

**Stephen F. Owen
City Manager**

**Birthplace of the
Council-Manager
Form of Government**



**116 W. BEVERLEY STREET
P.O. Box 58
STAUNTON, VA 24402**

**540.332.3812 (O)
540.851.4000 (F)**

January 27, 2012

David A. Johnson
Director
Department of Conservation & Recreation
Commonwealth of Virginia
203 Governor Street
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Mr. Johnson:

This is in response to your letters dated July 18, 2011 and November 9, 2011 concerning the development of Virginia's Phase II Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) for the Chesapeake Bay watershed. In those letters, your agency, the Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR) requested certain information from the City of Staunton.

First, the City of Staunton shares the goal of improving the water quality of local streams and of the overall Chesapeake Bay watershed. We are pleased to have the opportunity to present this information regarding water quality measures that the City has implemented within the last few years. The City offers the following in regards to the information requested by DCR.

The City takes no exception to the existing Best Management Practices (BMP) information provided or the assumptions made in the EPA model for current/existing BMPs. Furthermore, the City takes no exception to the assumed existing land use/land cover information shown in the EPA model for current/existing land uses. The City does, however, reserve the right to make future revisions to the models as more accurate data is gathered.

The City has implemented numerous measures within the last few years to improve the water quality of our local streams. The measures include filtering devices, street sweeping, permeable pavement and stream restoration. In July 2009, the City Council approved our Stormwater Ordinance. The Ordinance has had a major impact on how new development and redevelopment projects are

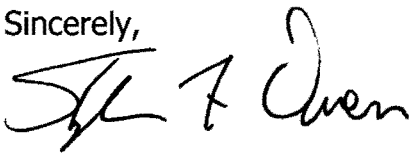
designed and constructed in regards to water quality. The high points of the Ordinance include the following:

- requires the use of Low Impact Development (LID) on all new and redevelopment projects
- establishes riparian buffers along streams and wetlands
- establishes a Stormwater Utility Fee to provide a funding mechanism for stormwater projects, including retrofitting urban filtering devices to treat existing public impervious land

The City is hopeful to continue, if not improve upon, the measures and policies that we have already instituted, contingent on available funding and resources. However, in order to meet the pollutant reduction goals as proposed in the draft copy of the Virginia Phase II WIP, the City will need significant funding from non-local sources, such as federal and state grants. Budget restraints will hamper the City from accomplishing the ultimate goals of the WIP without substantial outside funding sources.

We trust the above information will assist DCR in developing Virginia's final Phase II WIP. Once again, the City looks forward to working together to achieve our common goals of improving the quality of our local streams and the Chesapeake Bay.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S.F. Owen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Stephen F. Owen
City Manager