

# EASTERN VIRGINIA GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Bank of America Building, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room,  
1111 East Main Street, Richmond, VA

**October 25, 2021**

## MEETING MINUTES

<b>Committee Members Present</b>	
Robert Pickett — VA Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts	Matt Wells — WestRock
Robert Wayland — Citizen at Large	Andrea Wortzel — Mission H2O
Stewart Leeth — Smithfield Foods, Inc.	David Jurgens — City of Chesapeake
Stefanie Taillon — Proxy for Martha Moore, Farm Bureau	Doug Powell — James City County Service Authority

*For the record, the following members were absent from the meeting: Anna Killius, Peggy Sanner, Dwayne Roadcap, Chief Adkins, Stephen Schoenholtz, Kurt Stephenson, David Paylor, Hope Cupit, Jessica Steelman, Keith Martin, Neiman Young, Mark Bennett, John Loftus, Ted Henifin, John Aulbach, and John O'Dell.*

<b>Department of Environmental Quality Staff Present</b>	
Scott Kudlas — Director, Office of Water Supply	Joseph Grist — Water Withdrawal Permitting and Compliance Program Manager
Jutta Schneider — Director, Water Planning Division	Brandon Bull — Water Policy Manager
Laura Galli – Water Withdrawal Permitting Team Lead	Todd Wood – Aquaveo (DEQ Contractor)

<b>Visitors Present</b>	
Whitney Katchmark – Hampton Road Planning District Commission	Evan Branosky – Home Builders Association of Virginia
Chris Pomeroy – Virginia Municipal Drinking Water Association	

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## PROCEEDINGS

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### **Welcome and Introductions**

Mr. Scott Kudlas convened the meeting at 10:15 am; he invited members to the first Eastern Virginia Groundwater Management Advisory Committee meeting of the Fiscal Year 2022. A quorum was not present. Mr. Kudlas noted the committee is directed to convene no less than 4 times a fiscal year, and reviewed Covid-19 meeting protocols for wearing masks and social distancing.

Committee members and visitors introduced themselves and the organizations they represented.

### **Meeting Agenda**

Mr. Kudlas went over the planned meeting agenda outline.

- Presentation of preliminary expected aquifer conditions based on 2020-2021 annual total permitted simulations for the Eastern Virginia and Eastern Shore Groundwater Management Areas
- Groundwater management program updates
- Open floor for public comment

*Floor was opened for member questions regarding the meeting agenda; no questions from the body.*

### **Presentation**

Preliminary expected aquifer conditions based on simulations from the Coastal Plain model, by Mr. Todd Wood of AQUAVEO, presenting remotely from Utah.

- “VAHYDROGW-VCPM: 2020-2021 ANNUAL SIMULATION OF REPORTED AND TOTAL PERMITTED USE” –Todd Wood, AQUAVEO

Committee members asked for clarification of comparison of 5-year average of reported use versus permitted use and how tiered permits, with reductions, are included in the 50-year projections. Mr. Kudlas responded noting that the 5-year average could be higher than a current permitted withdrawal amount if higher withdrawals were reported prior to current permit issuance. Mr. Kudlas also noted that for permits with tiered reductions, the permitted withdrawal volumes by year are modeled as the milestones are met, with the last permitted year’s volume carried out to the projected 50-year mark. The committee also asked if the HRSD SWIFT project projections are included in the model, and Mr. Kudlas responded that the demonstration project is not included at this time, but as the larger ones come online they will have be accounted for in some fashion.

Comprehensive presentation on the expected aquifer conditions based on simulations from the Eastern Shore model, by Mr. Wood of AQUAVEO.

- “VAHYDROGW-ES: 2019-2020 ANNUAL SIMULATION OF REPORTED AND TOTAL PERMITTED USE” –Todd Wood, AQUAVEO

*The committee had no further questions concerning the annual simulations and took a 5-minute recess at 11:05 am.*

Mr. Kudlas called the meeting back to order at 11:10 am. Mr. Kudlas first provided the committee an update on more recent long-term scientific study by USGS and DEQ. Mr. Kudlas then provided an update of water level monitoring hydrograph results, present-day versus 2015, noting evidence of leveling out and minor rebound in a few cases. To illustrate the likely effect of increasing use construction of private water wells, Mr. Kudlas presented water supply demand projections for the Potomac and Piney Point aquifers based on locally developed projections for self-supplied growth from their water supply plans. Mr. Kudlas next provided updates on several legislative items, including: 1) the progress of groundwater withdrawal general permits to be presented to the State Water Control Board in December 2021; 2) updates on the water withdrawal annual maintenance fee workgroup report; 3) progress on a water auditing regulatory action; and 4) water supply regulatory planning amendments. Mr. Kudlas finished with an update staffing additions and some contracting to address prior recommendations of the group.

The committee members offered some ideas on addressing several areas of potential future work.

### **Public Comment**

*Floor was opened to public questions or comments.*

Ms. Katchmark asked if there had been any analysis of hydrographs of water levels versus reported use. Mr. Kudlas noted that every technical evaluation includes that analysis specific to permit applications, but not a comprehensive look across all the monitoring wells in the Coastal Plain. Mr. Kudlas said that kind of work might be taken up with some of the additional staffing.

### **Next Committee Meeting**

Mr. Kudlas concluded the meeting and thanked the committee for their time, attention, and willingness to serve on the committee.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:47 am