

Meeting with Henderson County Commissioners and Asheville City Council
November 14, 2008 Minutes

These minutes reflect significant positions expressed by elected boards and/or action steps identified and agreed to.

City Council Members Present: Mayor Terry Bellamy, Vice Mayor Jan Davis, Council Members Holly Jones, Brownie Newman, Robin Cape, Carl Mumpower, and Bill Russell.

County Commissioners Present: Chair Bill Moyer, and Commissioners Young, Willams, and McGrady.
Absent: Nester

Mayor Bellamy called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

Mayor Bellamy made opening statements and asked City Attorney Bob Oast to provide an overview of the Mills River Water Agreement (1995). Oast described the agreement regarding water distribution and property near Bent Creek (137 acres) belonging to Henderson County.

Chairman Moyer explained the current agreement as a bone of contention. He made points about putting the agreement behind both entities. He suggested resolving the issue by ending the agreement and allowing Henderson County to buy the Mills River Treatment Plant.

Mayor Bellamy expressed a willingness to sell water to Henderson County per the agreement, but not to sell the facility. Vice Mayor Davis agreed. Council member Jones agreed but acknowledged that she was leaving council. Russell passed due to not having a working knowledge of the matter. Cape asked for more information. Newman stated he is open to looking at the proposal.

Council member Mumpower stated that he would be willing to discuss the regional planning issues between the two boards moving forward, but was not willing to consider giving up Asheville's regional water asset.

Moyer expressed the need to identify ways to do regional planning. Bellamy pointed out that Land of Sky Regional Council is doing regional planning for future water needs.

Commissioner Young stated he wants a regional authority, with equal partners. Commissioner McGrady lobbied to abrogate the agreement and selling Henderson County the Mills River Water Plant. He explained that the current agreement has three parts:

1. Henderson County has two water authority seats; (moot point).
2. Henderson County owns 137 acres at Bent Creek. (worthless to them).
3. Asheville agrees to runs water lines in northern Henderson County. (Hendersonville is now doing this).

He expressed that these are now worthless considerations.

Both boards discussed options for moving forward. Both board agreed that each board would do the following:

- City council appointed three members to meet and discuss the current agreement and report back to Henderson County as to their interest in renegotiating the current agreement. Those appointed members are: Mayor Bellamy, Vice Mayor Davis, and Council Member Newman.
- Henderson County Commissioners will appoint two members of the board to meet and discuss what

options they see if the current agreement is renegotiated.

- Both the City of Hendersonville and Buncombe County will get a memorandum that outlines the meeting today and the steps that were outlined as result of the meeting.

Commissioner McGrady motioned to adjourn and the Henderson County Board adjourned the meeting at 11:25 a.m.

CITY CLERK

MAYOR