

THE CONSERVATION FUND

FRESHWATER INSTITUTE
JOSEPH A. HANKINS
PROGRAM DIRECTOR
P.O. BOX 1889
SHEPHERDSTOWN, WEST VIRGINIA 25443
VOICE: 304-876-2815
FAX::304-870-2205
j.hankins@freshwaterinstitute.org

Dr. Hugh E. Bevans
West Virginia District Chief
U.S. Geological Survey
Water Resources Division
11 Dunbar Street
Charleston, WV 25301

Re: Fracture Trace Analysis in Jefferson County

Dear Hugh,

I am responding to your October 10th letter covering the proposal for a cooperative project *Use of Fracture Trace Analysis for Evaluation of Ground-Water Resources in a Karst Aquifer, Jefferson County, West Virginia*. As you know, I Chair the Jefferson County Water Advisory Committee (WAC), so my response is in that capacity.

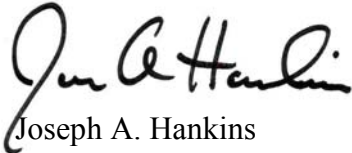
We introduced and discussed your proposed study and budget arrangement extensively at the October 20 WAC meeting. We were short a few members but County Commissioner Al Hooper was present for that discussion. I believe it is fair to say that the sense of the group was quite positive with much of the discussion jumping ahead to how to use the study outcomes, so I take that as a good sign. It is our role to assess opportunities like this proposed study and make a technical recommendation to the Jefferson County Commission regarding engagement or action. I anticipate this project will move to a vote at our next meeting scheduled for November 17th at 3 PM. Anticipating a positive recommendation, one of us would carry that to the next reasonable weekly Jefferson County Commission meeting for introduction and consideration there.

From my perspective, it will be important that deliverables and outcomes from this study will have immediately applicable and practical use to county stakeholders and planners, in addition to providing the basis for more fundamental understanding of our karst geology and aquifer. As the multi-year drought in our area appears to be reversed this year, the water sourcing imperative has been tempered with the recognition that we need technical information to directly support recharge and source protection efforts; the identification of sensitive zones for commercial development, transportation and utility pipeline corridors; the interrelationships between commercial, public and private groundwater wells; the implications of man-made interbasin transfers of finished water or treated waste water; the opportunities for water reclamation and reuse; and even to inter-county and state compact relationships regarding water supply and quality.

Given the projected pace of development growth, the thin capacity and infrastructure, and the financial pressures facing the county I am sure you can appreciate the careful scrutiny for value that all requests for funding will receive. The prospect to leverage a substantial commitment by USGS is a tremendous help to us. I am personally excited about the opportunity.

Thank you for considering us for the study.

Sincerely,



Joseph A. Hankins
Jefferson County Water Advisory Committee Co-Chair

cc: WAC Members