



NEWSLETTER

Fall/Winter 2017

No. 20

State Funding Enables WCSA to Proceed with Second Phase of Project for Hidden Valley Community

WCSA received grant funding earlier this fall that will make a big difference for Washington County residents who live in the Hidden Valley area. A Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) of \$362,500 will provide clean water for approximately 66 residents who currently rely on private sources of water. The grant was presented by Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe on Sept. 15 at the Southwest Virginia Cultural Heritage Center in Abingdon.

“We are extremely pleased to have been included in this most recent round of CDBG funding from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development,” says Robbie Cornett, general manager of WCSA. “We’ve been working since 2009 to supply the Hidden Valley community with a clean, dependable water source, and we expect to achieve that goal in 2019. Residents there have reported dwindling water supplies during dry periods, and service lines to springs tend to freeze up during cold snaps, presenting reliability problems. Others report the presence of iron or bacteria in their water sources.

“Hidden Valley is located in a very high-altitude portion of Washington County, and the elevation changes make it extremely challenging to provide water to the community,” Cornett says. “Serving customers in higher elevations results in increased project costs due to the need for pumping equipment. This grant will enable WCSA to complete the necessary distribution system for bringing water to all of our Hidden Valley neighbors.”

The grant represented a portion of the \$8.8 million provided for 15 Virginia projects; seven of those projects are in Southwest Virginia counties. Grant funding supports projects that improve health care access, water and sewer infrastructure, downtown



Pictured above are Jason Berry (left), administrator for Washington County; Randy Pennington, chairman of the Washington County board of supervisors; Robbie Cornett, general manager of WCSA; Kenneth Taylor, WCSA commissioner; and Jim McCall, vice chairman of WCSA’s board of commissioners.

revitalization, public safety, and housing rehabilitation. These grants ensure that Virginia communities have the necessary foundation in place for local residents and businesses to succeed as the state continues its efforts to bolster the economy.

“It has been a longtime goal of mine to see public water service provided to the Hidden Valley area,” says Ken Taylor, WCSA board commissioner. “As a member of the Hidden Valley community, I can personally speak to the fact that many of the folks who live there struggle with quality and quantity issues with their current private water sources. This project will greatly

Continued on Page 4

INSIDE

WCSA Project Updates.....2
 Employee News2
 WCSA to Improve Water Service3

Did You Know?.....3
 Protect Your Home4
 WCSA Calendar and Board Meeting Schedule4

WCSA Project Updates

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

Recently Completed Projects:

WCSA replaced and installed approximately 4,700 linear feet of new water line for the **Haskell Station Road Water Line Extension Project**. Construction began in March and was completed in September.

Ongoing Projects:

The **Mill Creek Water Treatment Plant Improvements Project** will provide a new membrane filtration system and additional repairs, replacements and upgrades to the plant. Construction began in February and is expected to be completed in early 2018.

The **Exit 13 Phase 3 Sewer Project** will provide sewer service to portions of McCray Drive and the Foxfire subdivision. Construction began in August and is expected to be completed in April 2018.



Exit 13 Phase 3 sewer project

The **Route 58 Corridor Water System Improvements Project** will include improvements for the water system serving the Town of Damascus, Alvarado and areas east of South Holston Lake. Construction of a new water storage tank began in October, along with installation of water lines in Denton Valley and on Drake Road. The project improvements are expected to be completed in July 2018.



Exit 13 Phase 3 sewer project

Upcoming Projects:

The **Ritchie Road Water Line Extension Project** will provide service to new customers and also upgrade service to existing customers on Ritchie Road. The project is currently in the bidding stages, and construction is expected to begin in December 2017.

The **Galvanized Line Replacement — Phase 3 Project** is the final step in a three-phase project to replace all galvanized pipe in WCSA's distribution system over the next several years. The project will be advertised for bids in early 2018.

WCSA has received funding for proposed water line projects on **Rich Valley Road, Sugar Cove Road, Chip Ridge Road and Rattle Creek Road**. These projects are currently in the design stages, and construction is expected to begin by summer of 2018. 💧

Employee News

Welcome, New Employees!

WCSA welcomes our newest employees, **Jared Cox** and **Scott Trogdon**, both of whom recently joined WCSA's maintenance department as crew members.

Congratulations!

WCSA congratulates **James Smith** on his recent promotion to meter technician. James has been employed in WCSA's maintenance department since June 2008.

