

COMMENTS REGARDING PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS INVOLVING WEST VIRGINIA AMERICAN WATER

Nancy Cartmill, president of the Cabell County (W.Va.) Commission

Comments at the groundbreaking for the Cabell 6 project, which was completed in late 2009 to the benefit of 95 Cabell County, W.Va. households:

"It's always been a great partnership with West Virginia American Water. Anytime we've done a water project, they have contributed financially – they usually give \$3,00 or \$4,000 per home – so that's a big help to us. But just facilitating the whole thing and making sure that everything runs well, they've just been great to work with."

Scott Bias, Cabell County (W.Va.) commissioner

Comments at the groundbreaking for the Cabell 6 project:

"Cabell County and West Virginia American have worked real well together. We've extended several small water projects. This is the first large water project since I've been on the commission. But you have to have a lot of pieces to put the puzzle together and you can't do it all with government money; you can't do it all with private money. You have to have a lot of sources and put all the pieces of money together to make the projects happen. And you know, what West Virginia American contributed to it was significant. It wouldn't have happened without every piece."

West Virginia Gov. Joe Manchin III

Comments at the groundbreaking for the Prenter water line extension project, which – when completed this spring – will bring water service to approximately 160 Boone County, W.Va. families:

"We encourage the partnerships if you will – the public and private coming together to make things happen that ordinarily on their own won't. The private sector has a responsibility for investment, return on investment; in the public sector there's a moral responsibility to offer everybody that needs the necessities of life-giving water. Sometimes they take so long but when you bring them together you can expedite, and that's what we've done – by bringing the state, bringing the local, bringing the county, bringing the federal and bringing American Water (together), we were able to expedite this project for the necessity of water (to) the people have waited far too long (for it). So it really has worked and all they need to do is look and see how it has and it might be the way that, a model for many more areas to use."

Janet Paul, resident of Beauty Mountain, W.Va.

Comments at Beauty Mountain water line extension dedication ceremony. The project, completed in 2009, brought treated water service to 64 Fayette County, W.Va., homes, including Paul's:

"I just can't thank the water company enough for coming here, because we're not a large number, we're still small – 64 people's not a lot. But I just pray that we live up to it, that we can use this water and more people will tap into it, more people will come here. I just can't tell you, I am just very thankful. I don't have to carry water anymore. I don't have to lift the jug. I don't have to have a 5-gallon container. We've gone through different phases over the years. All I have to do is turn it on and it smells good; it tastes good; all these things that we do take for granted. I thank God for West Virginia American Water."

Kenny Hayes, New Haven (W.Va.) Public Service District chairman

Comments made at Beauty Mountain water line extension dedication ceremony:

"The water company has been very instrumental in providing the support from the private side to make these processes possible, to make the lending and the grant agencies receptive to the notion that it's going to work because there's money behind it ... Not only were they willing to serve us water and to invest in Fayette County and our particular area where we hadn't really had that type of sincerity and that type of commitment before."

Fayetteville (W.Va.) Mayor James Akers

Akers' comments are regarding West Virginia American Water's 2008 acquisition of the town's water and wastewater systems. The agreement involved 1,861 water customers and 1,082 wastewater customers:

"The town of Fayetteville, we needed a water system. We had a water system and our water was pretty good, but we couldn't grow. We couldn't expand because we didn't have the resources. We didn't have the tax base to do that. And our waste system was the same way. We were at stalemate. We needed to grow, and to grow we had to have the dollars to do that and we had to expand. We had to go out into rural areas, into parts of our town that didn't have the utilities available to them. And so with West Virginia Water we started negotiations ... and it went smooth. They had a need, we had a need and it seemed like it was a perfect marriage ... It was a win-win situation for the town of Fayetteville and I'm sure for West Virginia Water."

"We realized that we had to grow. We can't grow without utilities. We can't grow without a partnership with someone who is willing to come in and work with us. We found that in West Virginia Water. When I negotiated with those people it went smooth, it went well. And we seemed to come to agreement that would help both people, and especially, I was real pleased it helped the citizens of Fayetteville. And since that partnership we have realized so (many) improvements in the town of Fayetteville – not only with our water system, but replacing utility lines and replacing our fire hydrants. And they have lived up to all their promises that they were going to do for us. It's a good situation for the town of Fayetteville."