

# Citizens' Water Committee

Kick-off Meeting  
March 25, 2010

# Discussion Items

- Purpose
  - Better Communications
  - Review of Decision Process
  - Selection of a Recommended Course of Action
- Proposed Process
- Proposed Timeline
- Background
- Proposed Objectives

# Proposed Process

Step 1 – Identify and define the Objectives that each alternative should meet

- Work within our committee on identification of objectives (each committee member should communicate with their organization during this process)
- Take the objectives to the Board of Supervisors

# Proposed Process (con't)

Step 2 - Develop Alternative Approaches that supply water and address these objectives

- Work within the committee on identification of alternatives (each committee member should communicate with their organization during this process)
- Take the alternatives to the Board of Supervisors

# Proposed Process (con't)

## Step 3 - Evaluation of Alternatives using objectives and recommendation of best alternative

- Work through the analysis of each alternative using the objectives so that they can be ranked next to each other
- Hold a town hall meeting to present the objectives, the alternatives and the initial stage of evaluation so that the citizens can present feedback
- Complete the evaluation of the alternatives with the citizen input and make a recommendation and a report of the work by the committee
- Take this report and recommendation to the Board of Supervisors
- The Board of Supervisors can take action as they choose

# Proposed Timeline

- The Chart that was approved by the Board of Supervisors shows a timeline that is to be completed by July 2010. This is out charge for the Board of Supervisors.
- The Timeline is developed with this deadline in mind.
- It is proposed that we will meet every two weeks starting next week

# Proposed Timeline (con't)

- Objectives
  - Start March 25, 2010
  - Finish April 1, 2010
  - Present to the Board of Supervisors April 21<sup>st</sup>
- Develop Alternatives
  - Start April 1, 2010
  - Finish April 29, 2010
  - Present to the Board of Supervisors May 19th

# Proposed Timeline (con't)

- Evaluation of Alternatives
  - Start in Committee Meetings April 29, 2010
  - Town Hall Meeting June 15, 2010
  - Finish July 1, 2010
  - Present to the Board of Supervisors July 21st

# Background

- Louisa and Fluvanna commissioned study in late 1990's to develop a strategy for infrastructure in the Zion Crossroads area
- Fluvanna decided to look at the County as a whole in the development of infrastructure and commissioned another study while putting the first one on hold

# County-wide Study

- The study was completed November 1998 and presented to the public and the Board of Supervisors.
- The Board decided that this study resulted in a project too expensive to pursue at this time
- Also the Board decided that this study was premature since it was completed prior to the expected comprehensive plan, therefore the study was shelved until the 2000 comprehensive plan would be finished

# After the 2000 Comp Plan

- The 2000 Comprehensive Plan was adopted by the Board of Supervisors on Nov. 9, 2000 after nearly two years of input from citizen work groups and the Planning Commission
- Chapter Eight dealt with Infrastructure
- Goal 2 – specified to provide water and sewer to the planning areas
- Goal 3 – specified to select an organizational structure, obtain a permit for withdraw form the James along with improving the Fork Union water supply

# Water Committee

- Board of Supervisors used the goals of the 2000 Comprehensive Plan to form a committee in June 2002. This effort was more urgent due to the drought felt by the citizens of Fluvanna County
- Committee directed to develop more reliable water source for Fork Union along with other County needs.

# Water Committee Report

- A staff report using all the previous reports was created and submitted to the Board on October 2, 2002
- The report outlined a seven point plan to move forward on this project including:
  - Obtaining permit for James River Permit
  - Plan and negotiate partnership with Louisa
  - Develop a management structure

# Negotiations

- The water Committee started negotiations with the following potential partners:
  - Department of Corrections
  - Virginia Power
  - East Coast Transport, Inc.
  - Louisa County
  - Rivanna Water and Sewer Authority
  - AquaVirginia

# Louisa County

- The negotiations with Louisa County resulted in a proposed Memorandum of Understanding that laid out a plan to proceed on the project and develop a partnership between the Counties
- This partnership helped to accomplish the goals of the 2000 comprehensive plan (provide infrastructure to planning areas) at half the capital cost and reducing the operational cost by providing the system a large customer (Louisa)

