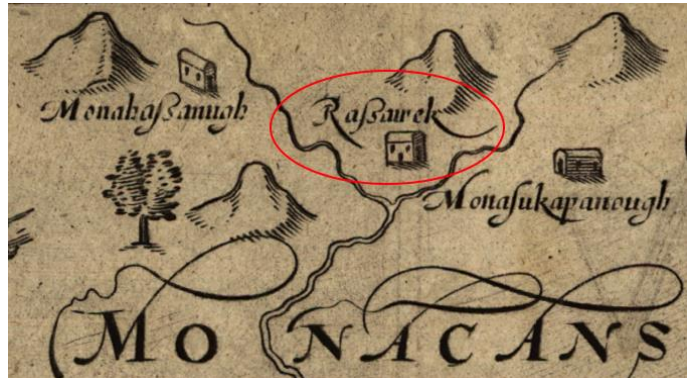


THE MONACAN INDIAN NATION URGES YOU TO HELP SAVE RASSAWEK

The James River Water Authority (JRWA) plans to build a water pump station on top of Rassawek, the Monacans' capital city documented by John Smith in his 1612 Map of Virginia (see image). In order to save Rassawek for future generations and allow Monacan ancestors to rest in peace, JRWA must move the project to an alternative location.



- JRWA (a joint venture of Louisa and Fluvanna Counties) proposes to build a pump station to deliver water to support development at Zion Crossroads, a nearby area slated for economic development. According to disclosed documents, JRWA chose the Point of Fork site because their consultants told them it would be the least expensive and easiest permitting solution.
- Rassawek was located at the confluence of the Rivanna and James Rivers, and John Smith described it as the capital city to which all other Monacan towns paid tribute. Researchers have verified the location in the 1880s, the 1930s, and the 1980s. It is the Monacan equivalent of Werowocomoco, the Powhatan capital now planned to be a national park. While JRWA and the Corps learned of the site's historical significance in 2015, they did not reach out to the Monacan Indian Nation until June 2017, after the land had been purchased.
- **Building the pump station on top of Rassawek will mean that the site will be obliterated and Monacan burials will likely be disturbed.** Monacan tribal members are deeply opposed to conducting another **somber and traumatizing** reburial when JRWA has other alternatives.
- JRWA has applied for an **individual permit from the Army Corps of Engineers** (Corps) because the project impacts waters that are regulated by the Corps. An earlier simpler permit style was shelved after **shocking revelations** that JRWA's initial archaeological subconsultant employed untrained and unqualified staff, lied to state officials, misrepresented the archaeological findings, and did not follow accepted archaeological standards.

An individual permit requires, among other things, a robust analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act that will consider alternate sites and assess which site locations create the fewest environmental impacts. However, the alternatives analysis provided by JRWA does not contain enough information to determine what impacts those alternatives would have on Monacan burials and cultural resources.

- The Monacan Indian Nation have been voicing concerns about the archaeological work on the site since November 2018. Last summer a whistleblower came forward with concerns that the archaeological work on the site was destructive, it was conducted in bad faith, and its results are unreliable. The practices used on Rassawek and other sites are so inappropriate that they rise to

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the level of anticipatory demolition – destruction of historic resources explicitly forbidden by the National Historic Preservation Act.

- Specifically, under the National Historic Preservation Act, the Corps cannot issue a permit to an applicant who has damaged archaeological sites. Congress enacted Section 110(k) of the NHPA to punish those who would seek to manipulate the historic preservation permitting process by denying them access to post-demolition permits.
- The Corps **has not answered** repeated Monacan requests for an extension of public comment on the individual permit application given the COVID-19 shutdown, have ignored anticipatory demolition concerns, and they are not requiring an Environmental Impact Statement. The Nation is concerned that the Corps will **allow this flawed project to move forward** without complying with federal law.

JRWA has been misleading the tribe and the community. JRWA hid the fact that they knew this site was of great historic, cultural, and spiritual significance to the Monacans. JRWA hid the fact that they have alternative locations. They bought this site before ever involving the tribe. JRWA chose to build a portion of the project knowing they did not yet have a permit to complete the other half. Now JRWA claims surprise that the tribe objects and that it may cost more to choose other sites. This is a problem of JRWA's own making. Virginia native communities deserve better. The Monacans deserve respect, and harm to Monacan sacred sites must be avoided.

HOW YOU CAN HELP!

The Monacan Indian Nation appreciates the outpouring of support from concerned citizens, taxpayers, and heritage professionals. The Nation's goal is to convince JRWA to move the project to a location that does not disturb their ancestors and erase their history. You can help.

Express your concerns to the Army Corps

The Corps is taking public comment through June 7. Please write to Steven Vanderploeg (Steven.A.Vanderploeg@usace.army.mil) and tell them to require a public hearing and an environmental impact statement for this project, and that they should not allow Rassawek to be destroyed.

Contact your Board of Supervisors!

Tell the JRWA and Boards of Supervisors of Louisa and Fluvanna Counties that they must move the project and Save Rassawek. Contact information:

James River Water Authority:

LCBS_LD@louisa.org

edahl@fluvannacounty.org

cgoodwin@louisa.org

Louisa Board of Supervisors:

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Sign Our Petition!

Please sign our letter asking the Army Corps and Governor Northam to help save Rassawek (as of June 2, 2020 more than 2900 people have signed):

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1oJ25_T6KnSPVsCmJSxrf24Rcc-g7523jM_ZCcbm0OWY).

Sign the petition at DIYRootsAction (where an additional 6600 people have signed to ask the Corps to save Rassawek): <https://diy.rootsaction.org/p/monacan>

Sign up for our mailing list to get occasional action alerts here: <http://eepurl.com/gzErd5>