

IN THE PIPE

NEWSLETTER

Winter/Spring 2019



No. 25

WCSA Receives \$18.5 Million in USDA Rural Development Funding for Sewer Expansion Project

ABINGDON, Va. — The Washington County Service Authority (WCSA) recently received \$18.5 million in financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development's Rural Utilities Service (RUS).

The funding package includes an RUS grant in the amount of \$9.165 million and an RUS loan in the amount of \$9.355 million. The funding will be used to extend sanitary sewer to residents and businesses along Lee Highway and Jonesboro Road between Exit 13 and the city of Bristol, Virginia.

"We are delighted to receive RUS funding to help us provide crucial sewer services to more of our community members," says Robbie Cornett, general manager of WCSA. "The grant is one of the largest in WCSA's history. When constructed, this project will provide the backbone for a sewer conveyance system along the Lee Highway corridor area, and will also enable WCSA to extend public sewer service from the conveyance system into neighborhoods along these two corridors."

The RUS-funded project will involve the construction of nearly 67,000 feet of force main line, more than 42,000 feet of gravity sewer line and four pumping stations. When the overall sewer expansion project is complete, approximately 842 existing residents and businesses will have access to public sewer service. The project is currently in the planning stages and will be executed in a series of phases.

"We are very excited about the prospect of obtaining sewer service for this area," says Dwayne Ball, member of the



Pictured above is Phase 2A of the Exit 13 Sewer Project, completed in 2017, which was part of the ongoing effort to expand sewer service in the Exit 13 area.

Washington County Board of Supervisors, who represents the Wilson election district. "I believe that it will be a great asset to the area and will promote business growth in the county. Many neighborhoods in the area will benefit from the line extension as well. I greatly appreciate the work that Robbie Cornett and the Washington County Service Authority did in procuring the grant. I would also like to thank Rep. Morgan Griffith and his staff for their efforts in the process. Our board looks forward to working with them on future endeavors."

USDA's RUS administers programs that provide much-needed infrastructure or infrastructure improvements to rural communities. These include water and waste treatment, electric power and telecommunications services. All of these services play a critical role in helping to expand economic opportunities and improve the quality of life for rural residents.

Continued on Page 4

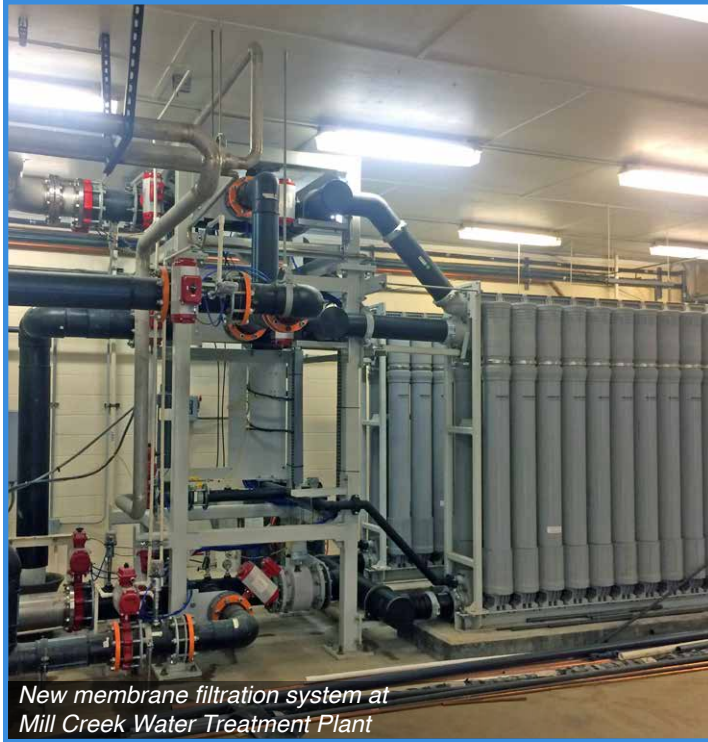
INSIDE

WCSA Project Updates	2
WCSA Welcomes Department of Agriculture Dignitary	3

WCSA Receives \$18.5 Million (continued from pg. 1)	4
WCSA Calendar and Board Meeting Schedule	4

WCSA Project Updates

To learn more about WCSA projects, visit www.wcsawater.com.