WCSA to Improve Water Service to Damascus, Alvarado and Denton Valley Communities

WCSA is pleased to report that its **Route 58 Corridor Water Supply Improvements Project** is currently under construction. This project will address a lack of water storage capacity in this portion of WCSA's water system, pressure fluctuations and periodic inadequate customer water pressure in various locations, lack of and/or fluctuating

fire flow capacities, and the need for an improved backup water supply source. This project will also provide bulk water sales to the neighboring Intermont Utility District, where approximately 112 residents will gain access to a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. The project is expected to be completed next summer. 💧



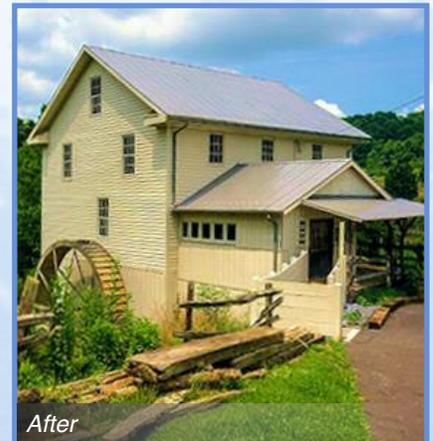
Did You Know?

For many years, water from rivers and streams served as a valuable and plentiful energy resource for mills scattered throughout Washington County.

Located five miles northeast of Abingdon at the intersection of Routes 700 and 692, White's Mill began serving the area in the late 18th century. The water for White's Mill was diverted from Toole's Creek by means of an earthen "race" or channel, which fed directly into a wooden race and onto the wheel. An early-coursed rubble limestone dam with a functional hydraulic ram has also been associated with the mill's operations.

White's Mill was Southwest Virginia's only fully operating, water-powered grist mill until 1989. The mill was listed

on the National Register of Historic Places and the Virginia Landmarks Register in 1974. Renovated in 2013, White's Mill not only demonstrates the evolution of the mill, but also the importance of water and how it has served as an industrial source of power to the Washington County community. 💧



Protect Your Home from Winter's Water Woes



With winter's arrival next month comes the risk of frozen pipes and other water issues. When a frozen pipe bursts, it can flood your home. In addition, an ice dam in your home's gutters can cause water to seep into interior walls, causing structural damage and mold. A crack as small as 1/8th of an inch can spew hundreds of gallons of water per day, causing thousands of dollars in damages. The time to prepare your home for winter is now, while the weather is still relatively mild.

Protect your home in advance by:

- Insulating water pipes in the attic, basement or crawl spaces, and near outer walls, all of which are most susceptible to freezing;
- Insulating walls and attics to prevent heat loss;
- Sealing air leaks that allow cold air inside around electrical wiring, dryer vents and pipes;
- Draining, disconnecting and storing garden hoses;
- Shutting off and draining water from pipes leading to outside faucets (keep the outside valves open, however, to allow any remaining water to expand without causing pipe breakage);
- Adding extensions to downspouts so that water runs at least three to four feet away from the foundation; and
- Draining the water system if your home will be unattended during the winter months.

When freezing temperatures arrive, some additional steps to take include:

- Allowing a trickle of water to drip from faucets located on exterior walls;
- Setting your thermostat no lower than 55 degrees overnight;
- Keeping cabinet doors open to allow heat to circulate around pipes under sinks and appliances located near exterior walls; and
- Keeping garage doors closed if water supply lines are located there.

Taking a few extra precautions ahead of the arrival of freezing temperatures will ensure that your home is well-protected against potential water issues caused by Old Man Winter. 💧

Second Phase of Project

Continued from Page 1

improve the quality of life for the residents of this part of Washington County."

WCSA completed Phase 1 of the Hidden Valley Water System Extension Project in January 2016. This nine-month-long project extended water service along Porterfield Highway to the Hidden Valley Road intersection, and

northward along Hidden Valley Road to an approximate elevation of 2,500 feet (near Chestnut Grove Community Church), providing public water service to approximately 30 Hidden Valley residents. Construction on Phase 2 of this project will begin next summer. Upon completion, water will be supplied to homes located in the highest areas of Hidden Valley Road. 💧



WCSA Calendar

WCSA offices will be closed on the following holidays:

Thanksgiving	Nov. 23 and 24
Holiday Half-Day	Dec. 22
Christmas	Dec. 25 and 26
New Year's Day	Jan. 1



Board Meetings

UPCOMING BOARD MEETING DATES

Nov. 27, 2017
Dec. 18, 2017
Jan. 22, 2018

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.

REMINDER

AVOID THE TIME AND EXPENSE OF MAILING AND POSTAGE WITH WCSA'S AUTO-DRAFT, ONLINE BILLPAY OR 24/7 PAY BY PHONE.

CALL OUR CUSTOMER SERVICE DEPARTMENT 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