

Bedford the second to join regional water district

By Telegraph Staff

Published: Friday, Apr. 16, 2004

BEDFORD - Bedford has followed Nashua in joining the proposed Merrimack Valley Regional Water District.

The Town Council voted 4-2 at its regular meeting Thursday night to OK the charter and to join what would be the first multi-town, government-run water district in New Hampshire.

Town Manager Keith Hickey said councilors David Danielson and William Van Anglen voted against the move, but not because they oppose the idea.

"They were concerned that . . . an attorney specifically for the town of Bedford had not reviewed the charter to make sure it protects the interests of Bedford satisfactorily," Hickey said. "They have no real issues with the charter."

The proposed district is designed to take over the water-supply functions of Pennichuck Corp. in a dozen communities - although that must await the result of what will likely be a long legal battle between Nashua and the privately owned Pennichuck.

The Nashua Board of Aldermen on Wednesday approved the charter and joined the district on a voice vote. Since Nashua has three-quarters of the water district's customers, that decision was key.

Bedford has only about 500 customers served by Pennichuck around its New Boston Road area, including a couple of schools. About one-quarter of the town, including the most industrial region on Route 3, is hooked to Manchester Water Works, while the rest of town is on private wells.