

MEMORANDUM

TO: CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: THOMAS L. FREDERICK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, RIVANNA WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY

SUBJECT: STATE COMPETITIVE GRANT FOR WATER SUPPLY PLANNING

DATE: MAY 15, 2006

As you are aware, the Rivanna Water & Sewer Authority is nearing the completion of a long-term water supply planning process for the Urban Services Area, which includes Charlottesville, with the recommendation of the expansion of the Ragged Mountain Reservoir. As you are aware, these efforts were initiated locally within this community to address an emerging situation where water supply will not be able to meet forecasted future demands. On the heels of this significant effort, the Virginia Legislature has adopted into law a requirement that all local governments in Virginia complete a water supply plan that is similar in scope to what we are now completing. The legislation requires the City of Charlottesville to complete a plan satisfying new DEQ regulations by November 2008, but also allows the City to fulfill this requirement through a regional plan prepared by an Authority.

Because of the significant work that has already completed for the Urban Services Area, the scope of work required to achieve this new state mandate will not be significant, but will update some of the data we have previously developed as required to meet the details of the new DEQ regulations. Further, because of the rigor of the recent process, we would expect the recommendations from the state-mandated update to be the same result.

Within the past couple of weeks, DEQ has advertised that they will accept proposals on May 31, 2006 for a competitive process to award grants to assist with the new water supply planning requirements. Subject to the inclusion of \$300,000 for this purpose in the General Assembly's adopted budget (still pending at the time this memo was prepared), DEQ will award the best proposals with up to \$50,000 each in grant funds. DEQ's criteria for award includes additional points for multi-jurisdictional (multiple local governments) plans and points where the agency coordinating the development can demonstrate prior successful experience in water supply planning. To improve our chances in obtaining grant funds, the Rivanna Water & Sewer Authority is offering to combine the jurisdictional area of the City of Charlottesville with Albemarle County and the Town of Scottsville, and use the Authority's recent success in developing a plan for the Urban Services Area to demonstrate the experience that DEQ is seeking.

The attached resolution of the City Council is required as a part of the grant application to formally authorize the RWSA to submit a grant application and prepare the water supply plan on behalf of the City of Charlottesville.

C: Mr. Gary O'Connell, City Manager
Ms. Judith Mueller, Director of Public Works

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Virginia General Assembly has mandated the development of water supply plans throughout the Commonwealth and the State Water Control Board has developed regulations to implement this planning process, and

WHEREAS, based upon these regulations, the City of Charlottesville is required to complete a water supply plan that fulfills the regulations by November 2, 2008, and

WHEREAS the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has announced the availability of grant funds, subject to inclusion of such funds in the General Assembly's adopted budget for FY 2007, to assist localities in offsetting some of the costs related to development of these plans, and

WHEREAS, DEQ is encouraging localities to submit applications for grant funds to develop regional water supply plans of multiple local government jurisdictions, and

WHEREAS, regional water supply planning is a sensible approach to developing a water supply plan since watershed boundaries do not follow political boundaries and since there will likely be cost savings to all local government jurisdictions participating, and

WHEREAS, the Rivanna Water & Sewer Authority has previously managed the development of successful regional plans and is a logical entity to organize and manage a regional water supply planning process, and

WHEREAS, the Rivanna Water & Sewer Authority desires to participate in a regional water supply plan that will serve the needs of Albemarle County, the City of Charlottesville, and the Town of Scottsville and desires to secure DEQ grant funds to help offset the cost of the plan development.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Charlottesville authorizes the Rivanna Water & Sewer Authority to develop an application for water supply planning grant funds and to develop a regional water supply plan which will meet mandated regulations on behalf of the City, and be it further

RESOLVED that the Rivanna Water & Sewer Authority is authorized to sign the DEQ grant contract and other appropriate documents related to the source water planning grant and the regional source water supply plan.