

Joe Urban

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Sent: Thursday, September 11, 2008 6:40 PM
Subject: Fw: BOS defers action on GWMA resolution

F.Y.I.

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--- On **Thu, 9/11/08**, **FRANK FLETCHER** <frankfletcher75@yahoo.com> wrote:

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 Subject: BOS defers action on GWMA resolution
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 Date: Thursday, September 11, 2008, 10:39 PM

This afternoon the Northumberland County BOS deferred action on a GWMA resolution in order to gather for review the arguments against designating the Northern Neck a Groundwater Management Area. Although the County Administrator did not go into detail about the current focus of the opposition, it seemed to me that he had heard criticisms from engineers involved in water projects and wished to present them to the Board. Clearly, the matter has moved out of the scientific realm and into the political.

If no management rules are put into place, the groundwater supply of the Northern Neck will be at risk. It is only a matter of time before falling groundwater levels imperil the aquifers. To permit this damage to a public resource only because the management rules will constrain a few individuals borders on the unconscionable. Is the public to be protected or just a few selfish interests? Are the County supervisors prepared to come out in public against the protection of the water supply of the Northern Neck?

Currently, there is a proposal before the Lancaster County Planning Commission for a 740-acre housing development which intends to withdrawal groundwater at a rate of 400,000 gallons per day. This rate is equal to almost one-half of all groundwater withdrawn by all of Lancaster County. It represents about 60 percent of the groundwater withdrawals of Northumberland County, and is equal to all of the groundwater withdrawn by Richmond County and all withdrawn by King and Queen County. It is equal to 40 times the rate that triggers a withdrawal permit in GWMA's of the state. What is sad is that because Lancaster County is not a component of a GWMA, there will be no assessment by the staff of the DEQ or any other groundwater

scientist of the impact of this project on the groundwater supply. What happens when (not if) other large projects begin to tap our groundwater supply?

One important purpose of a GWMA is to require a hydrologic assessment of the impact of groundwater withdrawals. For this reason alone, the designation of the Northern Neck as a GWMA is essential if the public is to be protected.

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