Ongoing Projects:

Construction is nearing completion on the **Mill Creek Water Treatment Plant Improvements Project**, which will provide a new membrane filtration system and additional repairs, replacements and upgrades to the water treatment plant.



Upcoming Projects:

Construction is expected to begin in the spring of 2019 on the **Sugar Cove Road Water Line Extension Project**, which is currently in the final design stages.

WCSA recently received Community Development Block Grant funding from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development for the **Rattle Creek Road Water Line Extension Project**, which will provide water service for 14 residences that currently rely on wells or springs for their drinking water. The project is expected to start in the spring of 2019.



Designs are complete on the **Rich Valley Road Water Line Extension Project**, and construction is expected to begin in the spring of 2019.

The **Galvanized Line Replacement — Phase 3 Project** is the third step in a three-phase project to replace all galvanized pipe in WCSA's distribution system over the next several years. The project is expected to begin in the spring of 2019.

The **Lee Highway Corridor Sewer Expansion Project** will extend public sewer service to residents and businesses along Lee Highway and Jonesboro Road between Exit 13 and the city of Bristol, Virginia. The project is currently in the planning stages and will be completed in a series of phases. 💧

Welcome, New Employees!

Josh Short recently joined WCSA's filter plant team. He holds a Class 2 waterworks license.

Leroy Sullivan is the newest member of WCSA's wastewater team. He holds a Class 1 wastewater license, a Class 5 water license and a Class B CDL.

WCSA Welcomes Department of Agriculture Dignitary



Pictured from left are Jeanie Barbow, single family housing program director for USDA Rural Development in Virginia; Robbie Cornett, WCSA general manager; Robert Hilt, area specialist (Area 1) for USDA Rural Development in Virginia; Elizabeth Walker Green, state director for USDA Rural Development in Virginia; Anne Hazlett, assistant to the secretary for Rural Development at the U.S. Department of Agriculture; and Don Cole, WCSA water treatment manager.

Anne Hazlett, assistant to the secretary for Rural Development at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, recently visited WCSA to tour the Middle Fork Drinking Water Plant. Rural Development was instrumental in providing funding in 2009 for the plant's major upgrade. The plant expansion was completed in 2014.

Constructed in 1974 as a 2.3 million-gallon-per-day (mgd) facility, the Middle Fork Drinking Water Plant is a conventional surface water treatment plant. WCSA's withdraw permit was expanded 20 years later to 4.6 mgd, but by 2010, that amount was insufficient to meet the needs of WCSA's customers. The upgrade, called the Middle Fork Water Treatment Plant Expansion, South Fork Intake and Raw Water Line Project, expanded the plant's water production capacity from 4.6 mgd to 12 mgd.

The \$28.3 million expansion was the largest and most complex capital project in WCSA's history. In order to increase the plant's capacity to 12 mgd, a second new raw water intake was constructed on the South Fork of the Holston

River, where raw water is pumped to the treatment plant via a separate water line. Significant improvements were also made to the plant. The project required four years of in-depth planning and design, followed by four years of construction.

Hazlett was accompanied on her tour by Robert Hilt, area specialist (Area 1) for USDA Rural Development in Virginia; Elizabeth Walker Green, state director for USDA Rural Development in Virginia; and other guests from Rural Development.

Today, the Middle Fork Drinking Water Plant is approximately triple its original size, and is the second-largest facility of its kind



Pictured are Elizabeth Walker Green (left), state director for USDA Rural Development in Virginia, and Anne Hazlett, assistant to the secretary for Rural Development at the U.S. Department of Agriculture.



