

MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: THOMAS L. FREDERICK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

DATE: JANUARY 24, 2012

Ragged Mountain Dam

Last month the Board of Directors authorized the Executive Director to issue a Notice of Award to Thalle Construction when certain contingent events were completed. Within the past four weeks, we have completed one of those items by completing all needed easement acquisitions on private property. A second contingent item will be completed at today's meeting if the Board of Directors approves Items 7c and 7d on our agenda, which includes a Water Cost Allocation Agreement and a Ragged Mountain Dam Project Agreement. The third item is the VDOT/FHWA approval of the I-64 Embankment design.

In recent days we have been in frequent communication with VDOT, making slight amendments to the design drawings to address their comments, and making slight text changes to a proposed Operations and Maintenance Agreement. As of January 19 we believe we have addressed all VDOT staff requests, and understand that VDOT has submitted the text of the Agreement for final review by its counsel. VDOT has agreed to attempt a target completion of their review before the end of January. Once VDOT has approved, they will forward their approval to FHWA for concurrence. Our benchmark target remains to satisfy all contingencies by February and start construction before the end of March.

We are also in regular communication with Thalle Construction planning upcoming events and contingencies. One of our present requests to Thalle, based on discussion with City Council on January 16, is to provide us a proposal regarding what compensation and additional time they would require and what other consequences they would anticipate to delay tree cutting until after July 15. We believe our project specifications with respect to tree cutting, which have no time restrictions, already comply with environmental regulations and this request from the City goes above and beyond regulations.

Rivanna Pump Station

During the development and screening of alternative conceptual approaches for the expansion of wet weather capacity for the Rivanna Pump Station, we held three community meetings, including the October 20, 2011 meeting where a formal presentation was prepared, architectural renderings were developed and shared with the public, and several speakers with various expertise in engineering, tunneling, and architecture were involved. Many citizens, including

some elected officials, expressed strong praise to us regarding how the October 20 meeting was conducted and the information made available to the public, as well as the ability to answer a broad spectrum of questions from citizens. We still believe given the issues on the table at that time, the media attention, and the diversity of some of the opinions expressed by the several boards, that the type of meeting prepared was appropriate. The downside is that such a meeting is not inexpensive, requires funding for significant preparation, delivery, and follow-through, and those resources must include various consulting experts to be able to effectively address the very good questions our citizens ask.

The Board of Directors deserves much credit for reaching a decision last month on a preferred alternative, within the deadline set by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality.

During the Board's discussion last month of engineering services for final design of Concept E, staff received very helpful and important feedback from the Board regarding future public involvement, most specifically, a greater focus on reducing expenses. Staff and our consultant have initiated discussions that we expect will lead to a different approach than was used during the screening of concept alternatives. Instead of formal community meetings, we are considering more narrowly focused discussions, conference table style, with invited smaller groups of citizens who are directly affected by proposed actions. We will continue to maintain a project web page, and provide updates at Board of Directors meetings, where the community in general can be kept up-to-date.