# Board Approval of MOU

- The Memorandum of Understanding was presented to the Board of Supervisors along with an engineering report developed by Anderson Associates at a special work session on April 23, 2003.
- The Board approved the Memorandum of Understanding and the engineering report
- Also the Board directed staff to obtain a withdraw permit from the James River

# Permit for James River Withdraw

- The permit process began in April 2004
- During the process DEQ urged us to investigate partnering with the Rivanna Water and Sewer Authority (RWSA) since they were in the process of developing their long range water supply plan
- RWSA decided not to go to the James but to use the headwaters of the Rivanna River
- The withdraw permit was approved in December 2005 for 3 MGD (not the 6MGD requested)

# AquaVirginia

- Negotiations started with AquaVirginia in 2003
- They presented a plan to use the Rivanna River as their primary source in October 2003. This was rejected by the Water Committee since the James River was planned to be the long term source
- Asked AquaVirginia to revisit their proposal and determine what type of deal they could structure using the James River for the long term water supply
- Continued negotiations and renewed them in earnest in 2005

# AquaVirginia (Con't)

- While awaiting AquaVirginia's response, the Hurricanes of late summer 2005 hit the Gulf Coast where they have many water system.
- The Water Committee decided to wait for them to respond to this emergency
- No response was forthcoming through the rest of 2005 and on into 2006

# Hiring an Engineering Firm

- It was decided to proceed on hiring an engineer since it appeared that AquaVirginia was not responding and may not respond
- A request for proposal was developed and advertised
- Five firms responded: Timmons, O'Brien and Gere, Wiley and Wilson, Gannett Fleming, and Anderson & Associates

# Selection of an Engineering Firm

- The proposals were reviewed and a short list was selected. The two top firms were Timmons and O'Brien and Gere.
- Two series of interviews were carried out with the short listed firms
- Timmons Group was selected
- Negotiations of a Scope of Services was then started

# Planning and Preliminary Engineering

- Timmons was hired by Fluvanna County with an agreement from Louisa County to pay half of the costs for the work
- The contract was approved in March 2007
- Their scope of work included primarily the development of the preliminary engineering for the project. This included comparison of alternatives and making information available to the public through meetings, news releases and web site information

# Public Information Meetings

- Timmons held three public information meetings after presenting this information to the Board on April, 2 2008. The intent was to present the alignment options of the pipeline, estimated costs, management structures, and potential partners.
  - April 17, 2008 – Lake Monticello Clubhouse
  - April 22, 2008 – Beaverdam Baptist Church
  - April 30, 2008 – Fluvanna Community Center

# Presentation of the Pipeline Alignment

- Initial Alignment from October 2002 report approved by Board of Supervisors on April 23, 2003 (Route 15 alignment)
- Initial alignment options reviewed in Water Committee (Including running by Lake Monticello along with others) in 2007
- Presented an update on work of Water Committee to Board of Supervisors on January 16, 2008 with a brief overview of initial proposed alignment

