

## XII. FUNDING

### General

This report documents the urgent need for the Commonwealth of Virginia and the General Assembly to continue funding the Southern Rivers Program to address water quality in all of the Southern Rivers region as well as within the New River Valley Planning District. The construction of wastewater collection and treatment facilities is an extremely expensive endeavor, requiring significant financial assistance from a variety of funding sources. Southern Rivers financing can be utilized to leverage financial assistance in the form of loans and grants from both State and Federal Government. It is difficult to fund project solely by relying on a single source, as the funding levels are finite, being drawn from pools of money allocated each fiscal year. Therefore, a discussion of some non-traditional, as well as the traditional funding sources have been included.

The following describes the traditional sources of funding normally used to assist in financing wastewater projects:

### Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD)

Using funds from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, DHCD in turn funds a variety of project types to benefit Low to Moderate Income (LMI) households, eliminate slum and blight, and provide for urgent community development needs. DHCD will fund on-site community and individual sewage treatment systems as well as off-site community systems that have a direct household benefit. The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program has approximately \$23,000,000 available annually in Virginia. The following grants are available:

1. Planning Grants – Available anytime between January and September 30, DHCD has \$500,000 reserved annually for this purpose. Each local project is eligible for a \$25,000 planning grant, while regional projects can receive up to a \$40,000 planning grant.
2. Indoor Plumbing Rehabilitation (IPR) - \$8,000,000 available annually in Virginia to LMI households that lack complete indoor plumbing.
3. Community Improvement Grants (CIG) – there are four types of Community Improvement Grants as follows pertaining directly to wastewater:
  - a. Construction Ready Water and Sewer - \$1,000,000 is reserved for projects that have been designed and are ready for construction. To be eligible, the project must serve at least 65% LMI households.
  - b. Community Development Innovation – Typically this grant is for “self-help” projects, where the community helps construct the system. There is \$350,000 available per project.
  - c. Urgent Need Open Submission – there is \$2,000,000 reserved annually for projects addressing immediate threats to health and safety. A current declaration of emergency by the Governor of Virginia or a current declaration of an immediate and severe health threat by the State Commissioner of Health is required.
  - d. Competitive Grants – assistance is targeted to projects involving water and wastewater improvements, particularly those involving new services to LMI persons. This project type is eligible for up to \$1,000,000.

### Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC)

The ARC’s purpose is to create opportunities for self-sustaining economic development and improved quality of life in designated Appalachian localities. The focus is on projects that will retain or create jobs, however, counties designated as “Distressed” can apply for funds for projects that are not job related. It should be noted that grantees must contribute matching resources and the maximum grant is \$500,000. ARC funding is administered by DHCD.

### Virginia Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund

Since being established, the VCVRLF has contributed over \$1 billion in low interest financing for 250 wastewater projects in Virginia and has recently started the Onsite Pilot Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Program. This program addresses malfunctioning or inadequate on-site wastewater disposal systems where public health or water quality concerns exist and where connection to a public sewer is not feasible. Loans are available to local governments with a 20-year (30-year on lines) maximum loan period. The program is administered by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, the Virginia Resource Authority and with the cooperation of the Virginia Department of Health.

### USDA Rural Development (RD)

Rural Development typically has between \$9 million and \$14 million available as grant funding annually. RD funding can be used for all types of wastewater projects including new construction, expansion, improvements, line installation, treatment facilities, and related costs (engineering fees, surveying costs, legal fees, etc...). To qualify for grant funding, RD will compare the project service area’s median household income (MHI) with the statewide median household income (SMHI). A project qualifies for 75% grant funding if the applicant’s MHI is below 80% of the SMHI. A project qualifies for a 45% grant if the applicant’s MHI does not exceed 100% SMHI. Rural Development also requires a minimum monthly sewer bill of \$33 for a project to be grant eligible.

Rural Development has three interest rates available for loan funds...poverty, intermediate and market. Loan terms are available for up to 40 years.

### Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project, Inc. (SERCAP)

The SERCAP Program provides loan funding for sewer projects in all rural, low-income communities from Florida to Delaware. There are no application deadlines and the maximum loan is \$150,000 for 1 to 10 years at interest rates from 3% to 7%. This funding is available for any type of sewer project, but is typically used for small projects, gap financing or contingency/overrun financing.

