

Resolution

of the Board of Supervisors of Chesterfield County, Virginia



SUPPORTING THE APPOMATTOX RIVER TRAIL THROUGH THE TRI-CITIES REGION

WHEREAS, the Appomattox River was designated a State Scenic River in 1977 and the designation was extended in 1998 and 2011 to include 19.2 miles of river from 100 feet below the Brasfield Dam to the confluence with the James River, passing through the jurisdictions of Chesterfield County, Dinwiddie County, the City of Petersburg, the City of Colonial Heights, Prince George County and the City of Hopewell; and

WHEREAS, the State Scenic River designation recognizes the natural beauty and the historical significance of the Appomattox River; and

WHEREAS, the Appomattox River comprises approximately 63 miles of the southern border of the County adjoining to Amelia, Dinwiddie, Prince George and Charles City counties and the cities of Petersburg and Hopewell; and

WHEREAS, in 1993 Chesterfield County adopted a Riverfront Plan to include the Appomattox and James Rivers and in 1997, the National Park Service and the Crater Planning District Commission convened a series of meetings to develop the Appomattox River Corridor Plan funded by the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program that recommended the river corridor be used as both a land and water trail. In 2002, a study by the Virginia Tech Community Design Assistance Center further refined the trail concepts and plans have been prepared since the early 1990s by the Crater PDC and various state and federal partners; and

WHEREAS, the Friends of the Lower Appomattox River (FOLAR) was established in 2000 in partnership with the Crater Planning District Commission and all 6 jurisdictions of the Lower Appomattox River with the mission of working in partnership with communities to conserve and protect the Appomattox River for all to enjoy; and

WHEREAS, the Cameron Foundation funded the development of the **Appomattox River Master Plan and Signage Plan** that was completed in 2017 and adopted by FOLAR and the Crater Planning District Commission in the same year; and

WHEREAS, the Appomattox River Trail will be a 22-mile shared use path serving walkers, bicyclists, the physically challenged and other non-motorized users; and

WHEREAS, the Appomattox River Trail system will encourage and support river access for paddle craft, swimming and wading as well as places for fishing, picnicking and other passive recreation pursuits; and

WHEREAS, the history and habitat of the Appomattox River will be preserved and interpreted, serving as an outdoor classroom for students of all ages; and

WHEREAS, when completed, the Appomattox River Trail will link the 6 jurisdictions along the river offering boating and fishing access and encouraging ecotourism; and

WHEREAS, bicycle and pedestrian facilities help curb a national epidemic of chronic obesity and weight related diseases; and

WHEREAS, bicycle, pedestrian and water activities cultivate economic development and create jobs, attract events and, connect communities and encourage quality of life for all citizens; and

WHEREAS, when complete, the Appomattox River Trail will encourage connections to other nationally and regionally significant trails such as the East Coast Greenway, the Ashland to Petersburg Trail and the Capital Trail; and

WHEREAS, part of the Appomattox River Trail is located within Chesterfield County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Chesterfield County is committed to working with FOLAR and the localities of the Crater Planning District Commission and participating with national organizations to create a connected regional asset of water and land trails thus setting an example for other counties/cities.

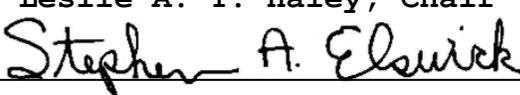
AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Chesterfield County is committed to working with state and congressional representatives to support legislation promoting outdoor recreation, public access and open space protection to promote active lifestyles and regional tourism.

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chesterfield County Board of Supervisors, this 28th day of August 2019, hereby supports the **Appomattox River Trail Master Plan and Signage Plan** and commends the visionary approach of past planning efforts.

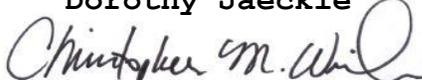



Joseph P. Casey, Ph.D.
County Administrator



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