



HARRISON COUNTY COURT HOUSE

Harrison County Commission

301 WEST MAIN STREET
CLARKSBURG, WEST VIRGINIA 26301
304-624-8500
FAX (304) 624-8673

COMMISSIONERS
BERNIE FAZZINI
MICHAEL J. ROMANO
RONALD R. WATSON

September 24, 2015

Mr. Paul Howe, President
Clarksburg Water Board
1001 South Chestnut Street
Clarksburg, West Virginia 26301

Subject: Ownership of Highland-Two Lick- West Milford Dams

Dear President Howe:

The Harrison County Commission is ready and willing to assume ownership of the above referenced dams. Transfer of ownership from the Clarksburg Water Board (CWB) to the County Commission would be without restrictions, covenants and/or conditions placed upon the County Commission by the CWB and/or other state or federal agencies. In other words, the CWB would need to take the appropriate action to terminate the "Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program Landowner Agreement" (Reference Number: WVFO-FY15-29) dated March 17, 2015 with the Canaan Valley Institute (CVI), the US Department of Agriculture Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (WVDNR), and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

The CWB, not the Harrison County Commission, is the appropriate agency to terminate this agreement. The County Commission had expressed an interest in ownership of these structures for a number of years. The CWB should have considered this fact and not entered into this agreement immediately preceding an election in which the majority opinion for dam removal was in the balance. However, since the CWB made that decision prior to the election the CWB should be the responsible agency to change that decision. As you are aware, it took two votes to enter into the agreement and will only take two to terminate the agreement.

The Harrison County Commission continues to express the desire for ownership of these structures. We would respectfully request the CWB take immediate action to terminate the referenced agreement and then transfer the ownership of the structures to the Harrison County Commission. It should also be noted, that based upon our attorney's opinion, once the dams are transferred all future liability would rest with the Harrison County Commission.

Ronald R. Watson, President
Harrison County Commission

