

Waterworks Advisory Committee Meeting

November 15, 2012

DEQ Piedmont Regional Office, Innsbrook

Chair: John Aulbach, Virginia Department of Health
Secretary: Mark C. Anderson, Virginia Department of Health
Timekeeper: John Aulbach, Virginia Department of Health
Members Present: David Raines, Virginia Association of Counties
Eric Lassalle, Virginia Manufacturers Association (NTNC waterworks)
Elmer Handy, Virginia Rural Water Association
Grier Mills, Virginia Department of General Services
Jerry Higgins, American Water Works Association – Virginia Chapter
Jesse L. Royall, Jr., Sydnor Hydro, Inc. (Community waterworks owner) via phone
Greg Boardman, Virginia Tech (Academia) via phone
John Danielson, Virginia Water Well Association, Inc.

Guests in Attendance:

Robert A. K. Payne, JD, Virginia Department of Health
Allen Hammer, Virginia Department of Health
Larry Wallace, Southeast RCAP (on behalf of Hope Cupit)
Craig Nicol, alternate for Melanie D. Davenport (DEQ)

Minutes

Agenda Item: Call to order

Discussion: Mr. Aulbach convened the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Conclusions: Move to next item

Action items: None

Agenda Item: Introductions

Discussion: Mr. Aulbach asked attendees to introduce themselves and their organizations.

Conclusions: Move to next item

Action items: None

Agenda Item: Agenda Adoption/Adoption of September 2012 Meeting Minutes

Discussion: Agenda was adopted unanimously without revision.
There was also a motion to approve the draft minutes as corrected and that motion was seconded. There was no additional discussion. Minutes were adopted unanimously.

Conclusion: Move to next item

Action items: Mr. Anderson to distribute minutes as approved.

Agenda Item: Public Comment

Discussion: There was no member of the public in attendance.

Conclusion: Move to next item

Action items: None

Agenda Item: Chairman's Report

Discussion: Mr. Aulbach is very encouraged by the recent ASDWA meeting held in Arkansas. It was noted at the meeting that Virginia has one of the top five programs in the country.

Conclusion: Move to next item

Action items: None

Agenda Item: Legislative Update

Discussion: Mr. Payne reported that the proposed legislative changes to the definition of a “waterworks” were reviewed and approved by the WAC and are currently under consideration by the Administration, which will make the decision on whether to move to support a bill in the upcoming General Assembly. If the Administration chooses not to move forward, a WAC member may decide to a bill through their local legislator. Mr. Higgins reiterated his concern about the use of the term “human consumption” and how the term has been misinterpreted and misused in larger scale discussions about water supplies. Mr. Higgins stated, however, that the use of the term in the definition of a “waterworks” may be fine.

Conclusion: Move to next item

Action items: None

Agenda Item: Water Policy

Discussion: Mr. Aulbach provided an “SRF Program Support” handout to the WAC members giving the WAC members the opportunity to provide valuable input in terms of programmatic revisions to SRF by November 30, 2012. (A copy of the handout is attached.) The suggestions may help maximize the benefits the SRF programs provide to the waterworks community.

Conclusion: Move to next item

Action items: WAC members will provide comments on “SRF Program Support” to Steve.Pellei@vdh.virginia.gov by November 30, 2012.

Agenda Item: SCC Update:

Discussion: No SCC representative in attendance.

Conclusion: Move to next item

Action items: None

Agenda Item: DEQ Update

Discussion:

- Mr. Nicol reported that DEQ is expanding the groundwater management area to include the counties of Essex, Gloucester, King George, King and Queen, Lancaster, Mathews, Middlesex, Northumberland, Richmond, and Westmoreland; and, the areas of Arlington, Caroling, Fairfax, Prince William, Spotsylvania, and Stafford counties east of Interstate 95.
- Mr. Nicol also reported that changes to the DEQ permit regulations resulted from a mandated periodic review. The regulations were drafted in 2008-09 and have been awaiting authorization from the Administration to go to public hearings. Authorization was given in September 2012. The comment period ends January 11, 2013.
- Information about the proposed changes may be found at: <http://townhall.virginia.gov/L/viewstage.cfm?stageid=5583> and <http://townhall.virginia.gov/L/viewstage.cfm?stageid=5584>.