### Virginia Resources Authority (VRA)

For wastewater projects, VRA issues bonds in the national market and lends the proceeds to localities. The bonds can be General Obligation or Revenue backed dependent on whether the borrower has

taxing authority. By using the moral obligation of the State, VRA can offer reasonable interest rates to the small borrower.

VRA may issue up to \$300 million in revenue bonds to localities for improvements to water and/or wastewater facilities. The bonds may be either long or short-term fixed or variable rate debt with each financing structured on current market conditions and investor preference. In general, due to State backing, the VRA can obtain more attractive rates than most local governments. Localities must demonstrate the ability to repay the bonds.

#### VML/VACo

Sponsored by the Virginia Municipal League and the Virginia Association of Counties, the VML/VACo Finance Program includes the Pooled Bond Program. This program allows localities to take advantage of sharing fixed costs across a group of borrowers and benefits from favorable cost structures due to the size and volume of the program. The Pooled Bond Program funds are available for all types of wastewater projects. The bonds are sold twice per year, in the Spring and Fall.

#### **Non-Traditional Funding Options**

As discussed in the preceding paragraphs, there are numerous funding sources available that provide low interest loans for sewer projects and few sources available for grants. There are no grant monies available for addressing the most pervasive wastewater problem in our region...inflow/infiltration (I/I) problems. I/I problems take up valuable wastewater plant capacity that could otherwise be used to serve additional customers. Due to the high cost of the proposed projects presented in this study, funding provided by traditional sources will not be adequate to reduce user costs to an affordable level.

#### Virginia FY2006 Water Quality Improvement Fund (WQIF)

Administered through the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, the Water Quality Improvement Fund will provide approximately \$4.7 million in funding to support strategic nonpoint source water quality initiatives and cooperative nonpoint source pollution programs. Proposals from local governments can range from \$50,000 to \$200,000, and pending the availability of future WQIF funding, multi-year requests may total up to \$800,000.

#### Virginia Tobacco Indemnification and Community Revitalization Commission

The Virginia Tobacco Commission was created in 1999 by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth as a way to re-invest monies from the national tobacco settlement back into tobacco farming areas of Virginia. Although the Commission has seven funding programs, two of those programs are applicable to wastewater infrastructure...the Economic Development Fund and the Special Projects Fund.

The Economic Development Fund may be used for "...utility infrastructure creation or improvements for economic development sites, including acquisition and/or development of land..." and is meant to promote economic growth and development in tobacco-dependent communities in an equitable manner throughout the Southside and Southwest regions of the Commonwealth in order to assist such

communities in reducing their dependency on tobacco and tobacco-related business with the following restrictions:

1. The Commission will not entertain any request for which 100% of the cost is expected to be borne by Commission funds.
2. Additions or improvements to any public utility designed solely for residential use are not eligible.

The Special Projects Fund is available for utility infrastructure projects only if the project involves the active participation of three or more tobacco region localities. (Note: Floyd County is the only PDC member situated in the tobacco region.)

#### National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

Since 1997, the NOAA has provided \$66 million for PRIDE in southeastern Kentucky.

This grant funding is provided to address wastewater projects (straight pipes and failing septic systems), environmental education, illegal trash dumps. The creation and funding of a program of this nature for the New River Valley should be pursued.

#### Private Bond Sales

The Private Bond Market is a legitimate alternative for funding sewer projects studied in this report because: interest rates on bonds are very low and discount rates have fallen, many Virginia investment banking firms offer access to non-rated localities for selling bonds, and combining resources to create regional authorities with large customer bases makes the sale of revenue bonds on the private market a more viable alternative. It is important to note that the process for selling bonds on the private market is streamlined compared to many of the traditional funding options, and has fewer restrictions on where the proceeds are spent.

