ignore other priorities such as the groundwater protection and economic development goals.

Ms. Wright responded to a Louisa County tax rate reference by Ms. Franklin by saying that Fluvanna's true tax rate will be closer to 62 cents once the high school debt is paid by current year tax revenues entirely. With the public safety system and other capital needs such as buses, emergency vehicles, etc. it will added up to even more pennies. Currently we have only one viable option to pay for these needs – real estate and personal property taxes. She said that the main point is that Fluvanna County is already at a higher tax rate based on its spending with no options for a diversified revenue stream.

Ms. Franklin stated that taxpayers simply need to be shown the fiscal argument because they are not willing to assume it to be true.

The committee agreed to return to the agenda and continue the more philosophical discussion at another time.

Mr. Robins continued with the his summary of the Water Supply Plan information (located on the County website), including the 20.5 million gallon per day total projected water need for the County at "build-out".

### **SUMMARY OF ALTERNATIVES**

Mr. Robins began the review by showing all 11 options discussed by the committee on April 15<sup>th</sup> (see website for visuals of all plans).

Mr. Chesser suggested adding another plan - allow Louisa to pull from the James River up Rt. 15 (option 12). He also asked that the Mechunk Reservoir storage option be examined which is briefly addressed in the water supply plan.

Mr. Robins stated that the phasing of alternatives is recommended and will be reflected in the cost-benefit analysis for each option.

### **REVIEW OF COST/BENEFIT METHODOLOGY & CRITERIA**

Mr. Robins then began an overview of the cost/benefit (CBA) methodology.

Ms. Franklin asked if Mr. Gomez could sit in for the FTA during the discussion of the analysis. The committee agreed that Mr. Gomez could help to advise the committee on the CBA by working with Mr. Robins on the methodology and structure of the analysis. Mr. Gomez stated that he would like to act as an independent advisor to the committee, but would represent the FTA if asked to by Ms. Franklin. Ms. Wright was in favor of tapping into Mr. Gomez's expertise as a citizen volunteer to the committee, but objected to any organization represented on the committee switching representation during the course of a single meeting. Ms. Wright further objected to Mr. Gomez's assertion of a dual role of both independent advisor and chosen representative of a particular interest group.

Mr. Robins demonstrated an example cost/benefit analysis on the JRWA plan approved by the 2009 Board of Supervisors in order to examine the format and type of information comprising the analysis. The intent is not to focus on specific numbers at this time, rather the methodology proposed to be used for all alternatives.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Ms. Franklin requested that the alternatives presented at the April 15 meeting be posted to the website because of several requests she had received from members of the public that those be made available. Mr. Robins stated that it would be, along with all the other committee information that has been, and will be, presented.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Phillips stated that the water supply plan looks good and appears to be an accurate snap shot. He inquired about the remaining process for plan adoption. Mr. Coffey answered that it required Board of Supervisor and Columbia Town Council approval, as well as DEQ review and approval. It is a complete and final draft however.

Mr. Ruch stated that every survey in the County has indicated a desire for the county to remain rural. The return on investment on the \$28 million plan is not an attractive option.

Mr. Schmidt expressed disagreement with the projected population for the Lake Monticello area. He further stated that reservoirs may not be used for recreational purposes. Committee members clarified that gas powered motors may not be used on reservoirs.

### **ADJOURN**

There being no further business, Ms. Wright adjourned the Citizen Water Committee meeting of April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at 9:40 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Darren Coffey.