

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

HRSD Operations Center
310 Industrial Parkway, West Point, VA 23181

March 23, 2023

MEETING MINUTES

Committee Members Present	
Robert Wayland — Citizen-at-Large	Joey Hiner – Proxy for Hope Cupit - SERCAP
Stewart Leeth – Smithfield Foods	Dan Holloway — HRSD
Dave Jurgens – City of Chesapeake	

For the record, the following members were absent from the meeting: Robert Pickett, Erin Riley, Peggy Sanner, Nina Butler, Andrea Wortzel, Doug Powell, Dr. Colin Greene, Chief Adkins, Stephen Schoenholtz, Kurt Stephenson, Mike Rolband, Zach Jacobs, Kellan Singleton, Keith Martin, Christopher Miller, Mark Bennett, John Loftus, John Aulbach, John O'Dell, and Al Moor

Department of Environmental Quality Staff Present	
Joseph Grist – Office of Water Withdrawal Permitting Manager	Brian Campbell – Groundwater Characterization and Monitoring Manager
Elizabeth Gallup – Guidance and Regulation Coordinator – Water Planning Division	Scott Bruce – Groundwater Characterization Team Leader

Visitors Present	
Greg Connock – USGS	
David Nelms - USGS	
George Harlow, Jr. - USGS	

PROCEEDINGS

Welcome and Introductions

Ms. Elizabeth Gallup convened the meeting at 10:15 am; she welcomed members to the Eastern Virginia Groundwater Management Advisory Committee meeting. A quorum was not present.

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

Meeting Agenda

Ms. Gallup went over the planned meeting agenda outline.

- Introduction to West Point Extensometer presentation
- The Virginia Extensometer Network presentation
- Open floor for public comment
- Committee site visit to West Point Extensometer drill site

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

Presentations

Brian Campbell (DEQ Groundwater Characterization and Monitoring Manager) provided the committee with an overview of the history behind the need for large scale groundwater monitoring in Virginia. Relatively high rates of land subsidence near West Point and Franklin were measured as early as 1974 and combined with local variation coinciding with major groundwater withdrawals from the Potomac Aquifer demonstrated the need for a big-picture vision to answer the question of whether these patterns are caused by declining groundwater levels. Answering that question requires multiple lines of evidence including a State Observation Well network to monitor groundwater levels, hydrogeologic framework updates, modeling simulations of groundwater levels, refurbishing existing extensometers in addition to installing additional extensometers, and obtaining land elevation measurements from leveling stations and satellite data. Collecting this evidence requires a sustained commitment of resources and cooperation across organizations, and also requires a sustained effort to build support for the resources required to collect data. Mr. Campbell concluded with an acknowledgement that the EVGMAC's recommendation was instrumental in securing approvals and \$7.5 million in funding for the West Point Extensometer and expansion of Virginia's network of State Observation Wells. The West Point Extensometer installation is currently underway, will expand the network of extensometers in Virginia to 4, and is the only network of its kind on the East Coast.

Dr. Greg Connock (USGS VA-WV Water Science Center) provided the committee with a presentation detailing the Virginia Extensometer Network. He explained that the type of extensometer being installed is a borehole pipe extensometer and will target the bottom of the aquifer in order to measure vertical land movement. Vertical land movement is primarily driven by movement of land due to an area once being covered by glaciers and aquifer system compaction due to changes in groundwater levels. There are four extensometers in Virginia's network including the Franklin extensometer, the Suffolk extensometer, the Nansemond extensometer, and the West Point extensometer which will be operational in 2024. Each of these extensometers is located in proximity to major sources of groundwater withdrawals or in areas of substantial

groundwater decline. Dr. Connock concluded with an acknowledgement of the various agencies and collaborators working together on this project including DEQ and HRSD.

Public Comment

Floor was opened to public questions or comments.

There were no public comments.

Site Visit

Committee members visited the West Point extensometer drill site on HRSD's property. Dr. Connock provided a tour of the drill site and explanations of current drill depth, next steps in construction, and an overview of how data will be collected. Committee members were able to view drill cuttings and ask questions about the drilling and installation process.

Next Committee Meeting

Ms. Gallup concluded the meeting and thanked the committee for their time, attention, and willingness to serve on the committee. The next meeting is scheduled for May 2, 2023.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.