#### Private Activity Bonds

Private activity bonds are securities issued by, or on behalf of a local government to provide debt financing for projects used for the trade or business of a private user. Private activity bonds can be used for water, sewage or solid waste facilities as well as industrial and manufacturing facilities and equipment. Generally speaking, investors purchase the bonds, and then the money is lent to users for the completion of the project. The investor's return comes through the operational proceeds of the project. Private activity bonds do not constitute an obligation of the State or any of its jurisdictions. Because they are exempt from both federal and state taxes, private activity bonds bear interest at a significantly lower rate than do corporate bonds or traditional bank notes, and can generate significant interest savings over the term of the loan.

In Virginia, the Virginia Resources Authority (VRA) can issue private activity bonds for wastewater treatment projects used by private interests.

### Design/Build/Finance

There are several private utility companies specializing in the financing, construction, operations and maintenance of de-centralized managed wastewater systems. NCS Wastewater Solutions of Puyallup, WA provides customers in non-sewered areas with affordable wastewater treatment systems. NCS Wastewater Solutions provides design/build and system management services throughout the west coast. Another successful example is Tennessee Wastewater Systems, Inc. Established in 1993; TWS owns, operates, maintains and manages on-site wastewater collection and treatment systems for numerous developments in Tennessee, making them the 4<sup>th</sup> largest wastewater utility in the state! TWS is a public utility, regulated by the State of Tennessee and could serve as a viable model for ownership and management of decentralized wastewater systems throughout the New River Valley.

### Privatization

The conversion of government-owned wastewater facilities to private ownership or management is one of the fastest growing areas of privatization at the local government level. The majority of sewer system privatizations are in the form of long-term contracts for the operation and maintenance (O&M) of facilities. Long-term contracts also commonly handle facility upgrades and expansions, as well as customer service. It is important to note that short-term O&M contracts typically do not offer large enough savings to cover capital investment needs. Long-term contracts (10 to 20 years) allow both parties to share and spread risks, implement a broader range of cost savings initiatives and offer greater annual cost savings. With the 1997 changes in IRS rules, long-term contracts do not jeopardize the tax-exempt status of existing bonds and also do not preclude the use of State Revolving Loan Funds.

The objective of a long-term O&M contract is to form a cooperative partnership between the local government and the private management company that will meet current and future wastewater needs, alleviate existing and potential environmental problems, meet State and Federal environmental compliance requirements, reduce costs, reduce potential rate increases, and improve system reliability/performance. Thus far, privatization of wastewater facilities has been very successful for small systems (less than 1500 population) and has a proven track record of reduced injuries, better compliance and reduced costs.

### Special Legislation

As noted at the beginning of this section, the General Assembly needs to adequately fund the Southern Rivers Program as it does the Chesapeake Bay Program to provide initial capital to encourage other funding sources to invest in the improvement of water quality in the Southern Rivers region of the state.

### Sewer Service and Tax Increment Financing Districts

These districts can be established pursuant to Virginia Code Section 15.2-2400 and are common in several areas of Virginia. Property owners within the district pay an additional tax per \$100 of assessed valuation annually to amortize the debt incurred for the installation of sewer facilities. The provision of sewer facilities protects the health and safety of the residents and conserves property values within the district.

### Canaan Valley Institute (CVI)

The Canaan Valley Institute is a regional non-profit organization that supports watershed groups throughout the Mid Atlantic Highlands Region. They provide technical and limited funding resources for planning and design of water quality projects including alternative wastewater projects, usually decentralized managed treatment options. CVI can provide funding through small grants and resource requests applied through the CVI outreach staff as well as technical assistance including preliminary engineering reports, design, facilitation, outreach education coordination, grant writing assistance and funding research.