# Presentation of the Pipeline Alignment (Con't)

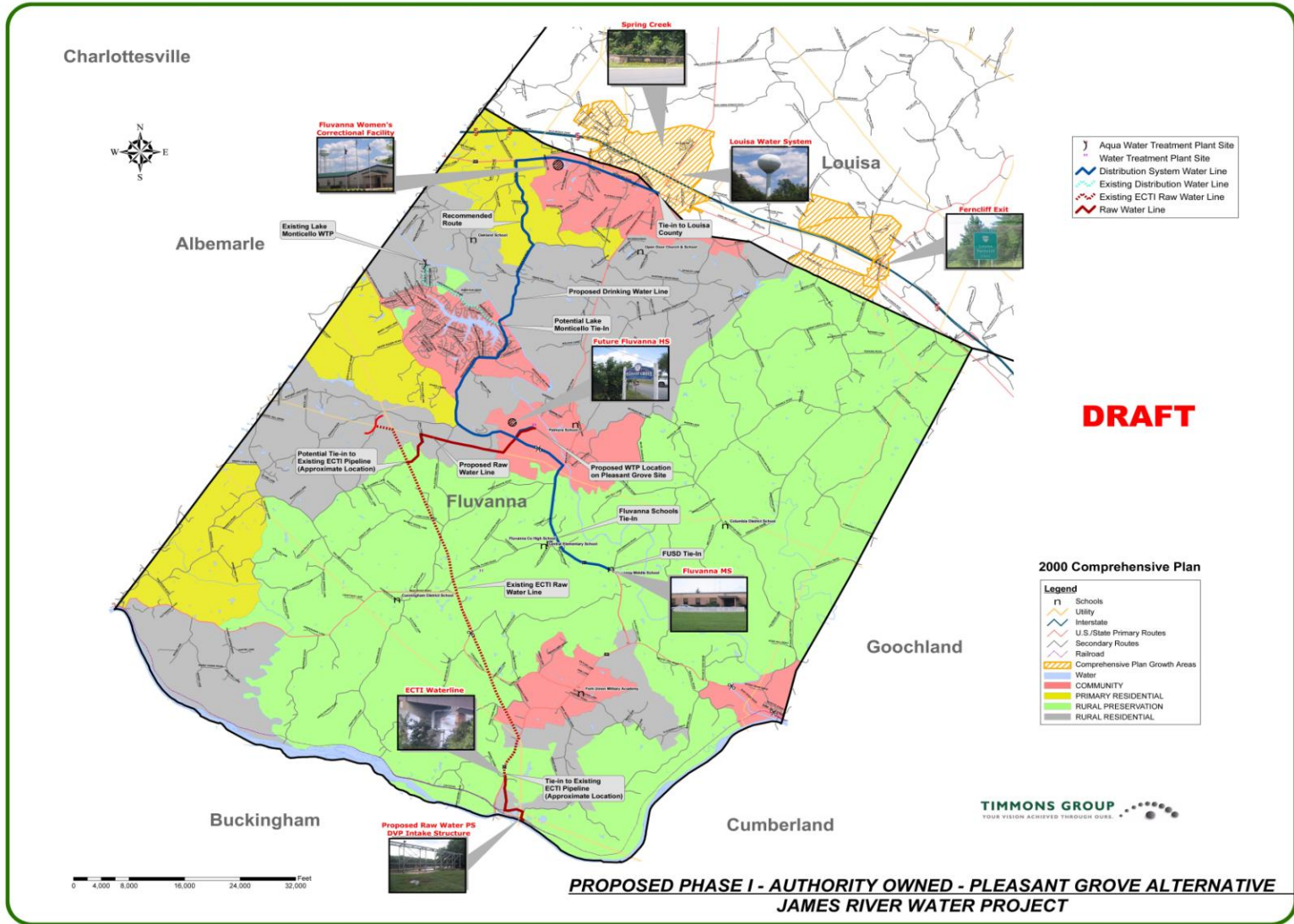
- Water Committee works on alignment alternatives in early 2008
- Board of Supervisors presented with proposed alignments at the April 2, 2008 Board of Supervisors meeting
- Water Committee continues on development of changes to alignment including revisiting the Route 15 option and adding the Sanitary District connection to the first phase of construction
- Water Committee decided to recommend route of pipeline to Board of Supervisors on October 1, 2008

# Presentation of the Pipeline Alignment (Con't)

- Board of Supervisors presented with proposed alignments at the October 15, 2008 Board of Supervisors meeting
- The alignment was also presented to the Board of Supervisors at the joint meeting with Louisa County in Zion Crossroads on January 26, 2009

# Alignment

- Several Alternatives were reviewed concerning the alignment through Fluvanna County
- Louisa stayed back from this work since this affected Fluvanna County primarily
- An alignment was selected and presented to the Board of Supervisors



# Presentation of the Management Structure

- Board of Supervisors approves the Memorandum of Understanding with Louisa County on April 23, 2003
- Water Committee starts to discuss the management structure alternatives in 2007 and early 2008
- Timmons makes a presentation to the Board of Supervisors with the alternative management structures on April 2, 2008 and the recommendation of the Water Committee to pursue the Joint Water Authority with Louisa County

