A regular meeting of the Board of Members of Rapidan Service Authority was held on July 16, 2026, at the Orange County Public Safety Building, Orange, VA.

A quorum was present, and the meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present:	Members:	Elliott, Johnson, Marshall
	Staff:	G.M. Jarrell, M.F.A.S. Franchuck, P.A.M. Stokes
	Attorney:	Stefan Calos
	Guests:	James McConnell

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

The minutes of the June 18, 2026, Board meeting were approved on a motion by Marshall, seconded by Elliott, and passed unanimously on a voice vote.

During the opportunity for public comment, Orange County resident James McConnell expressed his concern regarding the possibility of minute amounts of PFAS chemicals being in RSA water in spite of the fact that RSA's water passes all mandated water tests. Due to the high toxicity of such chemicals, he requested that RSA continue to test its water and mentioned the possibility of RSA's participation in a testing program sponsored by the Virginia Department of Health for water systems with less than 10,000 users.

G.M. Jarrell then presented the request of a Lake of the Woods customer for relief on a high water bill. RSA had investigated the matter and determined that there had been continuous elevated usage for approximately a week during the time in question, with the usage then returning to normal. Since the customer did not know the reason for the elevated usage, RSA was unable to offer an exoneration although a payment arrangement was made with the customer. On a motion by Elliott, seconded by Marshall, the Board voted to uphold its usual policy on a unanimous voice vote.

There was no Board comment.

The Chairman then brought up the need to select a new representative and alternate for the regional water supply planning group. On a motion by Marshall, seconded by Elliott, G.M. Jarrell was selected as the representative and Mr. Davies of the RSA Board as the alternate on a unanimous voice vote.

G.M. Jarrell then presented a proposed external social media policy for RSA. The policy is similar to that of like organizations, and establishing such a policy is important for RSA's new emphasis on social media. Attorney Calos also pointed out the necessity of establishing a thoroughly vetted social media policy to avoid the possibility of litigation. On a motion by Elliott, seconded by Marshall, on a voice vote the Board unanimously agreed to adopt the proposed policy with the understanding that it would continue to be examined and updated as needed.

G.M. Jarrell then gave his report. The Virginia Drought Monitoring Task Force met on July 7, and all regions in the Commonwealth remain in a drought warning status. In RSA's region, reservoir levels are normal, stream flow is at a watch level, precipitation at a warning level and ground water at an emergency stage. Although RSA is not currently experiencing supply issues, there is the potential of the need for restrictions in the future. White Oak Lake, which serves Madison, is full. However, the current Wilderness water intake level is approximately 40% of normal which raises the possibility of voluntary or mandatory restrictions. The Town of Orange has similar triggers for implementing water restrictions, and RSA's Route 15 water system would be subject to those restrictions should they be deemed necessary. The Route 20 water system is served by two wells at present and has no supply issues, although RSA will be transitioning from the wells to purchasing water from the Town of Orange over the next couple of months. G.M. Jarrell mentioned that the Orange County Drought Committee (which includes the County, the Town of Orange and the Town of Gordonsville) has also been meeting. At its meeting earlier in the week, the group discussed joint Facebook posts encouraging conservation and is now posting on a weekly basis. When G.M. Jarrell was asked the reason for moving from the wells to the Town of Orange as the supplier for the Route 20 system, he indicated that RSA had experienced some sediment issues in the past when the wells were pushed hard as well as a concern for possible future regulations. It is a small system without the likelihood of much growth and making the change seems like the wise course of action.

G.M. Jarrell then gave an update on the Wilderness Consent Order. RSA submitted its most recent update to the VDH Office of Drinking Water – Culpeper at the beginning of July. Five of the eight corrective action items have been completed, and the remaining three are scheduled to be finished by their respective deadlines.

G.M. Jarrell then updated the Board regarding elevated E-coli levels in the front entrance clubhouse area and Keaton Lake in Lake of the Woods. RSA has worked extensively with Lake of the Woods staff in investigating the matter. The Lake of the Woods recently began using microbial source tracking which detects genetic markers in Keaton Lake. In May, their tests detected a number of genetic markers that are associated with humans, leading to concern that RSA's systems may have leaked or otherwise impacted the lake. Although E-coli levels have remained elevated, more recent tests have not detected markers associated with humans, and it appears that the source of the problem is not related to RSA. LOW staff had also expressed concern about elevated E-coli levels in the drainage channel which goes from the front lake, down Lakeview Pkwy., by the clubhouse and eventually discharges into Flat Run downstream of the Main Lake. RSA Operations Manager Joe Gonzalez and the LOWA Director of Environmental Resources inspected the area and found no defects in RSA's infrastructure that could have contributed to the problem. E-coli levels have dropped to less concerning levels since that time, and it should be noted that the channel does not discharge into any of the lakes. The incident, however, is a great example of RSA's and the LOWA's working together to investigate a problem. A recurring meeting has been established with LOW staff to discuss current and future projects, and, of course, RSA is on-call 24/7 for emergency situations.

Regarding current projects, G.M. Jarrell indicated that the tank installation at the Madison wastewater treatment plant went well last week and the next steps in the project will be moving forward. The Route 20 vault has had the electronics and other necessary equipment installed and is ready to be placed into service, but the contract with the Town stipulates that the old meter vault must be demolished before the new one can be placed into full-time use.

G.M. Jarrell pointed out the public affairs update in the Board packet and noted that RSA's Facebook presence has continued to grow since its start on June 8th. The next priority projects are a monthly newsletter to begin in August and a communication campaign to help RSA better connect with and serve the community. G.M. Jarrell then closed his report by briefly going over the financial sheet at the end of the Board packet.

In response to a question about check signatories that was raised at the last Board meeting, in his report Attorney Calos pointed out that RSA does use two signatures on a check but that the Board could add it as part of the banking resolution if they would like to incorporate it as an official RSA policy.

The Board went into closed session at 2:25 p.m. after unanimously passing on a voice vote a motion made by Elliott, seconded by Marshall, to go into closed session to discuss the consideration of possible acquisition of real property, possible litigation and specific legal matters related thereto.

Upon leaving the closed session at 3:15 p.m., each Board member individually certified that only permissible topics had been discussed during the closed session.

With no further business to discuss, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 3:16 p.m.

Chairman

SUGGESTED MOTION TO ENTER INTO CLOSED SESSION AT THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MEMBERS OF THE RAPIDAN SERVICE AUTHORITY ON JULY 16, 2026

I move that the Board of Members of the Rapidan Service Authority enter into closed session for the following, pursuant to Virginia Code section 2.2-3711(A)(3), (7), and (8), respectively:

(a) Discussion and consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position and negotiating strategy of the public body, (b) consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members pertaining to probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the Board, and (c) consultation with legal counsel regarding specific legal matters related to the foregoing items.

Motion by: Elliott

Seconded by: Marshall

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Upon leaving the closed session and entering back into open session, please state the following:

Pursuant to Virginia Code § 2.2-3712(D), (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed, or considered in the closed meeting by the RSA board. Should any members of the board believe that there was a departure from the foregoing requirements, please so state at this time, prior to the vote, and indicate the substance of the departure that, in their judgment, has taken place.

I would ask each Board Member to certify that the foregoing requirements were met, by saying "AYE".

Coppage	
Davies	
Elliott	AYE
Johnson	AYE
Marshall	AYE

All Board Members certified by saying "AYE", except Coppage (absent), Davies (absent)