### Funding Examples

1. New York State, 1996 Clean Water/Clean Air Bond and the Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund. Administered by the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC) and the State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), and offers short-term interest-free loans and long-term low interest rate financing. Short-term loans enable municipalities to undertake project design and construction without incurring the interest expenses normally associated with commercial loans. CWSRF short-term loans are typically used as bridge financing until the borrower obtains long-term financing.
2. "Co-Funding" initiatives...a model of intergovernmental cooperation that maximizes public resources and keeps wastewater treatment affordable for rural communities.
3. Loudon County...sewer service districts...additional tax on top of the annual real estate tax.
4. New Jersey...The New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Financing Program. This is financed by a Trust bond sale. The financing program is a partnership between the Department of Environmental Protection and the NJ Environmental Infrastructure Trust. It combines the interest-free loans from DEP's State Revolving Funds with market rate loans from the sale of the Trust bonds. The participants in the Financing program are able to borrow money at half the rate the Trust pays on its AAA-rated bonds.
5. Pennsylvania...The Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority, or PennVEST, offers multi-year, low interest loans for sewer projects. Grants are also available through PennVEST.
6. Kirkland, Washington Emergency Sewer Program.
7. Portland, Oregon's mandatory sewer connection program. This program requires developed properties to connect to the sewer system within three years after the sewer service becomes available. The program also provides low interest loans to finance connection costs and gives some property owners the option of delaying connection in case of financial hardship. The program includes a Senior Citizen deferral and a safety net program for eligible low-income homeowners.
8. Chester Borough, NJ, with a population of just 1,500, entered into a private long-term (20-year) operation and maintenance contract for its wastewater collection and treatment systems in 1997. The Borough has saved approximately 30% per year on operation and maintenance and they receive a fee from the private contractor each year to pay for an independent engineer to monitor their performance and to assure that the facilities are being properly maintained.

### **XIII. IMPLEMENTATION**

#### Education, Enforcement and Enticement

In order to be financially stable, revenue from utility systems must be sufficient to retire debt, create debt reserve, and cover the cost of operation and maintenance. Since revenue is generated from the users of the system in question, the utility provider must have assurance of the participation of a sufficient number of users to create positive cash flow. Most funding agencies, in fact, require signed user agreements or user contracts prior to the issuance of project funding. When the utility being considered is wastewater, the willingness of the public to participate in the project is much less than that experienced when a water system is being constructed. The reasons for this unwillingness to participate may be summarized into three general categories.

#### **Education**

First the potential participant may not understand the associated problems of inadequately treated wastewater. Potential health problems are sometimes overlooked if wastewater is not actually "ponding" in populated areas. Also health and environmental impacts of stream degradation may not be related to individuals and many times the old saying "out of sight- out of mind" is prevalent. It is critical therefore, that local governments and regulatory agencies who share the responsibility of protecting health and the environment properly educate the potential participant as to these dangers.

#### **Enticement**

Secondly, participation is decreased due to its cost. Funding must be made available which will make sewer service to even low to moderate income residents affordable. Programs such as community development block grants, which pay for connection fees need to be expanded. Please refer to the "funding" section of this report for additional information.

#### **Enforcement**

When education and enticement are not sufficient to increase participation by potential users, it may be necessary to enforce existing laws concerning the discharge of raw or improperly treated wastewater. Public Health laws to a large extent have not been enforced due to the lack of alternative methods of wastewater handling and treatment. As alternatives are developed and implemented, these laws and regulations will need to be enforced as an incentive to connection to the approved system. There are existing laws regarding the discharge of raw sewage, or improperly treated wastewater. The Virginia Department of Health is responsible for enforcing these situations once the local health department is made aware of such violations. This is currently a criminal violation (Class I Misdemeanor). Typically the party may be found guilty in court and fined up to \$2,500, but this is usually reduced and there is no mandated cleanup responsibility on the part of the violator, only guilt of the criminal misdemeanor that may be charged again and brought before the court again if the violation continues. This process is resource intensive on the local health department such that other programs may be adversely impacted. This situation should be changed from a criminal violation to a civil penalty so that it is more efficiently

and effectively enforced. It is also recommended that the fine be a larger dollar amount than the hook up fee.

#### Regional Authority

The implementation of the recommended projects in this study, particularly the de-centralized sewer projects, would be helped greatly by the creation of a regional authority. This regional authority could be established and could cross any political boundary such as counties, towns, cities and service authorities. In this option, the local sewer providers could concentrate on the traditional centralized sewer systems that they have knowledge and experience owning and operating, while the regional authority would provide management, tracking and maintenance of de-centralized systems. The regional authority would have board representation from all of the localities it serves, but would own and operate the de-centralized sewer systems throughout the New River Valley.

