

## MEMORANDUM

**TO: RIVANNA WATER & SEWER AUTHORITY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**FROM: THOMAS L. FREDERICK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**SUBJECT: COMMUNITY WATER SUPPLY PLAN AND GANNETT  
FLEMING CONTRACT**

**DATE: JUNE 27, 2005**

As the Board is aware, the Chairman of each of the four local boards and the Rivanna staff met with the regulatory agencies of interest last Wednesday, June 22, 2005 in Richmond at what was called a Pre-Application Meeting. This memorandum briefly outlines the meeting and discusses some next steps. The Pre-Application Meeting was held after the Board packet for the June 27, 2005 meeting was completed, and due to the interest in moving this process forward in response to that meeting, I appreciate the Board allowing this item to be presented without being part of the advanced information.

We received some valuable comments from the regulatory agencies at the Pre-Application Meeting. Regarding the South Fork Rivanna Reservoir dredging alternative, the regulators were in agreement that due to the potential costs of this project and the uncertainties in the possibilities for reducing these costs, the regulatory agencies would not require Rivanna to consider this concept further toward an application for the 9.9 MGD water supply increase. This does "leave the door open" for continued local discussion of dredging as a possible option in the maintenance of the reservoir. Regarding the South Fork Rivanna Reservoir expansion by way of a four-foot crest, the regulators expressed several concerns that would make permitting dubious. Key issues include the highest wetland and stream impacts of all concepts, and the considerable potential threat to the James Spiny mussel (endangered species) habitat.

The regulators felt they were not in a position at this meeting to decide between the Ragged Mountain alternative and the James River Intake alternative, but I believe it is fair to characterize that there was optimism in the room regarding the Ragged Mountain alternative. Staff and consultants presented this option with a refill pipeline coming from the South Fork Rivanna Reservoir (SFRR) in place of earlier proposals to replace the pipeline from the Sugar Hollow Reservoir and refurbish the Mechums River pump station. With the new refill pipeline coming from SFRR, it was agreed that the Ragged Mountain alternative would offer similar benefits to the Moormans and Mechums River that has also been attributed to the James River option. It was also agreed that the Ragged Mountain alternative is comparable to the James River alternative on wetland impacts. The Corps of Engineers asked Rivanna to commit to a further comparison of

stream impacts for these two alternatives by performing what we are calling a functional value assessment of the biological impacts. The Ragged Mountain alternative results in greater loss of linear feet of streams than the James River alternative, but the streams inundated by raising Ragged Mountain are upper reservoir streams with shallow depth (some are intermittent) and steep slopes, therefore they may have lower biological impacts per foot of stream than pipeline crossings affected by the James River pipeline. The intent of the additional assessment is to quantify, to the satisfaction of the Corps of Engineers, if this value is sufficiently low to allow the Ragged Mountain alternative to be defined as the “least environmentally damaging” alternative, a finding that is necessary before the Corps will issue a permit. The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF) expressed some optimism that this is achievable, but the Corps will not take a further position before the assessment is performed. We intend to coordinate the completion of this assessment with all appropriate agencies, including DGIF as well as U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Corps, USEPA, and Virginia DEQ.

In the two full working days available between the Pre-Application Meeting and today’s Board Meeting, Rivanna staff have teleconferenced with the consulting team to identify what additional work needs to be performed before a permit application can be filed. Obviously, the functional value assessment is a very important one of those tasks. Other tasks we have identified are outlined as follows:

- Coordinate regulatory agency tour of upper Ragged Mountain watershed.
- Complete hydraulic modeling of Ragged Mountain alternative with SFRR pipeline and coordinate possible minimum release requirements with DEQ.
- Quantify “clear environmental gain” issues for Ragged Mountain alternative.
- Assess potential for James Spiny mussel habitat in Moores Creek below the Ragged Mountain Dam.
- Complete engineering evaluations for final report, to include investigation of treatment plant expansion needs, preliminary SFRR to Ragged pipeline route, assessment of pumping and pipe sizing needs, and completed costs estimates and present value estimates.
- Identify potential environmental mitigation projects.
- Update the 2002 Policy Statement for Community Water Supply.
- Coordinate issues related to County Comprehensive Plan.
- Complete Public Outreach Program.
- Present findings for approval of local boards.

It was clear from our conferencing with our consulting team that they will need until the July Board Meeting to adequately prepare a scope of services and fee that is well planned to deliver the consulting services that remain to complete the tasks above. To keep the project moving forward until the July Board Meeting, we have focused on what is necessary for them to perform in the next 30 days as well as reviewed the current budget for this project. These items are summarized below:

- The only services performed by our consulting team within the past month were the efforts we authorized and were necessary to support the requests of the ad hoc group consisting of the joint board chairmen, and the tasks needed to prepare for and conduct the Pre-Application Meeting. Of the \$50,000 in contingency authorized by the Board of Directors at the May Board Meeting, approximately

\$22,000 has been used for this purpose and \$28,000 remains in contingency that can be carried over to the work in the next 30 days.

- Work which should proceed in the next month if the Board wishes to maintain reasonable progress would include the functional value survey, base hydraulic modeling in preparation for a meeting with DEQ, and engineering evaluations on the pipeline route and sizing of pipe and pump stations. Outside of the consulting services, Rivanna staff will be working on the updated Policy Statement and coordination with Albemarle County on the Comprehensive Plan.
- The staff recommends that Gannett Fleming be authorized to work on the tasks immediately above for a total fee not to exceed \$75,000. With the inclusion of the carryover of \$28,000 from contingency identified above, the additional authorization would be \$47,000.

A more complete scope of services and fee will be developed in July to provide the additional consulting services we currently anticipate will carry us through the application for permit. It is too early in our planning of these services now to suggest a firm date for completing the work, but we have identified as a preliminary “goal” to attempt to achieve a timeline in the vicinity of the end of the current calendar year.

Staff requests the Board of Directors authorize the Executive Director to execute an amendment to Gannett Fleming’s contract increasing the contract by \$47,000, to be funded from future revenue bonds.