

Regional Water Plan Study Discussed

Proposal would link Chowan, Perquimans, Edenton

BY MILES LAYTON
Editor

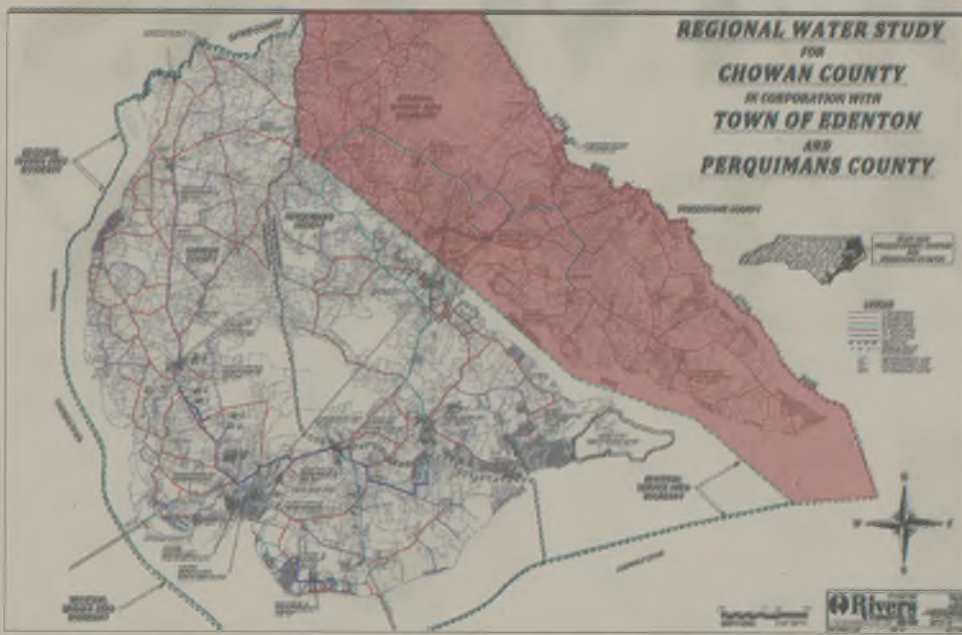
Grab a cup of coffee at Brew 2 Rescue Cafe so as to read this story about a possible multi-million dollar water infrastructure project that affects Perquimans and Chowan counties.

Monday, when the Chowan County Commission listened to a preliminary feasibility study report for regional water supply and treatment facilities for Chowan County in cooperation with the Town of Edenton and the westernmost portion of Perquimans County.

Greg Churchill of Rivers and Associates presented the commissions a study that suggests it's possible to develop a long range water supply plan. If implemented, plans call for enhanced water treatment infrastructure, more wells and miles of pipes that would stretch from Valhalla in Chowan County to Perquimans County.

"Each partnering entity, considering their individual system needs, will need to determine whether a regional solution is perceived as feasible as a short-term or long-term solution," Churchill said.

Price tag that would be



Rivers and Associates presented the results of a study on the feasibility of a regional water treatment system serving Chowan County, the town of Edenton and part of Perquimans County. The shaded section of Perquimans County (right part of the map) would not be in the proposed plant's service area.

shared between two county governments and Edenton:

- Conventional Filter/Softener WTP — \$45.3 Million

- Filter/Softener WTP with Chloramines Disinfection — \$45.8 million

- Filter/Softener WTP with Organics Removal — \$48.5 million

- Nanofiltration WTP with Iron Pre-treatment — \$60.5 million

- Reverse Osmosis WTP — \$51.7 million

On that note, Churchill said a decision matrix was

utilized to comparatively score various parameters for each alternative to assist in forming the basis to recommend that the best project would be the reverse osmosis plant at \$51.7 million.

Funding options would come from a variety of sources that may provide grants and loans from state Department of Environmental Quality Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, US Department of Agriculture, and/or commercial financing via bonds.

If the stars align perfectly with the governments working together while avoiding bureaucratic red tape and overcoming the challenges associated with funding a multi-million dollar venture, it would be a bare minimum of five years plus before any politicians wielding silver shovels turn over the ground at a dedication ceremony for the project.

Miles Layton can be reached at mLAYTON@ncweeklies.com

OBITUARY

Marjorie W. Blanchard

HERTFORD - Marjorie Lelia White Blanchard, 99, of 314 Artie St., passed away peacefully in her home on Saturday, February 13th, 2021 surrounded by her family.



Mrs. Blanchard was born in Perquimans County on September 4, 1921 and was the last surviving of 6 children born to the late Novella and Wayland White of Belvidere. A homemaker, she was a member of Hertford United Methodist Church.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Sidney Sutton Blanchard; and her siblings, Wayland Jr., Dorothy, Evelyn, Jewel, and Clifton.