The advantages of a regional authority are quite evident. The current centralized sewer system owners would not have to re-educate/re-train their staffs on de-centralized sewer construction, maintenance and record keeping. Sewer rates for de-centralized customers would be uniform across the service area, and an economy of scale could be realized by having only one operation and maintenance staff to serve the entire area rather than duplicating staff and services throughout the region. It would also be easier for a regional authority to obtain financing than for individual system owners.

Currently, the New River Valley Planning District (NRVPD) is comprised of several regional type authorities that support several community services, such as, wastewater collection / treatment, water treatment and solid waste disposal. The implementation of the aforementioned regional authority by incorporating it into the structure of an existing authority makes even more sense from the standpoint of cost and operational efficiencies. Given the fact that the Pepper's Ferry Regional Wastewater Treatment Authority provides wastewater collection / treatment service to a part of the NRVPD the greatest economy of scale may involve the expansion / modification of their member services to provide management, tracking and maintenance of de-centralized systems. The aforementioned is one of many possibilities available within the region in regards to utilizing existing organizations to improve water quality by means of decentralized sewer systems.

The disadvantages of a regional authority for de-centralized sewer systems is that the rates would be set by the authority with no control by the local governments.

## **XIV. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### Conclusions

The Design Team investigated 116 centralized sewer projects and 18 decentralized projects throughout the New River Valley Planning District. Each project was scored and ranked within the evaluation matrix for each project type. Upon presentation of the final project rankings, the Advisory Management Team endorsed the further study of the top 20 centralized projects and the top 6 decentralized projects. It is important to note that all 134 of the initially considered projects are valid projects, however, the scope of this study did not allow for in-depth analysis of all of the projects.

After further study of the selected projects, it was determined that...

- The 20 centralized projects will serve approximately 3,135 connections at a cost of \$67,404,744.
- The 6 decentralized projects will serve an estimated 424 connections at a cost of \$5,562,970.

### Recommendations

Based on the information gathered during the course of this study, the following recommendations are made:

- It is imperative that the Southern Rivers Program be provided additional grant funding to help solve this critical environmental and public health threat, such that the Southern Rivers Region of Virginia can benefit from a cleaner, healthier and more economically viable future.
- Conduct a special informational session with legislators to emphasize the need and garner support.
- Begin the process of implementing the 3 E's...Education, Enforcement and Enticement.
- The Planning District Commission should continue with its efforts to help local governments put together educational campaigns and documentation to implement the recommended sewer system projects.
- Change the laws regarding the discharge of raw sewage or improperly treated wastewater (residential only) such that the violation of the law is a civil offense rather than a criminal offense. This will allow the Virginia Department of Health to enforce the law more efficiently and effectively.
- Set the fines for discharging raw sewage, or improperly treated wastewater at a higher dollar amount than the cost of the connection or "hook up" fee.
- Encourage the enacting of "mandatory hookup" ordinances within the study area and make sure that the ordinances are enforced.

- Encourage local sewer providers to allow low income users to pay for connection fees over a one year period with no interest.
- Foster support for the recommendations set forth in this Study by holding a public presentation including local, state and federal officials.

## **Appendix A – Letters of Support**

AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF FLOYD COUNTY, VIRGINIA, HELD ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 14, 2007 AT 8:30 A.M. IN THE BOARD ROOM OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, THEREOF:

PRESENT: David W. Ingram, Chairman; Jerry W. Boothe, Vice Chairman; Diane B. Belcher, J. Fred Gerald, Kerry W. Whitlock, Board Members; Daniel J. Campbell, County Administrator; Terri W. Morris, Assistant County Administrator.

The following action was taken:

On a motion of Supervisor Belcher, seconded by Supervisor Gerald, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adopt the following resolution.

