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January 28, 2014

City of Franklin Board of Mayor and Aldermen  
Eric Stuckey, City Administrator  
City of Franklin Stormwater Appeals Board  
Engineering, Stormwater, Parks, legal, and Solid Waste Department Staff

Dear Mayor Ken Moore,

Thank you for your call on Monday informing me that you intend to propose to replace me on the Stormwater Appeals Board at the Board of Mayor and Aldermen meeting tonight, January 28. With this letter, I would like to inform the Board's deliberations by providing some background on the expertise that I have been able to provide regarding stormwater and other related issues during HRWA's work over 14 years with the city of Franklin and other jurisdictions in the Harpeth River watershed.

I have been a member of the Stormwater Appeals Board in Franklin since its formation in late 2009-early 2010, and I have been the elected Vice Chair since the board's inception. I have also served as a founding member of the Williamson County Stormwater Appeals Board since its inception in the mid 2000s and have served as the Vice Chair throughout my terms. I was recently re-appointed by the Williamson County Commission to serve another 3 year term.

Stormwater management is one of the core areas of expertise for us at HRWA. We have worked with agricultural landowners, homeowners, developers, engineers, design professionals, local governments, and state and federal agencies on the many issues related to stormwater. HRWA has conducted stream restoration projects and has helped implement innovative stormwater management designs in new development projects as demonstrations of how to restore degraded streams, reduce runoff, and improve water quality. With our many partners we have focused on learning what works and how to encourage the use of effective approaches as part of local ordinances and as voluntary efforts.

In 2003 we were awarded an EPA grant for \$200,000, with the City of Franklin and Williamson County both as local partners, to review existing approaches regarding stream buffers and other aspects of stormwater management. Both the city and county worked on significant updates to their stormwater ordinances as part of this grant, as did several developers and their design professionals. Since the science and engineering of stormwater approaches are continually evolving, we maintain a presence in several national networks that keep us informed about the most effective techniques and designs so that innovative ideas, lessons learned, and new information can be incorporated into regulatory requirements to avoid burdensome processes. HRWA staff, including myself, and board members have provided this experience and worked on building consensus over the past 12 years as we have served on various city stormwater working groups. I have also served on TDEC's stormwater committee on topics of interest to the city regarding streamlining city and state-related permitting.

The Harpeth River Watershed Association is a 501(c)(3) organization and all donations are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

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HRWA has also worked with the city on other important projects. HRWA managed the multi-agency collaboration for the Harpeth River Restoration and Lowhead Dam Removal Project. This major project has gained state and national recognition for the City of Franklin, HRWA, TDEC, and all of the partners. You may not be aware that HRWA wrote and secured grants and contributions on behalf of the City of Franklin that paid for almost two-thirds of the project's costs. Of the final cost of the project totaling \$734,095, the cost to the City of Franklin was only \$255,977 (less than 35% of the final total cost). The largest contributor of funds was the federal US Fish and Wildlife Service grant of \$350,000. However, the costs to the city ended up being \$68,400 less than originally projected because HRWA secured additional funds that went directly to the city.) More recently, HRWA worked with city parks staff and other partners, such as the TN Scenic Rivers Association, to build the new canoe launch at the river restoration project site. HRWA secured \$5000 from LP Foundation to bring matching dollars to city park funds of \$5000 to construct the new canoe access timber stairs.

Under the Ethics Chapter of the Franklin Municipal Code, HRWA's work on issues involving the city that do not pertain to stormwater regulation would not constitute any ethics issue that would affect my serving on the Stormwater Appeals Board. Based on our conversation on Monday, concerns over my service on the city's Stormwater Appeals Board over the past 4 years or HRWA's work on stormwater management is not the issue in your decision to propose to BOMA that a replacement for me be appointed.

It is my understanding from our conversation yesterday that the proposal to replace me has been spurred by HRWA's recent 60-day notice of intent to sue the city of Franklin and the two other small sewer plants that discharge into the Harpeth River. This "notice of intent" is based on HRWA's review of state files for the past five years. For over 12 years HRWA has worked with the city and provided expert engineering and economic analysis on sewer and drinking water options and issues that affect the river's water quality. HRWA has provided significant information on options and approaches to restore the Harpeth's water quality to state standards, all of which was provided most recently in our comments on the various draft state sewer permits. These documents have been circulated widely to city staff, BOMA, city consultants and the many other entities involved, and HRWA experts have presented aspects of our work to BOMA over the years. Our analyses, concerns, and recommendations for solutions are not new. We are very interested in working with the city and the other two sewage treatment facilities to find resolutions that can avoid litigation. HRWA is ready and willing to meet with city officials and discuss resolutions to the problems identified in the 60-day notice whenever we are contacted by the city to set that up.

HRWA's goal is for the Harpeth River to meet state water quality standards that have been established to protect public health and wildlife. Regardless of the outcome of tonight's vote on my continuing service on the city's Stormwater Appeals Aboard, HRWA looks forward to continuing to work with the various city departments and leadership on stormwater management and the many other efforts we are engaged in with the city.

Sincerely,



Dorene Bolze  
Executive Director