Conclusion: Move to next item

Action items: None

Agenda Item: DCLS Update

Discussion: Mr. Mills provided the following:

- DCLS selected a new Deputy Director, Doctor Denise Toney, formerly the Lead Scientist for Epidemiology at DCLS for over 13 years.
- The Clinical Laboratory Improvement Act (CLIA) Audit of DCLS is scheduled for November 27-29. This Federal inspection of our biological testing takes place every two years and looks at all the activities, including sample accessioning, Testing, Safety, Quality Assurance, credentials, and reporting. The NELAC (National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Conference)

audit of DCLS Environmental testing is scheduled for December. We also have an International Standards Organization (ISO 17025) Gap Audit scheduled for December.

- DCLS will be participating in VOPEX 2013, a Statewide Radiological Event Exercise planned for 2013. DCLS briefed VDH recently on the DCLS Radiochemistry testing capabilities, current and emergency response in collaboration with VDH Division of Radiation Health.

Conclusion: Move to next item

Action items: None

Agenda Item: VT/VWRRC Update

Discussion: Professor Boardman advised that VT Continuing Education Division offered:

- A pilot course in groundwater math.
- Establishing a Successful, Sustainable Waterworks Course.
- Hands-on Training at Salem Water Treatment Plant-Oct 8-9, 2012.
- CPE lectures were held:
 - Sept 19..."Improving Drinking Water Quality and Consumer Satisfaction Through Controlling Taste, Odor and Color"; Dr. Andrea Dietrich
 - Oct 17..."Disinfection of Water Treatment Applications"; Dr. Shawn Veltman

He is also working with Barry Matthews of the Office of Drinking Water to develop a new course in capacity development. Virginia Tech has an online course on asset management.

The upcoming CPE video teleconference on December 19 is Optimizing the Coagulation Processes taught by John Hanchak.

Conclusion: Move to next item

Action items: None

Agenda Item: SE-RCAP Update

Discussion: Mr. Wallace reported that:

- Recent seminar on water audits – all need to pay more attention.
- SE-RCAP has new State Managers in Wilmington, Delaware and Raleigh, North Carolina.
- SE-RCAP has received legislative inquiries concerning SE-RCAP's ability to help with problems at Town of McDowell in Highland County.
- SE-RCAP received a call from EPA Region III requesting help for Richmond County Community Center, which has a history of being on the EPA's Enforcement Targeting Tool (ETT). It suffers from poor communication and serves many elderly folks.
- SE-RCAP is scheduled to make a presentation at "Water and Health Conference" at UNC-Chapel Hill.

Conclusion: Move to next item

Action items: None

Agenda Item: VRWA Update

Discussion: Mr. Handy reported the following:

- VRWA is monitoring what the feds will do with budget and funding.
- VRWA requested a leak detector from VDH-ODW. There is a desperate need for one.

Conclusion: Move to next item

Action items: Mark Anderson will contact Barry Matthews, VDH-ODW.

Agenda Item: New Business

Discussion: Frequency of WAC Meetings:

Mr. Anderson suggested dropping the November meeting and holding three meetings per year. The WAC could also hold meetings via Polycom®. Mr. Handy suggested six meetings per year with 50% via Polycom®.

Conclusion: The WAC will continue to consider options for meeting frequency.

Action items: None.

Discussion: Water Main Breaks- Boil Water Notices:
Mr. Higgins (VA AWWA) advised that he was appointed to the VA AWWA Water Utility Committee and the committee is discussing VDH requiring a boil water notice every time a water main breaks. Mr. Higgins asserts that waterworks can have 350 breaks a year and every break does not necessitate a boil water notice.

Conclusion: Discussions will continue next meeting since the Office of Drinking Water Technical Services Director was not in attendance to discuss current policy regarding this issue.

Action items: Mr. Aulbach will check the relevant ODW Working Memos and policy regarding water main breaks and issuance of boil water notices, and bring this information back to the WAC for discussion.

Discussion: 2012 JLARC report, “Dedicated Revenue Sources for Land Conservation in Virginia”:
Mr. Hammer provided a handout with an excerpt from this report entitled, “Dedicated Revenue Sources for Land Conservation in Virginia.” A copy is attached. JLARC was studying a proposal to impose a tax on waterworks for land conservation.

Conclusion: JLARC determined that such a fee could result in substantial monetary benefit; however, the fee could have a detrimental effect on lower-income Virginians and small water systems.

Action items: None

The next WAC meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 17, 2013.

Agenda item: Adjournment

Discussion: There was a motion to adjourn and that motion was seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Meeting Adjourned at 11:26 a.m.

Conclusions: None

Action items: None

Mark C. Anderson, Secretary

John J. Aulbach II, PE, Chair