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION'S APPLICATION FOR THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT'S SOUTHERN RIVERS WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (SRWEP) PLANNING GRANT TO CONDUCT A NEEDS ASSESSMENT, PRIORITIZATION, AND PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING REPORT OF INADEQUATE WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES IN FLOYD, GILES, MONTGOMERY AND PULASKI COUNTIES**

WHEREAS, the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development's Southern Rivers Watershed Enhancement Program (SRWEP) is designed to improve water quality in the streams and groundwater of the "southern rivers" region of Virginia while directly enhancing the quality of life of communities and their residents through installation and expansion of sewage treatment and collection systems; and

WHEREAS, the planning, engineering, and construction grants program is available to cities and counties proposing projects in those areas of Virginia that **do not** drain into the Chesapeake Bay; and

WHEREAS, the Planning District Commission, in consultation with the four jurisdictions, has identified a number of key study areas, including but not limited to Dodd Creek; and

WHEREAS, the New River Valley Planning District Commission is submitting a \$150,000 SRWEP grant on behalf of Floyd, Giles, Montgomery and Pulaski Counties to perform a Needs Assessment/Prioritization and Preliminary Engineering Report. The funds and effort will be equally divided amongst the four-county region to identify sub-standard wastewater treatment facilities, whether antiquated individual systems, locations for decentralized systems, and/or extensions to existing public wastewater systems.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors of Floyd County, Virginia, hereby supports the New River Valley Planning District Commission's submission of an application for planning and engineering funds from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development's Southern Rivers Watershed Enhancement Program.

  
David W. Ingram, Chairman, Board of  
Supervisors

ATTEST Daniel J. Campbell  
Daniel J. Campbell  
County Administrator

Eric Gentry  
Eastern District Supervisor

Barbara Hobbs  
Central District Supervisor

Howard Spencer  
Western District Supervisor

# County of Giles



## Board of Supervisors

315 North Main Street  
Pearisburg, Virginia 24134

Paul "Chappy" Baker  
At-Large Supervisor

Richard McCoy  
At-Large Supervisor

Approved by the following vote at a recess meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2007:

	IN FAVOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN
Howard Spencer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Eric Gentry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Barbara Hobbs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Richard McCoy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Paul "Chappy" Baker	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF NEW RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION'S APPLICATION FOR SOUTHERN RIVERS WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (SRWEP) PLANNING GRANT

Attest:   
Chris McKlarney  
County Administrator

**WHEREAS**, the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development's Southern Rivers Watershed Enhancement Program (SRWEP) is designed to "improve water quality in the streams and ground waters of the "southern rivers" regions of Virginia while directly enhancing the quality of life of communities and their residents through installation and expansion of sewage treatment and collection systems; and

**WHEREAS**, Giles County has supported the development and improvement of wastewater facilities in the seven villages in Giles County and has strongly supported clean water initiatives through the comprehensive planning and village planning processes; and

**WHEREAS**, the planning, engineering and construction grants program is available to cities and counties proposing projects in those areas of Virginia that do not drain into the Chesapeake Bay; and

**WHEREAS**, the New River Valley Planning District Commission is submitting a \$150,000 dollar SRWEP grant on behalf of Giles, Pulaski, Floyd, and Montgomery Counties to perform a Needs Assessment/Prioritization and Preliminary Engineering Report. The funds and effort will be equally divided among the four county region to identify sub-standard wastewater systems, and/or extensions to existing public wastewater systems.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Giles County Board of Supervisors hereby supports the New River Valley Planning District Commission's submission of application for planning and engineering funds from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development's Southern Rivers Watershed Enhancement Program.

Eric Gentry  
Eastern District Supervisor

Barbara Hobbs  
Central District Supervisor

Howard Spencer  
Western District Supervisor

## County of Giles



### Board of Supervisors

315 North Main Street  
Pearisburg, Virginia 24134

Paul "Chappy" Baker  
At-Large Supervisor

Richard McCoy  
At-Large Supervisor

August 3, 2007

Mr. David W. Rundgren, Executive Director  
New River Valley Planning District Commission  
6580 Valley Center Drive, Box 21  
Radford, VA 24141

RE: New River Valley Southern Rivers Wastewater Evaluation Program

Dear Mr. Rundgren:

Please accept this letter as evidence of Giles County's support for your application to the Southern River's Program.

It has been suggested that many of Giles County's residents are served by aging and/or failing septic systems. Due to the difficulties of surveying and testing every septic system in the county, we feel this program will help identify and address our wastewater concerns. With the PDC's goal of exploring the areas located within the vicinity of streams identified by DEQ as being impaired, we believe this is an excellent area in which to focus our efforts and any available resources.