Surviving are her children, Kathleen Drawdy (George) of Rocky Hock, Sydney Ann Mathews of Hertford, and Betty Byrum (Mike) of Hertford, four grandchildren, Linda Layton (Brent) of Rocky Hock, Pamela Ellis (Keith) of Hertford, Eric Byrum (Rachel Phillips) of Elizabeth City, and David Byrum (Shari) of Winterville. Her great-grandchildren are Ashley Byrum (Joey), Blake Runyon, Ben Layton, Laura Flores (Luis), Sean Ellis (fiancé Kelly), James Ellis (Lydia), Carson Byrum, and Avery Byrum; and her great-great grandchildren are Reed and Wade Byrum, Lily and Elizabeth Flores, Tyson Ellis, and Juniper Ellis. Her seventh great-great grandchild is expected in August.

Due to the Covid 19 Pandemic, a private graveside service for family members was held in Cedarwood Cemetery.

The family wishes to express their deep appreciation to the Hospice staff and volunteers for the excellent comfort and care given to their loved one during her period of declining health.

Miller & Van Essendelft Funeral & Cremation Providers, 1125 Harvey Point Road, Hertford, is assisting the family with arrangements and online condolences may be made by visiting www.millerfhc.com.

CENTER

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litsch and myself, our keys no longer worked."

Hodges said he doesn't know who changed the locks. The town's administrator should know who doesn't, he said.

"She's not responsible for the locks being changed," he said, referring to Town Administrator Pam Hurdle.

Under the changes councilors approved by a 3-2 vote last week, each councilor has been issued a key fob for the building, Hodges said. But to successfully gain entry to the building, they also have to get a key from Hurdle as well. That way, if a key is lost or stolen, it can't be used without the fob, he said.

Also, upon entering the building, each councilor now has to disarm the alarm system using a code that is unique to them, Hodges said. The building has been equipped with an alarm system for some time but it hasn't always been turned on.

Hodges said councilors had discussed adopting more formal procedures for controlling access to

the building prior to the N.C. State Bureau of Investigation's seizure of a town computer at the center late last month.

The SBI seized the computer as part of its investigation into Hodges' allegations that some of his personal emails were retrieved from the computer without his permission.

Hodges further alleges, according to the warrant application filed by SBI Special Agent Steven Norman, that he began receiving "threatening" messages from another councilor who is not identified. Norman's application also notes members of council and the town administrator have received envelopes "reported to contain copies of emails associated with Hodges."

During his interview with SBI Agent Norman, Hodges said that only one other councilor had access to the computer. Hodges said the councilor, whom he described as "tech savvy," had installed software on the computer that allowed it to be accessed remotely, meaning the person didn't physically have to be at the computer to use it. The "tech savvy" councilor is likewise not

identified in the SBI warrant application.

Hodges reported his allegations Jan. 29 to District Attorney Andrew Womble, who then asked the SBI to investigate. SBI Agent Norman seized the computer during a visit to the center. Chief Resident Superior Court Judge Jerry Tillett granted the SBI's application for the warrant to search the computer on Feb. 1.

Hodges has declined to comment about his allegations or the SBI probe, saying only that the statements in SBI Agent Norman's application for the search warrant "were accurate."

Hertford Town Council also considered two other changes to council procedures last week: one to change the starting time of council meetings from 7:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.; the other to eliminate non-budgetary work sessions.

Councilman Norman said he opposed both, claiming the later starting time gives more people "getting off work" more time to attend meetings. As for work sessions, he said they are helpful because they cover topics likely to come up again at council's regular sessions.

Councilors voted 3-2 to

cancel the work sessions, but a similar vote to change the meeting time fell short of a statutorily required fourth-fifths supermajority vote.

According to Hodges, changing the start time of Hertford council meetings requires an ordinance change, and that requires a supermajority vote when a resolution is first introduced. He expects the start-time resolution will be approved when it's brought up at a subsequent meeting in March because only a simple majority vote will be required then.

Hodges said councilors supporting the starting time change do so because they figure council will need more time to discuss matters now that they won't be holding work sessions. He said getting rid of non-budgetary work sessions will allow Hertford councilors to attend Perquimans county commissioner meetings, which are held the same night as the work sessions.

Julian Eure, managing editor of the *Daily Advance*, can be reached at jeure@dailyadvance.com

MONSOON

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rain with temperatures ranging between upper 40s and mid 50s.

Friday, temperatures range between the mid

20s and low 50s with, you guessed it, more rain. Check out our editorial page cartoon. Hint, Forest Gump.

Saturday, it will be sunny with winds up to 16 mph, so maybe not a good day to go kayak/sailing.

Temperatures will range between the mid 20s to low 40s.

Sunday, it will be partly sunny with temperatures ranging between low 30s to upper 40s.

A good chunk of the nation is experiencing more than a bit of winter weather - polar vortex in Texas - so doesn't that make you glad to live in coastal Carolina?

OBITUARY POLICY

For information on submitting obituaries or death notices Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., call 252-329-9505 or email obits@apgenc.com and specify that you are interested in obituary information for The Perquimans Weekly. On weekends and holidays, email obits@apgenc.com. We do not

accept notices by fax. Obituaries must be received, processed and approved by noon on Tuesday to appear in print in the Thursday edition.

Death notices are \$30 and can include the name and age of the decedent; funeral and visitation or viewing information; and the name of the funeral home.

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