

Waterworks Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, November 19, 2015

Sydnor Hydro, Inc.
2111 Magnolia St,
Richmond, VA 23223
10:00 am – 12:15 pm

Chair: John Aulbach, Virginia Department of Health
Secretary: Mark Anderson, Virginia Department of Health
Timekeeper: John Aulbach, Virginia Department of Health

Members

Present:

Russell Rice, Southeast RCAP (on behalf of Hope Cupit)
Eric LaSalle, Nontransient Noncommunity Representative

Jerry Higgins, Virginia Section AWWA
Elmer Handy, Vice Chair, Virginia Rural Water Association
Steven Herzog, Virginia Water Environment Association
Craig Nicol, Department of Environmental Quality (representing Scott Kudlas)
Jesse Royall, Sydnor Hydro, Inc. (Community waterworks owner)

Guests in Attendance:

Kristin Clay, Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation
Brittany West, Hunton and Williams
Sarah Hinderliter, Virginia Department of Health
Cathy Hanchey, Virginia Department of Health
Kenneth Eisenhart, Virginia Department of Health
Robert Payne, Virginia Department of Health
Steve Pellei, Virginia Department of Health

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: Agenda Adoption/Adoption of September 2015 Meeting Minutes

Discussion: There was a motion to adopt the draft agenda and the draft minutes as revised. The motion was seconded. There was no discussion. Draft agenda and minutes were adopted unanimously.

Conclusion: Move to next item

Action items: **Mr. Anderson to distribute September's minutes as approved.**

Agenda Item: Public Comment

Discussion: There were no comments.

Conclusion: Move to next item

Action items: None

Agenda Item: Chair's Report

Discussion: Mr. Aulbach updated members:

- On the status of the Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR). This effort has fallen behind schedule. The first submission to the EPA was incomplete. The action plan to rectify the situation is underway. Once this is back on track, the regulations revision process will resume.
- ODW Deputy Director position – Interviews were conducted the week of November 9. Two or perhaps three of the candidates will be invited back for second interviews. This new position will oversee Technical Services, Operator Certification, Data Management and Capacity Development. The Office Director will continue to oversee the Field Offices, Compliance and the Business functions.

Conclusion: Move to next item

Action items: None

Agenda Item: SRF Update

Discussion: Mr. Pelli outlined the upcoming solicitation for the 2017 SRF program cycle. Solicitation begins in early December when the information and application go online. The program plans six regional seminars in February 2016 and the application deadline is April 1, 2017. The exact amount of funding available is unknown; however, Mr. Pelli assumes it will be similar to last year's total of \$25 million. The only change for this year's solicitation is the focus on medium to large sized waterworks whereas the past focus was on smaller facilities. WAC members are encouraged to contact Mr. Pelli directly with comments, suggestions or questions.

Conclusion: Move to next item

Action items: None

Agenda Item: Legal Affairs Update

Discussion: Mr. Payne reported that an ongoing compliance issue has come to resolution. A youth camp in Danville recently found a private benefactor to pay for the camp to connect to a nearby county waterworks. Looking ahead to the transition of TNCs from local health district oversight to ODW oversight, Mr. Payne expects many facilities to appeal their determination as a TNC and it putting an appeal process in place.

Conclusion: Move to next item

Action items: None

Agenda Item: DPOR Update

Discussion: Ms. Clay gave an overview of the DPOR Board for Waterworks and Wastewater Works Operators and Onsite Sewage System Professionals, then reported on:

- Complete revision of their regulations in the following areas:
 - Currently onsite sewage, waterworks and waste water works regulations are combined but will be separated out; onsite in one and waste water and drinking water in another.
 - Reevaluating entry requirements – there is no recognition of Associates or

Masters Degrees. The Board is now acknowledging those and adjusting the years of experience to reflect true operating experience.