Thank you for your work on issues dealing with the health and welfare of the citizens of the New River Valley. Please feel free to contact us if you need further assistance.

Sincerely,

Chris McKlarney  
County Administrator

Cc: Kevin Byrd, PDC

AT AN ADJOURNED MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY, VIRGINIA HELD ON THE 23<sup>rd</sup> DAY OF JULY, 2007 AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE BOARD CHAMBERS, MONTGOMERY COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER, 755 ROANOKE STREET, CHRISTIANSBURG, VIRGINIA:

**R-FY-08-09**  
**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE**  
**PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION'S APPLICATION**  
**FOR THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING**  
**AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT'S**  
**SOUTHERN RIVERS WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (SRWEP)**  
**PLANNING GRANT TO CONDUCT**  
**A NEEDS ASSESSMENT, PRIORITIZATION, AND**  
**PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING REPORT**  
**OF INADEQUATE WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES IN**  
**FLOYD, GILES, MONTGOMERY, AND PULASKI COUNTIES**

On a motion by Mary W. Biggs, seconded by James D. Politis and carried unanimously,

WHEREAS, The Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development's Southern Rivers Watershed Enhancement Program (SRWEP) is designed to "improve water quality in the streams and groundwaters of the "southern rivers" regions of Virginia while directly enhancing the quality of life of communities and their residents through installation and expansion of sewage treatment and collection systems; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County has supported the development and improvement of wastewater facilities in the seven villages in Montgomery County and has strongly supported clean water initiatives through the comprehensive planning and village planning processes; and

WHEREAS, The planning, engineering, and construction grants program is available to cities and counties proposing projects in those areas of Virginia that **do not** drain into the Chesapeake Bay; and

WHEREAS, The Planning District Commission, in consultation with the four jurisdictions, has identified a number of key study areas, Lafayette and the confluence of the North and South Forks of the Roanoke River as an area of interest; and

WHEREAS, The New River Valley Planning District Commission is submitting a \$150,000 dollar SRWEP grant on behalf of Montgomery Giles, Pulaski, and Floyd Counties to perform a Needs Assessment/Prioritization and Preliminary Engineering Report. The funds and effort will be equally divided amongst the four county region to identify sub-standard wastewater treatment facilities, whether antiquated individual systems, rural clusters for decentralized systems, and/or extensions to existing public wastewater systems.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors of Montgomery County, Virginia hereby supports the New River Valley Planning District Commission's submission of application for planning and engineering funds from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development's Southern Rivers Watershed Enhancement Program.

The vote on the foregoing resolution was as follows:

<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>
Mary W. Biggs	None
Doug Marrs	
Gary D. Creed	
John A. Muffo	
James D. Politis	
Annette S. Perkins	
Steve L. Spradlin	

ATTEST: B. Clayton Goodman, III  
B. Clayton Goodman, III  
County Administrator

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE  
PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION'S APPLICATION  
FOR THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING  
AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT'S  
SOUTHERN RIVERS WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (SRWEP)  
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A NEEDS ASSESSMENT, PRIORITIZATION, AND  
PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING REPORT  
OF INADEQUATE WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES IN  
FLOYD, GILES, MONTGOMERY, AND PULASKI COUNTIES

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WHEREAS, The Planning District Commission, in consultation with the four jurisdictions, has identified a number of key study areas, Lafayette and the confluence of the North and South Forks of the Roanoke River as an area of interest; and

WHEREAS, The New River Valley Planning District Commission is submitting a \$150,000 dollar SRWEP grant on behalf of Montgomery, Giles, Pulaski, and Floyd Counties to perform a Needs Assessment/Prioritization and Preliminary Engineering Report. The funds and effort will be equally divided amongst the four county region to identify sub-standard wastewater treatment facilities, whether antiquated individual systems, rural clusters for decentralized systems, and/or extensions to existing public wastewater systems.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The Planning Commission of Montgomery County, Virginia hereby supports the New River Valley Planning District Commission's submission of application for planning and engineering funds from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development's Southern Rivers Watershed Enhancement Program.

