

**Fluvanna Historical Society**

**PO Box 8**

**Palmyra, VA 22963**

December 14, 2018

Mr. William T. Walker  
Chief, Regulatory Branch  
US Army Corps of Engineers  
Norfolk District  
Norfolk, Virginia

Dear Mr. Walker:

I am writing in my capacity as President of the Fluvanna Historical Society, the non-profit organization with the broad mission of protecting, preserving and interpreting Fluvanna's rich historical, cultural and archaeological legacy. This letter is in response to the request for public comment on the recently circulated Memo of Agreement regarding the James River Water Authority's Project in and around Columbia, Virginia.

It is not necessary to recite the importance of the permitting site to the history not only of Fluvanna County but the entire region. On or near the proposed site are Rassawek, the traditional village center for the Monacan native American nation, the Virginia arsenal dating from the revolutionary period, the Point of Fork plantation and manor house as well as the Rivanna Canal Navigation Historic District and the James and Kanawha River Canal and Railroad Historic District. One could hardly imagine a location in Fluvanna County with a richer mix of historic importance than this one. The Society was asked by the Fluvanna County administration many years ago if we thought this was an appropriate site for the water line and its related infrastructure. Our response was to urge the intake to be located elsewhere. Our Society's mission requires us to state our reservations about the current location.

I would like to quote from the draft MOA. It states, "The Corps is required to take into account the effects of federally-permitted undertakings on properties included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places prior to the issue of a permit for an undertaking and to consult with the Virginia State Historic Preservation Office." Although the Corps has made an attempt by this MOA to mitigate the impact of disturbance on this site, the most historic in our county, we feel that it falls short.

In light of these reservations, the Fluvanna Historical Society will decline to sign the MOA as a concurring partner.

While recognizing the importance of modern infrastructure for the future of Fluvanna County and its citizens, we could only wish that the JRWA project did not have such a potentially adverse effect on our historical assets, which we have been asked by our members, to protect and preserve.

With best regards,

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marvin Moss". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "M" at the beginning and a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Marvin F. Moss  
President