SCENIC RIVER

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L. Preston Bryant, Jr.
Secretary of Natural Resources

Joseph H. Maroon
Director

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION
203 Governor Street, Suite 302
Richmond, Virginia 23219-2010
(804) 786-6124 Fax: (804) 786-6141

February 25, 2009

Mr. Michael W. Johnson
Southampton County Administrator
Post Office Box 400
Courtland, Virginia 23837

Mr. W. Douglas Caskey
Isle of Wight County Administrator
Post Office Box 80
Isle of Wight, Virginia 23397

Re: Scenic River Evaluation of the Blackwater River

Dear Mr. Johnson and Mr. Caskey:

Thank you for your recent letters to the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) stating your counties' interest in a Scenic River evaluation of the Blackwater River within your jurisdictions. We appreciate knowing that your Boards of Supervisors have passed resolutions in support of the Blackwater River study. I also understand that the City of Franklin has taken action to begin this evaluation, although our office has not received a formal request. As yet, our office has not heard from the City of Suffolk, so we do not know of their intent concerning the evaluation.

Since we have your letters in hand, Department staff can officially begin the study process. I know that contact between DCR staff and your offices is ongoing, but we would appreciate the names of any other government representatives you wish to designate as well as learning of other contacts who could work with our staff on the necessary field study. Also, it would be helpful if you could provide a copy of each County's comprehensive plan and any land use information you have on the Blackwater River corridor.

The study will be focused on the Blackwater segment from the Surry/Southampton/ Isle of Wight common boundaries to the junction of the Blackwater and the Nottoway at the Virginia/North Carolina border. During the study preparation, DCR will be pleased to provide assistance wherever we are able. Please contact Lynn Crump, Environmental Programs Planner, with any questions. You may reach her at lynn.crump@dcr.virginia.gov or (804) 786.5054. Ms. Crump is also the person who should receive the county comprehensive plans.

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When the evaluation has been completed, you will be informed of the results. If the river segment qualifies for Scenic River designation, and your localities wish to proceed, then you will want to work with local legislators, who would introduce designation legislation in the General Assembly.

The Department is very pleased that Isle of Wight County and Southampton County have decided to explore Scenic River designation for the Blackwater River. The Scenic River program is a valuable tool in the recognition of the Commonwealth's riverine resources, and we are looking forward to working with you in this most worthwhile endeavor.

Sincerely,

Joseph H. Maroon
Director

C: June Fleming, Franklin City Manager
Selena Cuffee-Glenn, Suffolk City Manager
Richard G. Gibbons, Chairman, Virginia Scenic River Advisory Board
John Davy, DCR, Division Director, Planning and Recreation Resources
Robert S. Munson, DCR, Planning Bureau Manager
Lynn Crump, ASLA, DCR, Environmental Programs Planner

CITY OF SUFFOLK

P.O. BOX 1858, SUFFOLK, VIRGINIA 23439-1858 PHONE: (757) 514-4012

CITY MANAGER

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March 10, 2009

Mr. Michael W. Johnson
County Administrator
Southampton County
26022 Administration Center Drive
P. O. Box 400
Courtland, Virginia 23837

RE: State Scenic River Designation, Blackwater River, Resolution # 09-R-031

Dear Mr. ~~Johnson~~ Mike:

Please be advised that the Suffolk City Council, at their meeting of March 4, 2009, adopted Resolution Number 09-R-031 (copy attached) in support of Southampton Counties desire to have the Blackwater River studied in an effort to have it designated as a State Scenic River.

Should you need anything further regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

Selena Cuffee-Glenn
City Manager

Attachment

pc: C. Edward Roettger, Jr., City Attorney
Erika S. Dawley, City Clerk
Patrick Roberts, Deputy City Manager
Sherry Hunt, Chief of Staff
Lina Kennedy, Risk Manager
Scott Mills, AICP, Director of Planning and Community Development

RESOLUTION NUMBER 09-R-031

A RESOLUTION ENDORSING SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY'S REQUEST TO INCLUDE THE BLACKWATER RIVER AS A DESIGNATED STATE SCENIC RIVER

WHEREAS, The Southampton County Board of Supervisors, at their December 2008 regular session, directed the Southampton County Administrator to request the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation to study a segment of the Blackwater River to determine if it qualifies for designation as a State Scenic River pursuant to the Virginia Scenic Rivers Act of 1970; and

WHEREAS, Southampton County has requested that the City of Suffolk endorse the study as an interested and affected party; and

WHEREAS, the City of Suffolk and Southampton County jurisdictional boundaries are shared by the Blackwater River in the southwest portion of the City; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Scenic Rivers Program purpose is to identify and protect significant river resources and such designation does not authorize any additional restrictions on riparian land uses; and

WHEREAS, the Blackwater River is considered an important natural resource by the City of Suffolk and is worthy for consideration as a State Scenic River.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Suffolk, that it endorses Southampton County's request of the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation to study the Blackwater River to determine if it qualifies as a State Scenic River.

READ AND PASSED: MARCH 4, 2009

TESTE: Erika S. Dawley
Erika S. Dawley, City Clerk