



News Release



For Immediate Release

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Regional Organization Expands as Franklin County Joins the Western Virginia Water Authority

Roanoke, Virginia (November 5, 2009) - A public hearing was jointly held today by the City Council of the City of Roanoke, Virginia, the Boards of Supervisors of Franklin County, Virginia and Roanoke County, Virginia and by the Board of Directors of the Western Virginia Water Authority of Roanoke, Virginia at the Vinton War Memorial, 814 E. Washington Avenue, Vinton, Virginia 24179 for the purpose of receiving public comment on the joinder by Franklin County, Virginia of the Western Virginia Water Authority and on the amendment and restatement of the Articles of Incorporation of the Western Virginia Water Authority accomplishing such purpose.

The Western Virginia Water Authority (Authority) was formed on July 1, 2004 to become a regional entity for providing water and wastewater services to customers in the City of Roanoke and Roanoke County. This regional approach has benefited customers in the Roanoke area and now stands to benefit current Authority customers as well as Franklin County by providing adequate water supply, fire protection and wastewater services for all customers for years to come.

Although the Authority and Franklin County have had a very positive working relationship over the past few years, this joinder will solidify and strengthen the partnership. Based on recommendations in the 2003 Long Range Water Supply Study to utilize multiple water sources, the Authority began working closely with Franklin County to establish a central water system. Franklin County and the Authority have also worked cooperatively to acquire several privately owned water systems in the Smith Mountain Lake area and to obtain funding to extend the Westlake water system along Scruggs Road. A joint project with the County of Roanoke is in progress to extend water to the Wirtz Plateau area via the U.S. Route 220 water line. In the future, these interconnections will provide reliable water sources for all customers, especially during times of drought.

In addition, the Authority has worked in partnership with Franklin County to acquire the Westlake sewer system. This acquisition makes public sewer available to the commercial area of Westlake and is the first step in beginning a public sewer system for Franklin County.

In 2004, it was clear that an organization that spanned localities was the logical unit to manage water resources and wastewater services. This idea is still true today as Franklin County joins the Western Virginia Water Authority, creating better rate stability, drought protection and infrastructure planning and maintenance for all regional customers.

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