



At a regular meeting of the Bedford County Public Service Authority Board of Directors, held in the Board Meeting Room at the Bedford County Public Service Authority Administrative Annex Building on the 20th of October 2009, beginning at 7:00pm:

WHEREAS, the U.S. Forest Service is in the process of revising its 1993 Land and Resource Management Plan for the George Washington National Forest; and

WHEREAS, the provision of clean, safe drinking water is one of the primary benefits that the George Washington National Forest provides to communities that surround and are nearby it; and,

WHEREAS, the U.S. Forest Service's agency-wide Strategic Plan seeks to achieve six goals, including improving watershed conditions; and

WHEREAS, approximately 44 percent of the land in the George Washington National Forest is within watersheds that provide public drinking water to more than 260,000 residents of western Virginia in 22 communities surrounding and near the national forest by means of reservoirs and surface waters; and,

WHEREAS, drinking water sources from the Pedlar Reservoir and watershed within the George Washington National Forest serve more than 100,000 residents in the City of Lynchburg, Amherst, Bedford, and Campbell Counties; and,

WHEREAS, the Bedford County Public Service Authority currently supplies all of the customers in the Forest, Boonsboro, and New London areas of Bedford County from water that is provided by the City of Lynchburg using the Pedlar Reservoir as one of its primary sources; and

WHEREAS, the 1993 George Washington National Forest Management Plan identifies drinking water reservoirs, but does not address the watersheds that surround these reservoirs or offer distinct management objectives to maintain or improve drinking water quality in these watersheds by controlling erosion and sedimentation; and,

WHEREAS, the 1993 George Washington National Forest Management Plan permits ground disturbing activities on most (64 percent) of the land in the surface watersheds that provide drinking water through river intakes; and,

WHEREAS, a 2008 report by the National Research Council (part of the National Academies) states that a sustainable supply of clean water is the most important product or commodity produced by our forests; now,



THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Bedford County Public Service Authority does hereby support the following revisions to the George Washington National Forest Management Plan in order to ensure the quality and quantity of drinking water sources within the national forest boundaries:

- The U.S. Forest Service should formally identify all the drinking watersheds serving reservoir and surface water resources within the George Washington National Forest. The rivers and streams within these watersheds should be considered and managed under the most stringent water quality standards and practices as public water supplies.
- The U.S. Forest Service should establish management objectives that encompass the health of entire drinking watersheds, in order to ensure that conditions within the watersheds will maintain, protect, and enhance drinking water quality.
- The U.S. Forest Service should gather more information to describe and assess watershed conditions, develop a plan to systematically monitor water resources programs and obtain all data pertinent to water quality and watershed conditions, in cooperation with other agencies, organizations, local communities, and volunteers.
- The U.S. Forest Service should seek to communicate more effectively with localities that obtain drinking water from sources within the George Washington National Forest in order to ensure that the drinking watersheds are managed effectively, appropriately, and for the public good.
- The U.S. Forest Service should work with local communities, agencies, and the larger public to establish policies and develop management plans for the drinking watersheds to permanently maintain, protect, and enhance drinking water quality.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary to the Bedford County Public Service Authority is instructed to transmit a copy of this resolution to the U.S. Forest Service and the Bedford County Board of Supervisors.

Director Roger Hessenius made a motion to approve this Resolution # 200910-03.

Director Carl Wells made a Second to approve.

Board Member Votes: 6 Aye, 0 Nay. Motion carried.