# Presentation of the Management Structure (Con't)

- Water Committee decides to recommend that the Board of Supervisors hold a public hearing for the creation of a Joint Water Authority with a six member Board of Directors on October 1, 2008
- Presentation detailing the different management structures considered by the Water Committee was presented by staff to the Board of Supervisors at the October 15, 2008 meeting

# Management Structure

- Several Management Structures were compared:
  - Sanitary district
  - Service district
  - Community development authority
  - Retail service authority
  - Joint wholesale authority

# Presentation of the Management Structure (Con't)

- Timmons makes a presentation to the Board of Supervisors with the recommendation on how to proceed on formation of a Joint Water Authority with Louisa County on December 3, 2008
- The Board of Supervisors decide to proceed with a joint meeting with Louisa County on January 26, 2009

# Presentation of the Management Structure (Con't)

- The Board of Supervisors decide to advertise for a public hearing concerning the creation of a joint meeting with Louisa County on February 4, 2009

# Recommendation - Joint Water Authority

- Would sell water at a wholesale rate to only two customers
- Would own and operate the raw water lines, pump stations, treatment facility, storage and transmission lines
- Can be authorized to finance the project

# The Joint Water Authority/Pipeline:

## A Communications Case Study

# Money questions

- What's the full cost of the pipeline – debt service, operations, future capital costs?
- How long will it take to break even on those things?
- When will taxpayers see payback?
- What's the combined tax impact of pipeline and schools plan? Can citizens afford it?
- Who should fund pipeline – ratepayers or taxpayers?
- Is JWA agreement a good deal for Fluvanna?

# "Sovereignty" questions

- Should Louisa get equal say-so over a pipeline running through Fluvanna?
- Should a water authority with voting power from Louisa have eminent domain over Fluvanna?

# Representation questions

- Should only one of six JWA board members be accountable to Fluvanna voters?
- Won't citizens have less influence over pipeline decisions?
- What happens if a board member on the water authority has to recuse himself?
- Should Fluvanna board members represent more districts?



**How could those questions  
have been addressed to  
head off an impasse?**

# Anticipate citizen issues well ahead of time

- Don't wait for the public hearing to address questions and objections for the first time
- Seek input early enough that citizen feedback can guide decision-making
- On County website, create a way for citizens to submit questions and input on major issues long before public hearing

**continued**

- Create a citizens “communications advance team” to research major proposals and identify hurdles
- Perhaps use as a model the new neighborhood meetings the county started last year for proposed developments

# Treat the joint water authority as its own topic and concern

- In minds of many citizens, pipeline and joint water authority are two distinct issues
- Hold information meetings solely about JWA
- Educate public about JWA structure and powers.  
Articles of incorporation/resolution describing JWA first available to citizens only 1 month before public hearing.

# Address cost concerns with complete information

- Work up project cost/benefit analysis tailored to taxpayers
- Show how proposed project will affect tax bills now and into the future
- Help citizens understand project's tax impact when aggregated with other approved capital projects

# Let us reason together

- Create dialog between decision-makers and citizens
- County leaders . . . put citizens in your shoes, walk them through your decision-making process, make them feel part of your thinking
- Have presentations that consider all pros and cons based on “communications advance team” input
- Hold Q&A forums where county leaders respond to citizens’ questions directly, not just discuss internally after public comment periods
- Present the trade-offs and tough choices so citizens grapple with them, too

# Objectives

- Communicate using press releases, open committee meetings, presentations to the Board of Supervisors, web presentations, town hall meetings and connections through existing organizations
- Provide water to Community Development Areas in the County as Identified in the Comprehensive Plan

# Objectives (con't)

- Provide water to schools
- Provide water to the Fork Union Sanitary District
- Develop a system that can pay back the County for any general fund support (determine the pay back period)
- Develop a system that keeps the general fund obligation as small as possible (determine the amount of tax needed)