

PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2010**

RIVANNA WATER & SEWER AUTHORITY VOLUNTARY WATER CONSERVATION REQUESTED

Charlottesville, VA (Wednesday, September 22, 2010) – The Rivanna Water & Sewer Authority (Authority) made an announcement today urging citizens in the region to renew voluntary efforts to conserve water. This announcement comes at a time when local rivers and streams are running very low and the weather is hot and very dry. The announcement stopped short of asking for a formal declaration of a Drought Watch.

“Our local rivers were flowing abundantly in early spring this year after a wet winter, which saved our water supply from entering drought conditions, but recent weeks have been extremely dry”, stated Mr. Tom Frederick, Executive Director of the Authority. “Since August 1 local total rainfall has been about one inch, and we would have expected five to six inches over that same period in an average year. River flows have dropped dramatically in the past month, and we are now using close to one percent of our reservoir storage per day to supply the demands of the community.”

Mr. Frederick requested citizens to be especially mindful of nature when considering outdoor uses of water. “The wisdom of nature is in its cycles, and right now our natural environment is on the dry end of the cycle. We should be mindful and conserve our use of water outdoors. If we must water our vegetation, do so only early in the morning or late in the evening, and do not water more than necessary for the plants to survive.”

Mr. Frederick also stated that the Authority is keeping a very close eye on current conditions as well as anticipating possible future actions. “We are approaching the cooler fall season, and our risk assessment modeling is clearly telling us that we have the water storage to get through the winter of 2010-11, so there are no near-term plans to seek drought restrictions. We know the important goal for now is to refill our reservoirs by May 1 to be ready for next summer. Voluntary conservation efforts now will conserve our current reservoir storage and help assure that we achieve that goal. Climatologists are suggesting the possibility of a drier than average winter for the southeastern United States extending into coastal and piedmont areas of Virginia, so it is wise to be prepared now.”

The Authority appreciates the combined efforts of all citizens to conserve our water supply.

PRESS RELEASE CONTACT:

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