



Rivanna Water & Sewer Authority
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MEMORANDUM

**TO: THE HONORABLE ALBEMARLE COUNTY SUPERVISORS
THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL**

**FROM: THOMAS L. FREDERICK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
RIVANNA WATER & SEWER AUTHORITY
RIVANNA SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY**

SUBJECT: QUARTERLY UPDATE

DATE: DECEMBER 21, 2015

I am preparing this as a report in advance of a scheduled briefing with the Board of Supervisors on January 6, 2016, and I am also distributing it to City Council as a written update. I am happy to schedule a similar briefing with Councilors if desired. I would also look forward to serving either Board by addressing questions or other topics, either at scheduled briefings, or by e-mail or telephone:

1. Appointments to the Boards: We are very grateful to Mr. Ken Boyd and Ms. Kathy Galvin, who will each complete a four-year term on the RWSA and RSWA Boards of Directors expiring December 31, 2015. In January 2016 it is anticipated that the Board of Supervisors and the City Council will each appoint its representative(s) for a new term, in time that these representatives may sit on the Board at the next RWSA Board Meeting on January 26 and next scheduled RSWA Board Meeting on February 23. Based on the Articles of Incorporation, each elected body now appoints a representative to each Board from among officials serving on the elected body as of January 2016, for a term defined as the remaining tenure of that representative as an elected official up to a maximum of four years. The appointed representative may be but is not required to be the same individual to serve on both the RWSA and RSWA Boards.

Mr. Gaffney's current term as Chair of both Boards expires December 31, 2016, and all other Board members are ex-officio.

2. New Website: In early December the Rivanna Authorities launched a new website, the result of several months of effort. Our new website is "mobile friendly", more visual with less text, and provides a better opportunity for citizens to get to know what our organizations do as well as expand interactions between our organizations and the public. We've also eliminated the old "landing page" where before visitors had to choose up front if they wanted to view the RWSA or the RSWA, so that the public now sees more clearly that within our organization we interact as one organization even if the RWSA and RSWA are incorporated for legal purposes as two separate organizations.

Much of the initial feedback we have received on the new website is very positive. We welcome further feedback to help us continue to improve, including feedback from elected officials.

As we reflect more closely on how we provide a clear and transparent message to the public on our true purpose through our website, we are reminded that further guidance from our elected officials is needed at some point on the purpose of the RSWA. RSWA was formed in 1990 to receive all solid waste from within the boundaries of the County and City and to establish as well as implement policies toward reduce, reuse, recycle, and disposal of solid waste, while the two localities retained authority over waste collection at individual homes and businesses. Today the localities are authorizing most of the solid waste to go directly to separate facilities for recycling or disposal in Fluvanna or Greene Counties, limiting RSWA's regional role (both City and County) to whatever service from time to time for which either or both localities wish to contract and agree to subsidize. Subsidies are needed even for revenue producing services, because the services that are presently being requested have a small market and therefore limited revenue.

3. Capital Improvement Plan: A new update to RWSA's five-year capital improvement program is due to be introduced to the Board and public on January 26. The major focus of new projects for the next five years will focus on repairing or replacing old and antiquated infrastructure associated with drinking water treatment and water pipeline transmission. Of significance is a proposed major overhaul of the Observatory Water Plant, where most of the technology remains today what was constructed in the 1950s. Furthermore, RWSA continues to rely on piping systems constructed as early as 1908 and 1927. On the positive side, the CIP has successfully met many challenges within the past ten years; as a result a significant amount of wastewater infrastructure has been replaced or upgrading, making it more current and reliable.

This Plan will also identify that we anticipate an expansion of the capacity of the Crozet Water Treatment Plant early in the 2020s, based upon growth in water demand occurring in that area. A preliminary site plan for the future expansion is proposed within the next year.

We do want to thank the County for its recent incorporation into its Comprehensive Plan of critical elements of our proposed water system to serve the northern part of Albemarle County.

4. Schenks Branch Interceptor Replacement: The City's Schenks Greenway public park is presently closed for RWSA to construct a new 30-inch interceptor between Harris Street and the entrance to the McIntire Recycling Center. A fence has been installed to shield the construction zone from surrounding development and construction is being limited to business hours. Construction is presently behind schedule, and efforts are being coordinated by RWSA to obtain from the Contractor a recovery schedule to improve progress.

A second section of this new 30-inch pipeline remains on hold. That section is from the entrance to the McIntire Recycling Center to in front of the County Office Building. For RWSA to proceed, either the County must grant an easement on County property, or the City must grant permission for the new sewer to be installed under McIntire Road. To install under McIntire Road the road would need to be closed during construction. Due to topography and existing development, no alternatives other than the two described above are practicable. We understand discussions are continuing between the County and City.

5. Water Treatment Plant Activated Carbon Filtration Improvements: Construction is underway to incorporate advanced carbon filtration technology at RWSA's water treatment plants, supporting an interest developed from within the community. This project will advance water provided to our citizens by ACSA and the City, which is already high quality, to a superior level. Completion is anticipated in late 2017. Major elements of work to-date include scheduled demolition and site work at the South Rivanna and Observatory Water Plants, along with major piping installation and work associated with foundation preparation and reinforced concrete construction of new building foundation and walls. Shop drawing reviews and ordering of equipment is moving forward for all five plants. The contractor expects to begin active construction work at Crozet and North Rivanna Water Plants early in 2016, and the Scottsville Water Plant later in 2016, while maintaining progress at other facilities. The contract documents do allow the contractor to stagger work among the plants to best utilize the efficiency of different work disciplines as a part of his means and methods.

Construction work at the Crozet Water Treatment Plant will be in proximity to residential areas, and we will continue our previous and current efforts to work closely with those neighborhoods and keep them informed.

6. New Rivanna Pump Station: Excavation of the new tunnel between the existing Woolen Mills site and the new site on RWSA's Moores Creek property is completed. Installation of a new 60-inch sewer pipe within the tunnel is underway. Production concrete work for the new pump station foundation and walls are also underway. The project is due for completion by mid-2017.
7. Wastewater Plant Odor Control: Bids were received for construction of significant elements of this project on December 17, 2015. All bids were over budget and one of the bidders has protested the low bid. Staff is reviewing the issues and is in consultation with counsel. A bid award is desired by January 26, but will depend upon the time required to resolve current bid issues.
8. Ivy Materials Utilization Center: In 2014 the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality required a Letter Agreement with RSWA to address outdated design of the old transfer station at the Ivy MUC, and that letter was revised in March 2015 to set a December 31, 2015 deadline for a narrative plan and milestone schedule to remedy the transfer station's deficiencies. The City is no longer providing funding to RSWA to support continuing to operate the transfer station, but the County expressed an interest in retaining the function and accepted responsibility to decide on a remedy. In November 2015 the County's Board of Supervisors voted to finance the construction of a new transfer station on the Ivy site, and on December 16 RSWA submitted a narrative plan on the County's behalf defining the County's choice as the means of addressing current deficiencies.

RSWA is preparing a Request for Proposals (RFP) from engineering firms to design the new station to meet a deadline of January 31 to issue an RFP. The next deadline, due March 31, is the execution of a contract between the County and RSWA defining the responsibilities of each party for this project. We are hearing that the County is discussing the potential terms of such a contract in one-on-one conversations with the City.

c: RWSA Board of Directors
RSWA Board of Directors