Pictured from left are Don Cole, WCSA water treatment manager; Elizabeth Walker Green, state director for USDA Rural Development in Virginia, and Anne Hazlett, assistant to the secretary for Rural Development at the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

in Southwest Virginia. Combined with WCSA's other water sources, the plant has the largest permitted capacity in Southwest Virginia and is now equipped to meet Washington County's needs for the next 40 years. 💧

WCSA Receives \$18.5 Million in USDA Rural Development Funding for Sewer Expansion Project

Continued from Page 1



Pictured above is Phase 3 of the Exit 13 Sewer Project, completed in late 2018, which was part of the ongoing effort to expand sewer service in the Exit 13 area.

Utilities programs connect rural residents to the global economy by developing reliable and affordable rural water and wastewater systems, among other services, systems and technologies.

“Several years ago, the board of supervisors and WCSA’s board of commissioners commissioned a study on the provision of sewer service in the Exit 13 area,” Cornett says. “Since that time, we have been fortunate to achieve several projects that have benefited a number of residents and businesses in the Exit 13 area. This newest project is the next step in a long line of forward-thinking objectives that will help bring public sewer service to this portion of Washington County.”



Pictured above is Phase 3 of the Exit 13 Sewer Project, completed in late 2018, which was part of the ongoing effort to expand sewer service in the Exit 13 area.

Exit 13 projects completed over the last several years include:

- The **Exit 13 Force Main Project** constructed approximately 18,000 feet of 16-inch force main sewer line from the WCSA Spring Creek pump station to the town of Abingdon’s west interceptor. Completed in 2013, this project was the foundation for the Exit 13 Wastewater System Phase 1 and all future phases.
- The **Exit 13 Phase 1 Sewer Project** provided wastewater service for 256 residential connections in a high-density residential area along Old Jonesboro Road between I-81 exits 13 and 14, including portions of the Westwood and Westwood View subdivisions. Total investment was \$7.09 million and the project was completed in 2013.
- The **Oak Park Wastewater Expansion Project** featured construction of a sewer system to serve 21 new residential, commercial and industrial connections along Lee Highway, and six existing industrial connections in the Oak Park Center for Business and Industry. Completed in 2013, the project provided 500,000 gallons-per-day sewer capacity for new or expanding industry.
- The **Exit 13 Phase 2A Sewer Project** consisted of installation of a sewer main from Spring Creek Road to the Virginia Highlands Airport, as well as some branch lines or laterals to provide service for customers who are not directly adjacent to the Oak Park Wastewater Expansion Project. A total investment of nearly \$1.2 million resulted in 47 new commercial and residential connections. The project was completed in 2017.
- The **Exit 13 Phase 3 Sewer Project** provided service to portions of McCray Drive and the Foxfire subdivision. A total investment of \$1.2 million provided 46 new residential connections. The project was completed in late 2018. 💧

2019 WCSA Calendar

WCSA offices will be closed on the following holidays:

Presidents’ Day	Feb. 18
Good Friday	April 19



Board Meetings

UPCOMING BOARD MEETING DATES

Feb. 25, 2019
Mar. 25, 2019
April 22, 2019

Board meetings are held at WCSA in the E.W. Potts Board Room at 6 p.m. The public is welcome to attend.

Actual dates may vary. Please contact our office to confirm meeting schedule.

Customer Contact Information

Should WCSA need to contact you regarding your water service, we generally do so via text message, email or telephone call. If you prefer not to be contacted by one or more of these methods, please contact our office at 276-628-7151. If you would like to be contacted but are not sure we have your information, please contact us at 276-628-7151 or inquiry@wcsa-water.com with that information.

E-CHECK PAYMENTS

WCSA NOW OFFERS A 24/7 E-CHECK METHOD FOR PHONE AND ONLINE PAYMENTS. YOU MAY PAY BY CALLING 276-628-7151 AND CHOOSING OPTION 2, OR BY ACCESSING YOUR ONLINE ACCOUNT. CALL CUSTOMER SERVICE AT 276-628-7151 FOR DETAILS.

WCSA

25122 Regal Drive
Abingdon, VA 24211

P: 276-628-7151

F: 276-628-3594

Email: inquiry@wcsawater.com
www.wcsawater.com