- Continuing Education – currently training topics must be those found on the exam. However, due to the dynamic nature of the water industry, training in innovative technologies will now qualify. Also, some courses in administrative functions may also apply.
- Cleaning up ambiguous terms regarding direct supervision.
- Hours of working and what courses you can take to substitute for experience.
- These changes go up for public comment in mid December for 60 days on Town Hall. DPOR plans a public hearing January 8 at DPOR offices.
- Exam reciprocity between states – benchmarking ABC on how their program works which appears to be the only national standard for operators. One possibility is for operators to take the ABC exam and then maybe a Virginia Supplement covering state specific issues.
- CPE Audit of Waterworks Operators underway – DPOR will audit a small blind sample of 108-110 operators to ensure the compliance with the CPE requirement.

Conclusion: None

Action items: None

Agenda Item: VRWA Update

Discussion: Mr. Handy reported that the VRWA continues its search for additional funding. He also volunteered to help establish an Ethics course for owners/operators.

Conclusion: None

Action items: None

Agenda Item: Virginia Tech Update

Discussion: Mr. Boardman, while not in attendance, provided the following updates via email:

- CPE Lectures - Oct 21...O&M of hydrants and valves - J. Marr and M. Snyder (Mueller); Nov 18...Distribution systems and transient pressure – L. Robinson (Director Salem Waterworks)
- Fall Short Courses - Oct 29-30...Hands-On Training, Salem Water Plant; Nov 2-5...ESSW, VT Richmond Center; Nov 9-11...Groundwater Math, The Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center
- Planning Meeting - Dec 14-15...to discuss plans for the O&M of Distribution Systems course in 2016, Virginia Beach Department of Public Utilities
- Focus Group - Summer 2016...to discuss development of a Water 4 Short Course for the Annual VT Short School for Operators with a managerial focus. Possible pilot of the new program in 2017.

Conclusion: None

Action items: None

Agenda Item: DEQ Update

Discussion: The Eastern Virginia Groundwater Management Advisory Committee (EVGWMAC) is continuing to meet on a frequent basis. The committee consists of a primary decision making group and several sub-workgroups. The agendas, meeting notes and presentations can be accessed on the DEQ OWS web site, <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/Programs/Water/WaterSupplyWaterQuantity/EasternVirginiaGroundwaterManagementAdvisoryCommittee.aspx>

VDH and DEQ staff continue to work with the Virginia Water Well Association members regarding the single GW-2/Unified Water Well completion Report Form and the online

Well Registration platform. Over the next few months efforts will continue to finalize both items in an attempt to have all documents and processes finalized by July 1, 2016.

The VWP regulations made it out of the Governor's office and will be at public comment from November 16, 2015 until January 29, 2016. Three public hearings will be held at the times and locations listed below. An information briefing will be held 30 minutes prior to the hearing.

1. January 11, 2016, 1:30pm – James City County Board of Supervisor Board Rm, Williamsburg, VA
2. January 12, 2016 at 1:30 pm – DEQ Northern Regional Office , Woodbridge, VA
3. January 13, 2016 at 1:30 pm – DEQ Blue ridge Regional Office, Roanoke, VA

Conclusion: None

Action items: None

Agenda Item: RCAP Update

Discussion: Mr. Rice notified the committee that DSS Employment Assistance Grant program to help TANF recipients become licensed operators will soon have its first two candidates sit for the exam. Current enrollment is 14 total students. The SERCAP facilities development program gives grants to local governments for utility improvements, system mapping and other such projects and is so popular there is a waiting list. Also, the private well training program is being renewed through a grant and with collaboration with the VA AWWA.

Conclusion: None

Action items: None

Agenda Item: New Business

Discussion: None

Conclusion: None

Action items: None

Agenda Item: Secretary's Report

Discussion: Mr. Anderson announced his retirement effective February 1, 2016. Sarah Hinderliter will assume the Secretary role for the WAC with Cathy Hanchey acting as backup.

Conclusion: None

Action items: None

Agenda Item: Update Member Contact Information

Discussion: Members having changes in their contact information need to provide changes to Mr. Anderson, Ms. Hewlett or Ms. Hinderliter.

Conclusion: None

Action items: None except for members with changes.

Agenda Item: Next Scheduled Meeting

Discussion: January 21, 2016.

Conclusion: None

Action items: None

Agenda Item: Adjournment

Discussion: Meeting was adjourned at 11:30 p.m.

Conclusion: None

Action items: None

Mark C. Anderson,
Secretary

John Aulbach
Chair

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