

# POTOMAC LOCAL NEWS

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Prince William

## Boddy tees up water resolutions on reuse and groundwater study

By PLN News

Published September 9, 2026 at 7:05AM

### SUMMARY

Occoquan District Supervisor Kenny A. Boddy circulated two draft water resolutions at the Sept. 1 Board of County Supervisors meeting and asked colleagues to discuss them.



Occoquan District Supervisor Kenny A. Boddy. Photo: Potomac Local News file

Occoquan District Supervisor Kenny A. Boddy circulated two draft water resolutions at the Sept. 1 Board of County Supervisors meeting and asked colleagues to discuss them. The Board did not vote.

The drafts followed County Executive time, when Boddy thanked County Executive Christopher Shorter for helping him sort “all the different water studies we have going

on.” Water supply has been a public concern, Boddye said, and residents may not realize how much work is already underway.

Chair-at-Large Deshundra Jefferson asked Shorter for an update on the groundwater studies. Shorter said he had sent the Board a memo a few weeks earlier.

That study, he said, stems from a 2024 Board directive and is being done with the U.S. Geological Survey and Virginia Tech, with regular briefings to Public Works. Staff later texted a correction: the final report is due in April 2028, not fall 2028.

That county-commissioned study is separate from the state review in Boddye’s second draft.

One resolution, which Boddye wants on the Sept. 15 agenda, would take a stance on consumptive reuse: sending treated wastewater to industrial users instead of returning it to the drinking-water system.

That debate is tied to data centers. Evaporative cooling can consume millions of gallons a day that never come back as tap water. Prince William has been at the center of Northern Virginia’s data-center fight — from the Digital Gateway to later votes on the data-center overlay and calls to study water, power, and air impacts before more high-demand projects move. Boddye did not name a specific campus on Sept. 1. He framed the problem as water that leaves the system.

Boddye said supervisors had been briefed by Calvin D. Farr Jr., general manager and CEO of Prince William Water, on interest from the Upper Occoquan Service Authority and the city of Manassas. Farr, he said, highlighted why Manassas sees a problem. Fairfax County and the Fairfax Water Board have also raised concerns, Boddye said.

UOSA’s highly treated effluent flows toward the Occoquan Reservoir, a drinking-water source for much of the region. During drought, that return flow can make up most of the reservoir’s inflow — “upwards of 90 percent,” Boddye said. Diverting that water to industry would take it out of the drinking-water cycle.

“As we continue to have conversations around water scarcity, knowing that upwards of 90 percent during drought conditions of our water comes from treated water that is put back into the system, having it go away essentially from the system is probably not a good idea,” Boddye said.

The second resolution would request that Prince William County be included in a Virginia Department of Environmental Quality groundwater study. A House bill to have DEQ study western Loudoun and Fauquier died in committee, then passed through a budget amendment. DEQ is doing the work now, Boddye said, for delivery to the General Assembly around November or December.

“Watersheds and basins don’t respect jurisdictional boundaries,” Boddye said. “So we were left out of that.” Groundwater impacts in Fauquier and Loudoun would hit Prince William too, he said.

He is not asking that the groundwater resolution go on Sept. 15. “I know that that’s a lot for us to consider right now,” he said. He emailed both drafts and handed out paper copies so members could read them first.

Jefferson said she and Boddye are still lining up a Sept. 28 community discussion on “reimagining Prince William.” Jefferson and Brentsville District Supervisor Tom Gordy, chair pro tem, are also planning a town hall on proposed electric transmission routes through the Brentsville district.



## Author



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