  
William Stephen Howard, Chair

**Resolution Supporting the  
NRV Southern Rivers Wastewater Evaluation Project**

**WHEREAS**, the County of Pulaski is a member of the New River Valley Planning District Commission (NRVPDC), and;

**WHEREAS**, the NRPDC has been partnering with the County of Pulaski on numerous projects in the past that improve the quality of life for the County's residents, and:

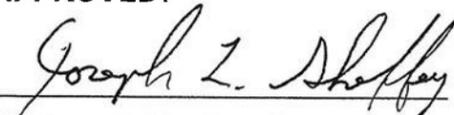
**WHEREAS**, through an extended partnership with the NRVPDC, the County of Pulaski wishes to participate in a regional application for \$150,000 from the Southern Rivers Watershed Enhancement Program (SRWEP) fund for the "New River Valley Southern Rivers Watershed Evaluation Project", and;

**WHEREAS**, the funding from the SRWEP program will be used to evaluate existing septic systems within that may have an adverse impact on the surrounding streams and rivers within the County, and;

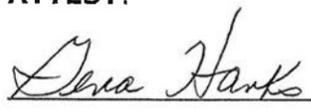
**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT**, it is the will of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Pulaski to support the NRVPDC's funding application and authorize the County Administrator to sign and submit all appropriate documentation necessary for the application for funding.

Adopted this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of July, 2007.

**APPROVED:**

  
Mr. Joseph Sheffey, Chairman

**ATTEST:**

  
Ms. Gena Hanks, Clerk

**Administration**  
143 Third Street, NW, Suite 1  
Pulaski, VA 24301  
540-980-7705  
540-980-7717  
[www.pulaskicounty.org](http://www.pulaskicounty.org)



**Pulaski County  
In Virginia's New River Valley**



**An Official Virginia  
2007 Community**

July 19, 2007

Mr. David W. Rundgren, Executive Director  
New River Valley Planning District Commission  
6580 Valley Center Drive, Box 21  
Radford, VA 24141

RE: New River Valley Southern Rivers Wastewater Evaluation program

Dear Mr. Rundgren,

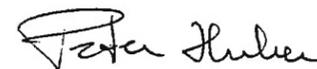
Please accept this letter as evidence of Pulaski County's support for your application to the Southern River's Program.

It has been suggested that many of Pulaski County's residents are served by aged and/or failing septic systems. Due the difficulties of surveying and testing each and every septic system located in Pulaski County, we feel this program will help identify and address our wastewater concerns. With the PDC's goal of exploring the areas located within the vicinity of streams identified by DEQ as being impaired, we believe this is an excellent area in which to focus our efforts and any available resources.

I would like to commend the Planning District Commission and it's staff for working on issues so dear to the public health and welfare for all those who reside within the New River Valley region. Your hard work is most certainly appreciated. Please know that you will have the support and assistance of the County's staff as you move forward with your programs.

Should you need further assistance, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Kind regards,



Peter M. Huber, County Administrator

cc: Shawn Utt, Community Development Director



**New River Watershed Roundtable, Inc.**

P.O. Box 1506 • Dublin, VA • 24084 • phone 540-643-2590  
email <newriverwatershedroundtable@yahoo.com>

February 6, 2009

New River Valley Planning District  
6580 Valley Center Drive, Suite 124  
Box 21  
Radford, Virginia 24141

Dear Mr. Rundgren:

We are writing this letter to show our support for the New River Valley Planning District's Southern Rivers Regional Sewer Study. It is our understanding that this study is intended to serve as a road map for future implementation of sanitary sewer collection, treatment and disposal projects within the New River Valley with a focus on improving water quality. We believe that this type of study is vital to the interests of the residents and businesses of the New River Valley as a whole. The mission of the New River Watershed Roundtable is to promote better water quality through fair, open dialogue and effective partnerships. We envision the New River Watershed Roundtable as a community at work to protect and enhance the water quality of the New River Watershed.

In conclusion, we fully support the efforts of the Planning District as they conduct this regional sanitary sewer study and feel that this study is vital to our efforts to promote better water quality within the New River Valley. To this end, should there be anything we can do to assist your effort, please contact us at your convenience. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ron Powers  
President