



## Minutes of the March 21, 2017 Meeting Eastern Shore of Virginia Ground Water Committee

The meeting of the Eastern Shore of Virginia Ground Water Committee was held at 10:00 AM on Tuesday, March 21, 2017 in the A-NPDC Conference Room of the Enterprise Building in Accomac, Virginia.

### Members Present:

Daniel Hershey  
Elaine Meil  
Eugene R. Hampton  
Granville Hogg, Chairman  
Grayson Chesser  
Jim Belote  
Paul Muhly, Vice Chairman  
Robert Meyers

### Members Absent:

John Salm  
Mike Mason  
John Andrzejewski

### Others Present:

Britt McMillan, Ground Water Consultant  
Cole Charnock, ESSWCD  
Curt Smith, A-NPDC  
Jon Richardson, VDH  
Matthew Link, VDEQ  
Shannon Alexander, A-NPDC  
Sue Mastyl, CBES/resident  
Lee-Ann Fick, resident  
R. Owen Hooks, NASA –WFF  
Joe Betit, Pungoteague resident



1. Call to Order

Chairman Hogg called the meeting to order at 10:01 AM.

2. Review of the January 17, 2017 Minutes

**Committee Vice Chairman Muhly moved to approve the Minutes of the February 21, 2017 meeting. The motion, seconded by Committee Member Meyers, carried unanimously.**

3. Financial Status Report

**Committee Vice Chairman Muhly moved to approve the financial status. The motion, seconded by Committee Member Hampton, carried unanimously.**

4. Staff Update

The following staff updates were presented:

Committee Attendance Record

The FY2017 Committee Attendance Record was presented.

USGS Electromagnetic Logging Data Analysis

Staff presented that Randy McFarland of USGS will be presenting results at the Mid-Atlantic Water Resources Conference in October.

Environmental Reviews and Permits

Staff presented that the comment letter to DEQ's [Julia.Wellman@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:Julia.Wellman@deq.virginia.gov) was mailed on March 13<sup>th</sup>, a copy was included in the packet.

Other Items

*HB1774* – Staff presented the purpose of this bill and is to follow the work group and update Committee.

*Resident Certified Letter* – Staff presented a certified letter addressed to Elaine Meil that included groundwater concerns as associated with poultry house operations. Discussion ensued. Staff is to draft and provide (via email) to the Committee members, a single-page fact sheet that identifies the mission, roles, and responsibilities of the Committee. It is also to include a list of facts about groundwater on the Eastern Shore. This will be mailed to the Harborton resident and will be used in various outreach and communication efforts.

*Accomack County to Amend Poultry Ordinance* – Discussion about proposed amendments ensued. Unhindered communication between Accomack County staff and the Ground Water Committee (and staff) are desired.

*EVGMAC* – Staff presented that Curt Smith missed the March 14 meeting, but plans to attend the April 17 meeting where unpermitted users, alternative water sources, and possible funding sources will be discussed.



*Nutrient Trading Program* – Staff reported that Aqualaw will soon be done drafting the Tyson/Tangier Agreement.

*Public Workshop & Outreach* –

- HHWC – Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup> 10am-2pm, Eastville, Painter, Fishers Corner Centers.
- Northampton Watershed Festival – Tuesday April 18<sup>th</sup> staff will have a booth.
- Exmore Earthday Festival – Saturday April 22<sup>nd</sup> staff will have a booth.
- Master Gardeners – Staff will present July 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am in AREC in Painter.
- Plans for the Second Annual Well & Septic Forum will be confirmed after the April 6<sup>th</sup> water clinic training. It will most likely be held in conjunction with the Clinic *Kickoff Meeting* (AREC, early Oct.) or the interpretation meeting (mid-Nov.). The Water Clinic is set for Oct. 11<sup>th</sup>.

5. Consultant Report:

The Consultant presented information about the new USGS research: *Spatial and Temporal Variation of Stream Chemistry Associated with Contrasting Geology and Land-Use Patterns in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed*.

The Consultant presented that NASA-WFF is still working on sourcing 200,000gal/month from the Columbia aquifer for cooling towers. He will be providing an expert letter explaining the water quality presenting the Chincoteague shallow wells as an example.

The Consultant presented groundwater use trends from 2007-2015 and from 1981 to present. Discussion ensued.

6. Other Matters:

Chairman Hogg gave an update on progress with Northampton County and the Bayview Convenience center storm water and water quality concerns and next steps.

7. Public Participation:

Jay Ford, Shorekeeper, presented that the Delmarva Land and Litter group is completing mass balance research and the numbers should be available in May of this year. He also expressed concerns of legacy impacts of land application on groundwater and sought opinion of the Committee as to their interest in research to complete long-term modeling that would reveal these potential impacts. He is developing legislative budget request to eliminate the gaps in the study.

Sue Mastyl, of CBES, expressed concerns of the water use of poultry operations, siting the Pungoteague location as an example. Matthew Link, of DEQ, explained that efforts are



being taken to get this facility in the permitting system, if it exceeds the trigger of 300,000 gallons of withdrawal in any single month.

Joe Betit, of Pungoteague, expressed concerns of groundwater withdrawal impacts from poultry operations, citing the Pungoteague location as an example. He explained that there have been multiple well failures in the area, and discussion ensued about the potential causes (screen damage, inappropriate installation, etc.) that could cause this. He requested a letter from DEQ to address this concern.

#### 8. Schedule Next Meeting & Adjournment

The next Committee meeting was scheduled for April 18, 2017 at 10:00 AM in the A-NPDC Conference Room of the Enterprise Building in Accomac.

Chairman Hogg adjourned the meeting at 12:18 p.m.

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Granville Hogg, Chairman

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Elaine K. N. Meil, Secretary