



A-NPDC

ACCOMACK-NORTHAMPTON PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

P.O. BOX 417 • 23372 FRONT STREET • ACCOMAC, VIRGINIA 23301

(757) 787-2936 • TOLL FREE (866) 787-3001 • FAX: (757) 787-4221

WEBSITE: www.a-npdc.org

Minutes of the September 19, 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, September 19, 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:

Charles Kolakowski

Mike Mason

John Salm

Others Present:

Ann Violi, Person of concern

Britt McMillan, Ground Water Consultant

Cole Charnock, ESSWCD

Curt Smith, A-NPDC

Jay Ford, VES

Jon Richardson, ESHD

Pat Heggoy, Accomack County resident

Matthew Link, VDEQ

Roberta Kellam, State Water Control Board

Shannon Alexander, A-NPDC

Wes Meyers, Arcadis



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1. Call to Order

Chairman Muhly called the meeting to order at 10:04 AM.

2. Review of the August 15, 2017 Minutes

Committee Vice Chairman Hogg moved to approve the Minutes of the August 15, 2017 meeting, amended to correct the Committee officer positions established in the August meeting. The motion, seconded by Committee Member Meyers, carried unanimously.

3. Financial Status Report

The FY 2018 Financial Status Report was presented.

Committee Member Meyers moved to approve the FY2018 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.

Other Items

Emphasizing the Importance of Utilizing the Columbia Aquifer – Staff presented that representatives from ESRH and GMB, the contracted architecture and engineering firm, have been contacted. Concerns about damages to well and irrigation system from high iron content water was expressed as a primary concern for avoiding use of the Columbia Aquifer. Discussion ensued. The Committee Members and staff are to research any data from surrounding wells or sampling (i.e. VDEQ tank removal data) and moving forward will strive to work with well drillers and irrigation system installers to address this sometimes unwarranted concern, stressing that water quality is a very site specific issue and thus samples must be acquired prior to dismissing the Columbia as a viable and suitable water source.

Wagner Borrow Pit – Staff reported that according to presentation and discussion from the September 12 Northampton County Board of Supervisor meeting, both DMME and VDEQ are actively inspecting, sampling, and researching the site and the CBBT project. Discussion ensued. It was decided that staff would develop a standard form for release of data and participation in the VT water quality clinic program (with appropriate disclaimers, etc.) and Committee Member Meyers would work with the members of the community in homes adjacent to the Wagner Borrow Pit to ensure that they are aware of the program and increase participation, with hopes to sample directly from the well (versus from inside taps), when possible.

Committee Member Belote moved to make a budget amendment that would reallocate up to \$500.00 from the Groundwater Modelling appropriations to be used to cover the cost for properties adjacent to the Wagner Borrow Pit to



participate in the 2017 Water Clinic. The motion, seconded by Committee Member Meyers, carried unanimously.

Chincoteague Wells – Mr. Matthew Link of VDEQ presented an update from meeting with the Town of Chincoteague representatives as to the status of siting replacement wells for the wells contaminated on NASA property. Discussion ensued. Staff informed the Committee about the Town’s progress in updating to a water meter system that should improve efficiency and accountability.

VDEQ Groundwater Withdrawal Permit Compliance Initiative – Mr. Matthew Link of VDEQ presented an update, including informing the Committee that there are CAFOs in the pre-application process and that DEQ anticipates approximately 82 permits for such operations to be needed. Jay Ford, Eastern Shorekeeper, provided an update as to the status of mass balance research, new appointments and subcommittees of the Delmarva Land & Litter Challenge, ammonia discharges and associated water quality impacts, and possible changes in the administration of some of our processing plant(s). Discussion ensued. Staff presented five additional VDEQ Public Notices for VPDES pending permits, one for Shore Memorial Hospital wastewater treatment facility in Nassawadox and four for CAFO poultry house operations.

Staff presented the following Public Workshops & Outreach events –Staff presented progress on the Water Clinic and the Second Annual Well & Septic Forum; and that they will be sharing groundwater information with the public at ShoreFest on Saturday, September 23, at the CBFS.

Informational Items

Staff presented the following Research and News Articles:

Magna Imperio Systems’ World-Changing Water Purification Process, by Jamie McAllister
<http://www.covabizmag.com/uncategorized/magna-imperio-systems-world-changing-water-purification-process/>

Staff pointed out that this was discovered by a local eastern Virginian, but that only large scale application trials are currently being developed.

5. Consultant Report:

Technical/Regulatory/Educational Items

The consultant introduced a new employee with Arcadis and current PhD candidate at ODU, Mr. Wes Meyers.

The consultant revisited a discussion initiated during the August meeting about sustainable groundwater research management on the Eastern Shore. Discussion ensued. With both Counties in the process of updating their comprehensive plans, it was decided that providing comments was necessary, the deadline for Northampton County is September 25, 2017. Additionally, with the



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turnover on each Counties' Boards, it was decided that an early 2018 presentation to each Board on groundwater resources should be organized.

Committee Member Hampton moved to task the Consultant with developing a fact sheet focusing on the Columbia Aquifer (including short & long-term financial relevance) to share with both Counties in time to be referenced in their respective Comprehensive Plan updates. The motion, seconded by Committee Member Meyers, carried unanimously.

The Consultant presented the ESVA Groundwater Use Summary (2009-2017) with the Committee, discussion ensued.

Chairman Muhly moved to have staff develop and issue a Press Release for the Groundwater Use Summary report. The motion, seconded by Committee Member Meyers, carried unanimously.

The Consultant presented the ESVA Water Resources Video concept, including a digital presentation. There was overall engagement and approval of this mode of presenting information to the public.

6. Other Matters:

- Vice Chairman Granville Hogg initiated a brief discussion about overall insufficient collaboration and understanding between the County Board of Supervisors and various subcommittees, workgroups, and advisory committees, such as this one. This was requested as an item to be on the agenda for the October meeting to allow more thorough discussion. Staff is to develop comments for the Northampton County draft Comprehensive Plan update and circulate to the Committee members in time for the September 25 deadline.

7. Public Participation:

As there was public participation during earlier parts of the meeting, there was no additional public participation at this time.

8. Schedule Next Meeting & Adjournment

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

Chairman Muhly adjourned the meeting at 12:14 p.m.

Copy test:

Paul Muhly, Chairman

Elaine K. N. Meil, Secretary