

MINUTES

JOINT MEETING OF THE STATE WATER CONTROL BOARD,  
CHESAPEAKE BAY LOCAL ASSISTANCE BOARD AND  
VIRGINIA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD

NOVEMBER 21, 2005

LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA  
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

State Water Control Board Members Present:

Carol C. Wampler, Chair  
E. Bryson Powell  
W. Shelton Miles, III

Komal K. Jain, Vice-Chair  
Thomas D. C. Walker

Chesapeake Bay Local Assistance Board Members Present:

Donald L. Davis  
Beverly Harper  
Michael Rodriguez  
David L. Bulova

Walter J. Sheffield  
Gale A. Roberts  
David Froggatt  
William E. Duncanson

Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board Members Present:

David L. Moyer  
Linda S. Campbell  
Susan Taylor Hansen  
Robert M. Hall  
Richard McNear  
M. Denise Doetzer (ex-officio)

Granville M. Maitland  
Jean R. Packard  
Michael Russell  
Benjamin H. Graham  
Joseph H. Maroon

Office of the Secretary of Natural Resources:

The Honorable Tayloe W. Murphy, Jr., Secretary of Natural Resources  
David K. Paylor, Deputy Secretary of Natural Resources

Department of Environmental Quality Staff:

Robert G. Burnley, Director  
Kathy R. Frahm  
Rick Linker  
Alan E. Pollock

Rick W. Weeks  
Cindy M. Berndt  
Ellen Gilinsky

Department of Conservation and Recreation Staff:

David C. Dowling  
Russell W. Baxter (participant)  
Stu Wilson  
C. Scott Crafton

Christine Watlington  
Jack E. Frye  
Joan Salvati  
Michael R. Fletcher

The meeting was convened at 1:45 p.m. Secretary Murphy opened the meeting. After introductions Russ Baxter made a presentation on the roles and responsibilities of each of the boards and provided information on the current status of water quality in the state.

Ms. Barbara Hulburt then facilitated a discussion of water quality issues. The notes from the discussion are attached.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

NOTES FROM JOINT MEETING OF THE STATE WATER CONTROL BOARD, CHESAPEAKE BAY LOCAL ASSISTANCE BOARD AND VIRGINIA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD

General Issues Raised in Pre-Meeting Interviews

- Overlap/Coordination among boards
  - What does each do?
  - What does each see as critical issues?
- How to get practices implemented on the ground for the long-term
  - Funding
  - Education
  - Behavior change
- Dealing with sources
  - Agriculture
  - Urban/Suburban
- What's working/what isn't/what can be done?
  - Collaboration

Critical Issues Raised by the Boards

- Non-point sources
  - Where are controllable points?
  - What's most effective?
  - What's politically realistic?
  - What are costs?
- Data is vital
  - Make sure each board has the same information
  - Ongoing updates re: what others are working on – purposes/relevance to each board
  - Also – need “data behind the data” /need to look at assumptions (i.e. what does a ton of litter in the Shenandoah do to the nutrient load in the Bay?)
- Definitions
  - Need to be sure that we're addressing real problems (agriculture vs. “rural”)
  - Need to have consistent definitions of the critical terms across the boards and agencies
- Urban/suburban run-off
- Don't separate agriculture and the rest of the world (look at “urban BMP's”)
  - Consider looking at revising statutory language to consider equine management, urban BMP's etc.
- Diversity & understanding

- All areas of state
  - Major changes in agriculture
    - Family farms “endangered”
  - BMP’s
    - Do they work? Are they being followed?
- Behavior change
  - Need awareness first
  - Then you can work toward acceptance
  - Private property owners
  - Public education
  - Benchmarking
    - Goals/progress over time
    - Funding requires this
    - Need ongoing surveys
- Identify areas where boards can speak with unified voices
  - Strengthens position in public’s view
- Data – may also be useful in broadening acceptance by general public
- Start environmental education at younger ages
  - CBF schools program
    - DEQ
    - Office of Env’l Education
    - 6<sup>th</sup> Grade SOL’s – integrated into science and math curricula
- Coordination
  - Other boards and agencies (not represented in the room) that also deal with water quality issues
  - Tax credits/easements/environmental ed
  - Newsletter?
  - Public frustration over how many players are involved in water issues
    - Need improved coordination
    - Structural changes?
    -
- Look at possible solutions from different, more business-like model (i.e. combine sediment removal w/ nutrient issues)
- Continuum of voluntary incentives – regulated behavior (“I’ll do it when I have to”)
  - “agriculture will not regulate well”
  - Too many farms
  - Too hard to educate everybody
  - Resistant
  - Need to be extremely careful in choosing what to regulate
- Biosolids
  - More will be created
  - Litter being exported
    - Turnkey transport operations

- Out-of-state biosolids taking acreage from in-state litter
- Dredging; horse manure unregulated
- Have all three boards work together on several strategic issues
  - May be helpful in funding issues as well
  - Structurally – bring water quality issues together (different boards/different agencies)
  - Coordination – competing needs and budgets detract from funding opportunities; presenting a unified front and priorities could be very helpful
- Financing
  - State
    - Cost-share program for BMP's
    - Local
      - Long-term maintenance/oversight
      - U of MD Environmental Finance Center has information
    - Scope of CB Act
      - Might some elements be used in other parts of VA?
      - Water quality goals – minimum criteria; localities are responsible for implementation
  - Soil & Water districts
    - Agriculture BMP's
      - Cost effective? – are they useful across the state?
      - They currently do have some measure of local control (in the last year have requested different data and accountability)
      - Accountability for results, but very understaffed
    - Priority Practices with a pot of money – considered most cost effective
    - Try to find examples of successful practices
      - Dollar amounts of savings
  - Watershed Plans – need performance-based measures
    - Shared responsibilities across agencies
  - So many needs – lack of focus/no priorities
    - Fragmented structure
  - Need a long-range strategic plan

### Quick Summary of Boards' Issues

- What are controllable pieces?
  - Need consistent definitions
  - Need data behind data
  - Need statewide understanding of diversity of issues
  - Need to think about solutions from a different perspective
    - Business model
- What can work?
  - Education leading to behavior change
    - Benchmarking – goals/progress
    - Data

- Success Stories – savings
- Coordination/Collaboration
  - Of boards
    - Boards speak with one voice re: priorities and funding
    - Data – strategic thinking
    - On-going updates
  - Of Agencies
    - Structural
    - Strategic
- Continuum of outreach
  - Voluntary
  - Incentives (with compliance requirements)
  - Regulations

### Final Group Suggestions for Moving Forward

- Create a working group
  - Representatives from each board
  - Data/information
  - Possibly look at:
    - Goal setting (long-term)
    - Outreach
    - Definitions
    - Areas of shared agency responsibility
- Assessment by each board of issues to be addressed by others
  - Interest/input
  - Schedule meetings to address across boards
- Identify other boards/agencies who are also responsible for aspects of water quality
  - Use Russ Baxter’s powerpoint as framework
    - E-mail
    - “3-clicks” make it easy to link to appropriate sites
- Have on-going reports/updates
  - Make this coordination a regular agenda item
- Secretarial newsletter – e-mail
  - Agency collaboration
- Joint meetings
  - Other boards
- Long-range strategic planning at the secretarial level

