



## OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS AND MANAGER

500 N. Main St., Room 921 • Monroe, NC 28112 • Phone (704)283-3810 • Fax (704)282-0121

### Staff Contact:

Brett Vines 704-283-3546/704-361-4133

[brettvines@co.union.nc.us](mailto:brettvines@co.union.nc.us)

## News Release

### Commissioners Rescind Sewer Allocation Policy

**September 18, 2012, Monroe, NC** – The Union County Board of Commissioners on Monday rescinded the County's Sewer Allocation Policy.

In September 2007, commissioners adopted a policy for allocating wastewater treatment capacity in the 6-Mile Creek Collection System and the 12-Mile Creek and Crooked Creek wastewater treatment plants. At the time the policy was adopted, wastewater flows to these facilities were significantly below the permitted capacity. However, when all potential new development projects were considered, the potential demand exceeded the plants' capacities. The N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources (NCDENR) was also reluctant to consider permitting the expansion of the 12-Mile Creek WWTP.

In March 2011, the board of commissioners adopted an amendment to the policy that allocated an additional 445,000 gallons per day (GPD) of capacity for new one-tap and non-residential projects. This was possible because several conditions had changed since 2007, including slower growth of private development; postponement of several public sector projects; recovery of capacity for projects that failed to meet stipulated deadlines in the policy; completion of the design and permitting of the 6-Mile Creek diversion project; advancement of the permitting process for the 12-Mile Creek WWTP expansion project and the recovery of approximately 75,000 (GPD) of capacity from the William Trotter Development/Goose Creek utilities settlement.

Last October, Union County Public Works submitted the permit application and environmental assessment for the proposed expansion of the 12-Mile Creek WWTP from 6 million gallons per day (MGD) to 12 MGD. After reviewing the permit application and environmental assessment, NCDENR concurred that the expansion of 12-Mile Creek WWTP was the most environmental sound, cost-effective option. Significant effort is still required to mitigate environmental concerns associated with this expansion.

The 6-Mile Creek diversion project is also currently under construction and will free-up approximately 1.25 MGD of capacity in the 12-Mile Creek system. With the increase in capacity from 2008, the decline in average growth of new customers from 7 percent to 2.5 percent, the concurrence of NCDENR on the 12-Mile Creek permit application and the adoption of the Water and Sewer Line Extension Ordinance in March 2012 which places better controls on how new capacity is allocated, commissioners were able to rescind the sewer allocation policy and bring

Union County back to a standardized process of sewer capacity allocation consistent with the industry.

###