

A regular meeting of the Board of Members of Rapidan Service Authority was held on March 21, 2024 at the Orange County Public Safety Building, Orange, VA.

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 PM. A quorum was established followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present:	Members:	Elliott, Johnson, Marshall
	Staff:	G.M. Clemons, D.O. Jarrell, D.A. Gaskins
	Attorney:	Stefan Calos (virtual)

The agenda for the meeting was adopted on a motion by Marshall, seconded by Elliott, and passed unanimously on a voice vote.

The minutes of the January 18, 2024 meeting were approved on a motion by Elliott, seconded by Marshall, and unanimously passed on a voice vote.

There was no old business and no public comment.

The Board then considered a Locust Grove customer's request for relief on a high water bill several months prior for which she did not know the cause. After examining the supporting documentation, the Board voted to uphold RSA's usual policy on a motion by Elliott, seconded by Marshall, and passed unanimously on a voice vote.

There were no comments by the Board.

G.M. Clemons then reported that the Wilderness WTP permit had been renewed for 15 years with only the same maximum amount of water as previously being permitted to be drawn from the Rapidan River – 2.99 million gallons/day. RSA had hoped to receive permission for approximately 4 million gallons per day, and G.M. Clemons encouraged the Board to start looking into possibilities for water storage, especially if continued growth on the east end of Orange County is anticipated. He suggested that the Board consider a storage option that would provide at least a three-to-four-month drought water supply.

D.A. Gaskins then reported that the rate study has been sent out. It is due to be returned by March 31, so he hopes to bring a more detailed report at the next Board meeting. The auditors have completed their on-site work, and D.A. Gaskins hopes to have their report for the next meeting, as well. The current major administrative project is the implementation of new billing software. This has been needed for some time but was delayed until after Greene County's withdrawal in order to reduce the expense of the project.

D.O. Jarrell then reported on RSA's efforts to improve asset management and to eliminate dependence on paper and instead get information into a digital format. Besides enabling RSA to improve efficacy of existing resources, asset management is needed to obtain funding from state and federal agencies. One major emphasis of RSA's work in this area is to build GIS and digitize paper maps. RSA was successful in finding a qualified individual to work on this project last year. OpenGov Cartegraph was then selected as the software best suited to RSA's needs and is currently being implemented.

G.M. Clemons then gave his report. He indicated that the February balance sheet reflected a normal picture of RSA's financial position at this time of year – lower revenue due to decreased water sales that should pick up in the spring. Non-operating income from new meters being installed in the Locust Grove area has helped the bottom line. G.M. also reported that RSA would be sending a letter to all Locust Grove customers soon informing them that RSA had exceeded haloacetic acids limits in the first quarter of 2024 for the line running on Rt. 3 towards Germanna College. These acids are formed as a result of organic material in the water. RSA is working to mitigate the problem, but a long-term solution will in all likelihood require the building of the planned new water plant as well as some possible modifications of the current facility.

Stefan Calos then gave the attorney report. He will be meeting with G.M. Clemons next week to discuss the following items: FOIA issues, the posting of agendas on RSA's website, Board member terms, the Cincinnati fire insurance claim, and the PFAS claim based on recent laboratory testing.

On a motion by Marshall, seconded by Elliott, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 2:27 p.m.


Chairman