

Date: December 4, 2008

To: David Norris  
David Brown  
Holly Edwards  
Julian Taliaferro  
Satyendra Huja  
Gary O'Connell  
Tom Frederick  
Gary Fern

From: Jeff Werner, Piedmont Environmental Council

RE: Community Water Supply Plan

At yesterday's Albemarle BoS meeting, I distributed the attached information with a statement I'll attempt to summarize here. I presented this information as a PEC employee and also as a City resident who is growing very concerned about the level of misinformation being circulated about the community water supply plan.

Most of you know that in early 2005 I helped assemble a group of people, local advocacy groups, local officials, and others to form a group we called Drink Local Water. Our objective was to make sure that whatever water supply plan was adopted, that it relied on and remained in our local watershed. The adopted plan reflects that effort. Participants in this group included several of the individuals and groups who are now vigorously opposed to that adopted plan. It is with great dismay and surprise that they have presented, as new and/or viable, options which had been reviewed and discussed.

For example, as some of you may recall, members of our group expressed some of the most vocal criticism of Gannett Fleming's conclusions on dredging and in our May 27, 2005 letter to local officials even raised questions about projected demand. The fact that these, and other expressed concerns, were addressed in the public process allowed the group to realize the many merits of the adopted plan. In other words, most, if not all, of the issues raised since early this year that argue for a reevaluation of the adopted plan are not new. Additionally, opponents of the plan have posted and circulated alternative proposals, and more specifically cost estimates, which lack source citation.

This past spring, Kevin Lynch told me these alternatives and associated costs were gleaned from previous reports and studies. The attached is the result of my review of previous water supply studies in an attempt to find the source of these costs and information. Also, I wanted to review the extent to which these alternatives had been reviewed and studied.

Attached

1. The alternative summary tables from:
  - The VHB study, *Rivanna Water and Sewer Authority Water Supply Project, Summary of Recommended Alternatives*, dated May 16, 2001. This was the community's previous water supply plan and;
  - Gannett Fleming *Water Supply Alternatives Supplemental Evaluation*, dated July 2004

2. A review of the components in C-Ville Water's *Worst Case Scenario* and how they were addressed in previous water supply studies. (Please note that this is labeled a draft. This *draft* primarily cites information from VHB's 2001 study, though I had hoped to also insert relevant information from more recent Gannett Fleming studies and etc.)
3. Spreadsheets summarizing the three alternatives proposed by C-Ville Water and the results of my efforts to identify the source citations for the costs reported on C-Ville Water's web page, and to offer my best guess on how these costs compare to available information and assumptions, such as inflation, engineering costs, contingencies, etc.

As I noted to the BoS yesterday, I fully realize that the current situation with the costs of the Ragged Mountain Dam represent an unanticipated problem and the pending analysis might well require that this community revisit the current plan.

The attached is my attempt to provide some factual background to arguments presented by the plan's opponents. I realize that someone might find minor flaws in my math and in my assumptions, but I welcome corrections and clarifications to my findings. I sincerely want the best water supply plan for my community and for my family. If compelling and technically-supported information is presented that indicates a change in my opinion is necessary, I will be the first to acknowledge it. We may ultimately have some tough choices to make, but we cannot let misinformation and misrepresentation of the facts become the reasons that we return *to square one* with the community water supply plan.

The attached is not as *user-friendly* as I would have liked, but I felt it was important to get this information out. If you have any questions about what is included or how I have interpreted it, please give me a call. 293-4839.

Thank you.