

**FLUVANNA COUNTY CITIZEN WATER COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

July 8, 2010

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Frank Pleva, Interim County Administrator
John Robins, Public Works Director
Vicki Karabinus, Economic Development Coordinator
Darren Coffey, Planning Director
Alan Batson, Chairman FUSD Advisory Board
Richard Schwarz, LMOA
Steve Scott, Economic Development Commission (EDC)
Elizabeth Fortune, Planning Commission Representative (PC)
Scott Marshall, Economic Development Authority (EDA)
Gary Peterson, Chamber of Commerce (COC)
Elizabeth Franklin, Chair of Fluvanna Taxpayers Association (FTA)
Dennis Holder, Fluvanna Friends of Rural Preservation (FFRP)
Joe Chesser, Rivanna District Supervisor

ALSO PRESENT:

Keith Smith
Bill Hughes
Adrian Miller
Neil Phillips
Dick van Nierop
Bill Downer
Scott Meise
George Fitz-Hugh
Pat Groot
Marvin Moss
Shaun Kenney

CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME

Mr. Joe Chesser, Board of Supervisors' liaison, called the meeting of July 8th, 2010 to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Historic Courthouse of Fluvanna County in Palmyra, Virginia.

REVIEW AND ENDORSEMENT OF MINUTES

Mr. Chesser asked if there were any changes to the July 1st minutes.

The minutes were endorsed by the committee as amended.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Chesser opened the Public Comment section of the meeting, asking each speaker to limit their remarks to three minutes.

Mr. Miller stated that he appreciates the efforts made but the committee's system of communication and methods aren't working or effective. We shouldn't cater to Louisa County when they will benefit from water more than Fluvanna County. He further stated concern for the future tax impact on county citizens. He reminded the committee of the citizen opposition to the James River Water Authority which he stated is still present.

REVIEW FINANCIAL TABLE FOR CROSS COUNTY GOING IT ALONE

Mr. Holder questioned Mr. Chesser's role in running the committee meeting. Mr. Marshall nominated Mr. Chesser. Mr. Holder nominated Mr. Pleva. Being no others, Mr. Chesser closed the floor to nominations. The majority of the committee voted to have Mr. Chesser as the committee's chair.

Mr. Holder introduced the Cross County Going It Alone plan (with no partner) to show how it appears to be a better deal for Fluvanna County due to much less demand for water by Fluvanna. This means smaller and less infrastructure. For example, the ECTI line would not have to be replaced within the model's analysis timeline.

Therefore, Mr. Holder stated that the previously discussed Cross County Partnership option, if pursued, would be most fair if the proportional model would have each partner contribute to the annual debt service according to the annual usage by each county.

The committee discussed the two plans which differed by the cost of the future supply line to replace use of the existing ECTI infrastructure, as well as how the costs were proposed to be proportioned by each County.

RANKING OF THE ALTERNATIVES

Mr. Robins gave a brief description of each variation of each plan on the list.

The committee began a general discussion of the alternatives including the significant differences in revenue projections. Despite some skepticism over these differences, the same assumptions and methodology was used for the analysis of each option.

Ms. Fortune suggested that the committee discuss the James River Water Authority (JRWA)'s role in any of these partnership scenarios.

Mr. Batson reminded the committee that the 50/50 options were all removed from consideration by the committee which essentially removes the JRWA from consideration.

The committee members generally disagreed on that assessment in that it could mean renegotiating the existing agreement, or it could mean the authority is dissolved based on an inability to come to new terms.

Mr. Holder stated that the JRWA structure is so tainted that it will not be supported by his organization (FFRP) in any partnership arrangement. A new partnership structure would necessarily have to be different and might be more supported by the community.

Ms. Franklin stated that her organization (FTA) also could not support any option that includes the JRWA.

Mr. Chesser asked what specifically was wrong with the authority structure (JRWA).

Mr. Holder stated that there would need to be direct supervision over an authority by the elected representatives of Fluvanna County with tightly established fiscal constraints.

Mr. Chesser suggested that Mr. Holder write out his rationale for what a successful authority arrangement would look like and then the committee could vote on it at the final meeting on July 13th. He cautioned that the issue of an authority as a form of partnership should not be politicized to the extent possible because that would not be beneficial to the committee's work or the process.

Mr. Holder stated that if a referendum on this issue were a guarantee then it would be different because it would then be decided directly by the voters.

Mr. Schwarz stated that he was somewhat constrained by representing the LMOA at this point since they are not comfortable endorsing any options without additional information and with their Board's review.

Mr. Peterson stated that he too still needed time with the Chamber in order to accurately represent them.

Mr. Chesser recommended delaying the final analysis of these rankings until the next meeting on Tuesday, July 13th. He encouraged all parties to make the most of the time remaining. The report would then be finalized for the Board of Supervisor's July 21st meeting. He suggested that a draft report be prepared prior to the July 13th meeting so that it could quickly be completed.

Mr. Marshall asked how the partnership/JRWA issue could be resolved.

Mr. Chesser suggested that committee members come to the next meeting prepared to specifically discuss why the JRWA should be dissolved or significantly restructured so that partnership options could be considered by the committee for recommendation.

PRESENTATION FOR THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Mr. Robins suggested sending the committee's final report to the Board of Supervisor's separate from the regular meeting packet.

Mr. Chesser suggested that staff not give the final presentation. The committee asked Mr. Schwarz if he would be willing to give the presentation on behalf of the committee and he agreed to do so.

AGENDA FOR THE JULY 13TH MEETING

1. Finalize the ranking of the alternatives.
2. Finalized specific comments regarding the JRWA.
3. Finalize the report to go to the Board of Supervisors.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Chesser opened the floor for public comment.

There were no public comments.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Mr. Chesser adjourned the Citizen Water Committee meeting of July 8th 2010 at 8:24p.m.

Minutes recorded by Darren Coffey.