Minutes of the February 19, 2019 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, February 19, 2019 in the A-NPDC Conference Room of the Enterprise Building in Accomac, Virginia.

Members Present:

Daniel Hershey
Elaine Meil
Eugene R. Hampton
Jim Belote
John Coker, Chairman
John Salm
Paul Muhly, Vice Chairman
Taylor Dukes

Members Absent:

Charles Kolakowski Michael Mason (Rich Morrison attended as alternate)

Others Present:

Bill Savage, ESSWCD
Britt McMillan, ARCADIS
Carmie Savage, ESSWCD
Charles Spangler, Citizen
Curtis Consolvo, GeoResoures, Inc.
Curt Smith, A-NPDC
Dirk Lynch, MSA
Janet Sturgis, Northampton Planning Comm.
Jeff Poulterer, ES Locavores
Joe Valentine, Clean Water Council
Jon Richardson, ESHD

Joseph Betit, Accomack Citizen
Ken Dufty, Exmore Resident
Linda Cicoira, ES Post
Roberta Kellam, Citizen
Sandra Beerends, Northampton Resident
Shannon Alexander, A-NPDC
Sheila Traina, Cheriton Resident
Sue Mastyl, Clean Water Council
Trent Lewis, Tyson Foods

1. Call to Order

Chairman Coker called the meeting to order at 10:10 AM.

2. Public Participation

Mrs. Roberta Kellam nominated Mr. Robert Meyers for the Ground Water Award based on his many years of service on the Ground Water Committee and commitment to groundwater preservation. She also nominated Senator Lynwood Lewis for his efforts to help the Eastern Shore best manage their Ground Water Resources, particularly for his efforts with SB1599.

Mr. Britt McMillan took this opportunity to put NOAA forward for the Ground Water Award for their voluntary sourcing of the surficial aquifer for cooling tower waters.

Mr. Charles Spangler expressed two questions, which were briefly explained by the consultant.

- 1 Recharge to prevent salt water intrusion, particularly with regards to poultry houses.
- 2 Does the Committee recommend better alternatives to municipal waste water treatment facilities to surface water discharge?

3. Review of the January 15, 2019 Minutes

The draft minutes of the January 15, 2019 meeting were presented. The attendee list was amended to remove Roberta Kellam who was not present.

Vice Chairman Muhly moved to approve the Minutes of the January 15, 2019 meeting, as amended. The motion, seconded by Committee Member Hampton, carried unanimously.

4. FY 2019 Financial Status Report

The FY 2019 Financial Status Report was not presented.

Committee Member Salm moved to approve the FY2019 financial status report. The motion, seconded by Vice Chairman Muhly, carried unanimously.

5. Nomination for 2018 Ground Water Award

Staff is to send Committee Members the award guidelines and a brief fact sheet about all five of the nominees listed below, so that Members are prepared with a final choice before the March meeting.

- Senator Lewis
- Robert Meyers
- NOAA
- Mark Reiter
- Town of Exmore

6. Staff Update

The following staff updates were presented:

Committee Attendance Record

The FY2019 Committee Attendance Record was presented.

Environmental Reviews and Permits

Staff reported there were no new groundwater permits or public notices to review and that there is a new hire with VDEQ in the Office of Water Supply, who intends to attend the March meeting.

Other Items

VDH Septic & Well Services – Hardship Guidelines to be developed by July 1, 2019

Staff reported that they submitted an additional, unofficial comment to VDH concerning exemptions for grant funded projects. The second draft of the guidance is not yet available, but staff will supply it to Members once it becomes available from VDH.

HHWC Update

Staff reported that both the Northampton and Accomack County Boards unanimously entered into the Joint Resolution Agreement and staff is moving forward with implementing the VDH Wellhead Protection grant.

VDEQ Septic BMP Project

Staff reported project goals in the Gulf, Barlow, Mattawoman, Jacobus, and Hungars Creek watershed areas, including a fall outreach/education event. Discussion about community systems ensued.

7. Ground Water Consultant Report

The consultant reported about progress of relevant legislation in the Virginia General Assembly, particularly with regards to SB1599 which has now made it unanimously through both the Senate and the House. Discussion about the need to have the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for developing these new regulations meet on the Shore and be comprised of primarily Eastern Shore representatives. This Committee should have clearly identified needs/wants from these changes to help guide the process.

He confirmed the date/time and final abstract for the presentation he will give March 27th from 1:15pm-2:15pm at the Environment Virginia Symposium in Lexington.

The consultant provided a review of the 2013 Eastern Shore Groundwater Protection and Preservation Plan. Discussion about necessary updates for the 5-year review and additional elements, such as a strategy/action table were discussed. Staff is to work on the monitorable strategic action element, which can be used as a guiding document for future Committee focus and efforts.

8. Other Matters:

Chairman Coker requested that each member thoroughly review section 5 of the 2013 Preservation Plan and bring recommendations to the March meeting. Printed copies were supplied and staff will provide a link to the digital document via email.

9. Schedule Next Meeting & Adjournment

The next Committee meeting was scheduled for March 19th, 2019 at 10:00 AM in the A-NPDC Conference Room of the Enterprise Building in Accomac.

Chairman Coker adjourned the meeting at 11:45 AM.

John Coker, Chairman

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Elaine K. N. Meil, Secretary