



HARPETH RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

# Neighborhood Alert!

## Protect the Harpeth River

### TIRED OF THE WATER SHORTAGE? *IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE THAT WAY!*

Dear Franklin Friends and Neighbors,

Do you wonder why you are dealing with mandatory water restrictions during this severe drought and others areas are not? While city officials have known for several years that water delivery upgrades are needed, a new drinking water plant on the Harpeth is NOT the answer. Your water supply does not have to rely on the Harpeth River. There is a cheaper, more reliable alternative! With the river reduced to small, algae-choked pools and no water flowing over the lowhead dam because the city has pumped the river nearly dry, it is time for the Franklin water customers to weigh in before next summer brings more water restrictions. The Harpeth River, a seasonally low-flow river is a poor water supply choice when a much larger and more reliable supply is already in use.

Franklin receives most of its water from the massive Cumberland River via Harpeth Valley Utility District. The drought exposed that producing water from the Harpeth is unreliable in the summer. With the severe drought, the state told the city verbally to stop pumping water from the river until further notice. Though the city is now getting ALL of its drinking water from HVUD, senior city officials do not submit accurate forecasts to HVUD each year. The city has to impose water restrictions to stay within the HVUD agreement. Meanwhile, other utility companies that get all of their water from HVUD have all the water they need.

Analyzing work by city consultants, HRWA-funded studies (see website) show that tax payer dollars are better spent upgrading much needed storage and delivery systems and purchasing all water from HVUD. Consultant's studies completed last summer outlined \$1.2 - \$5 million upgrades needed without any water coming from the Harpeth. But, city senior staff have been proposing for over 4 years to also build a new drinking water plant. This ADDITIONAL \$7.5 million



*No flow over lowhead dam at city water intake - 8/20/07*

expenditure is NOT NEEDED and could be better spent on other important capital needs for Franklin.

#### WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- \*Contact your Alderman and ask them to support improving the Harpeth by pushing for a much needed water delivery system upgrade, not spending tax payer funds on using the Harpeth for drinking water, and studying the removal of the lowhead dam.
- \* Make a brief 1-2 minute statement on behalf of your neighborhood at the beginning of these public meetings:
  - Board of Mayor and Aldermen Oct. 9 promptly at 7 PM.
  - Public Enterprise Committee Sept. 18 & Oct. 16 at 5 PM.
- \*Talk to the candidates in the upcoming election and make WATER a campaign issue.
- \* Get out and Vote For the Harpeth on October 23rd!

#### Franklin Mayor and Aldermen

Mayor Tom Miller 791-3217

Beverly Burger 599-1041 Dana McLendon 790-2441

Dan Klatt 595-1601 Ernie Bacon 791-8485

Robert Kriebel 550-6627 Pam Lewis 327-0100

Dodson Randolph 335-1172

Email addresses available on [www.franklin-gov.com](http://www.franklin-gov.com).

Visit the HRWA website for more information!