

A regular meeting of the Board of Members of Rapidan Service Authority was held on July 18, 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: Coppage, Elliott, Johnson, Marshall, Voorhees

 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 Coppage, seconded by Elliott, and passed unanimously on a voice vote.

The minutes of the June 20, 2024 meeting were approved on a motion by Marshall, seconded by Elliott, and unanimously passed on a voice vote.

Under old business, G.M. Clemons explained the need to modify the April minutes as recommended by RSA's attorney. On a motion by Voorhees, seconded by Coppage, the words "Finally, it appears that RSA will probably be on the low end of the PFAS contamination scale and would therefore not need to be a participant in any lawsuits seeking financial aid to mitigate problems connected to PFAS" were replaced by "RSA is a participant in the PFAS litigation settlement, but it appears that RSA will probably be on the low end of the PFAS contamination scale and would therefore not need to receive financial aid to mitigate problems connected to PFAS" on a unanimous voice vote.

There was no public comment or customer requests. During the opportunity for Board comment, the issue of the involvement of the Board in capital improvement project planning was raised. G.M. Clemons explained that staff were completing preparatory work and planned to reach out to the Board in the late summer or early fall for individual meetings regarding potential projects.

G.M. Clemons then pointed out the copy of the notice regarding haloacetic acids that was sent to customers serviced by RSA's Wilderness Water System. Unfortunately, the requirement for a notice is based on a 12-month rolling average, so it can take some time to get away from the need for a distribution, especially at present since the third quarter is typically the period with the highest level of occurrence of haloacetic acids. Although the water is normally within compliance levels when it leaves the water treatment plant, heat and time cause an increase in the haloacetic acids level. Flushing can help, and RSA flushes on a regular basis, but too much flushing can become counterproductive. Organic matter such as leaves, tree limbs, etc. that are in the river react with chlorine to produce haloacetic acids. There are measures that can be taken to mitigate the problem by removing more of this naturally occurring organic matter before it enters the water treatment process. Unfortunately, the current water treatment plant was not designed with this in mind. To add the necessary treatment facilities would require additional land on which to build, preferably near the current plant. It was suggested that these issues could be discussed with the Orange County representatives during the upcoming capital improvement project meetings.

G.M. Clemons then brought to the Board's attention the current drought in the area. The severity level in Orange County is moderate to severe, and the drought has been declared severe in Madison County. The primary trigger for a required conservation program would be an emergency drought declaration by the Governor. So far, the situation with the Rapidan river is still fine and RSA is not required to do anything currently. It was pointed out that individual counties can put their own requirements into effect based on their individual situation.

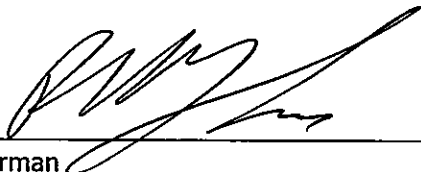
D.O. Jarrell updated the Board regarding progress with various plant improvements. The work on the Madison water plant is on track with the repairs on the concrete structure housing the pre-treatment equipment nearly finished. Next on the agenda is the electrical work, controls equipment work, and a filter rebuild. D.O. Jarrell expects the project to be finished by the end of the year. Work on the Wilderness water plant upgrade is continuing, with the site work nearly finished. The electrical work for the intake pumps is in progress, and the project should be finished soon.

D.O. Jarrell informed the Board that RSA would be receiving a WQIF grant for 90% of the eligible costs for the Madison sewer plant project, which is the greatest level of grant funding available. RSA hopes to receive USDA loan funding for the remainder of the project cost. The engineer is working on final plans. RSA has had no contact with VDOT regarding the use of VDOT right-of-way but could potentially run the discharge line through private property easements.

G.M. Clemons then gave his report. Operating income is lower than was hoped, but expenses are also down slightly. Overall, finances are still fine, although RSA will continue to watch its spending.

Attorney Calos then provided a report to the Board. As mentioned earlier in the meeting, RSA is a participant in the PFAS lawsuit, and Mr. Calos and G.M. Clemons have been working on that. Another lawsuit has been filed which automatically included RSA with no opt-out provision, so no Board action was necessary there. As was authorized at a prior meeting, Mr. Calos and G.M. Clemons have secured an extension of the lease on the West office building.

With no further business to discuss, on a motion by Coppage the meeting was adjourned at 2:26 p.m. on a unanimous voice vote.


Chairman