Waterworks Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, July 17, 2014
Sydnor Hydro, Inc.
2111 Magnolia St,
Richmond, VA 23223

10:00 am – 12:34 p.m.

Chair: John Aulbach, Virginia Department of Health
Secretary: Mark Anderson, Virginia Department of Health
Timekeeper: John Aulbach, Virginia Department of Health
Members Present: Greg Boardman, Virginia Tech (Academia)
John Danielson, Virginia Water Well Association, Inc.
Elmer Handy, Virginia Rural Water Association
Steven Herzog, Virginia Water Environment Association
Jerry Higgins, American Water Works Association – Virginia Chapter
Grier Mills, Virginia Department of General Services
Craig Nicol, Department of Environmental Quality (on behalf of Scott Kudlas)
Jesse Royall, Sydnor Hydro, Inc. (Community waterworks owner)
David Van Gelder, Hanover County DPU (Class 1 operator)
Larry Wallace, Southeast RCAP (on behalf of Hope Cupit)

Guests in Attendance:
Susan Douglas, Virginia Department of Health
Howard Eckstein, Virginia Department of Health
Sarah Hinderliter, Virginia Department of Health
Nate Mathis, Virginia Department of Health
Barry Matthews, Virginia Department of Health
Steve Pellei, Virginia Department of Health
Steve Shaw, Sydnor Hydro, Inc.

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Minutes

Agenda Item: Call to order
Discussion: Mr. Aulbach convened the meeting at 10:05 a.m.
Conclusions: Move to next item
Action items: None

Agenda Item: Introductions
Discussion: Mr. Aulbach asked those in attendance to introduce themselves.
Conclusions: Move to next item
Action items: None

Agenda Item: Agenda Adoption/Adoption of January 2014 Meeting Minutes
Discussion: There was a motion to adopt the draft minutes and that motion was seconded. Draft minutes were adopted unanimously. Regulatory update was added in place of the DHCD update.
Conclusion: Move to next item
Action items: **Mr. Anderson to distribute May's 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 provided an overview the coal ash spill in the Dan River and thanked DCLS for their response in analyzing water samples.

Mr. Aulbach announced the retirement of Dickie Puckett, Abingdon Field Office Director. Mr. Puckett retires in August. ODW will be recruiting a field office director and deputy director in Abingdon and a field office director in Lexington. Currently Jim Moore is the acting director of the Lexington Field Office.

Conclusion: Move to next item

Action items: None

Agenda Item: DWSRF Program Update:

Discussion: Mr. Pellei reported on the revenue outlook for future federal DWSRF grants. He summarized recent discussions that EPA is moving towards a self-sustainable DWSRF as federal funding will likely decrease over time; EPA intends for states to implement a fee program; and to plan for a sustainable revolving construction program with solutions that reduce the reliance for federal and state funding. Discussion followed. Mr. Royall stated that the currently offered 2.08% interest rate is very attractive to small waterworks that would obtain 8 to 12 % on the marketplace. A future interest rate over 2.08% could remain attractive to small waterworks that will have trouble qualifying for an attractive rate on the open market. As the discussion moved towards the likelihood of program elements changing, Mr. Pellei preferred that stakeholders from the drinking water industry be involved in shaping the changes. A motion as made to form a DWSRF stakeholder group to explore several scenarios with VRA serving as a consultant. A motion was made and seconded. Discussion clarified that the stakeholder group would report back to the full WAC. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Pellei also highlighted the fact that the applicant pays no closing or loan origination fee. Mr. Handy commented that the DWSRF program needs to at least break even and no longer subsidize the origination fee. Mr. Grier added that not recovering the loan origination fee is not fair to future recipients if we are not covering current costs. A motion as made that the DWSRF stakeholder group to explore several scenarios, with VRA serving as a consultant, to address avenues to charge a loan origination fee and report recommendations to the WAC. A motion was made and seconded. There was no additional discussion. The motion carried unanimously.

Conclusion: Move to next item

Action items: **Mr. Pellei to prepare a draft charter for the DWSRF stakeholder group before the next meeting.**

Agenda Item: Training/Outreach Update

Discussion: Ms. Hinderliter covered key trends reported to EPA in the 2013-2014, annual Operator Certification Report. Included was an excerpt, for waterworks serving a population over 10,000, of an operator survey conducted by Virginia Tech for ODW. Mr. Anderson provided insight into some of the reasons the number of noncompliant waterworks for the requirement to have licensed operators dropped to 13 in the report. Discussion followed, Ms. Hinderliter explained that low registration for the field trip to the U.S. Army Quartermaster School was the reason for rescheduling the field trip after Labor Day. The field trip is now scheduled for September 16, 2014. Ms. Hinderliter also announced that through ODW coordination, the U.S. Army Quartermaster School was offered a free exhibit space at the 2014 Water Jam through the generosity of the the Work

DRAFT

for Water and the Water JAM Exhibits Committees.

Conclusion: Move to next item

Action items: **Members interested in participating in a field trip to Fort Lee are to contact Ms. Hinderliter by August 8, 2014. Ms. Hinderliter to gather survey results for waterworks operators (responding to the survey) for populations served under 10,000.**

Agenda Item: Security Update:

Discussion: Mr. Anderson discussed some of the preliminary findings from the on-site security assessments being conducted by the security contractor for EPA Region 3. He also reported that ODW central-office staff participated in two recent exercises in the state Emergency Operations Center.

Conclusion: Move to next item

Action items: None

Agenda Item: Capacity Development Update:

Discussion: Mr. Matthews reported that the Capacity Developmnet, submitted to EPA Region 3 on February 18, 2014, was approved. Some minor changes were made that were suggested by EPA. The significant addition to this latest strategy is the EPA approval of the VDH receivership program. Other updates are:

New staff includes new drinking water coordinators recently hired—increasing the capacity development team to four members. An August meeting is scheduled to develop benchmarks for the Cap Dev program.

There is one interview left for firms responding the RFP on the small projects consultant engineering contract

Conclusion: Move to next item

Action items: None

Agenda Item: DCLS Update

Discussion: Mr. Mills reminded members that Dr. Tom York retired but stayed on as a consultant Director for approximately three months. Dr. Denise Toney served as the acting Director of DCLS during the interim. Dr. Toney was selected as the new DCLS Director July 10th, 2014.

DCLS tested water samples from the crude oil spill after the train derailment into the James River and provided testing for the coal ash spill into the Dan River. DCLS is is investigating a long-term project plan with DEQ to test fish tissue from the Dan River. DCLS provided 900 split sample collection kits for fluoride testing under an agreement with the Dental Health Office.

Conclusion: Move to next item

Action items: None

Agenda Item: DEQ Update

Discussion: Craig Nicol, attending for Scott Kudlas/DEQ Office of Water Supply, reported the following:

The State Water Resources Plan is in the final phases and a presentation will be made by DEQ staff to the State Water Commission at the September meeting.

DRAFT

Regulatory actions related to the expansion of the Eastern Virginia Groundwater Management Area (GWMA) were completed in January 2014 and required that all Existing User applications were required to be submitted to DEQ by June 30, 2014 (or the user waives their right to claim an existing user permit). As a result of notifications and public outreach efforts DEQ Groundwater Withdrawal Permitting staff were able to get all but one known applicant to submit by ht e deadline (The period ended up with 125 existing users with 124 applications). There is a 60-day period ending on August 29, 2014 where an applicant can still apply as an existing user if they provide documentation to rebut waiving their rights to apply as an existing user. Notice of Deficiency letters will go out after staff review the applications that will provide the applicant 60 days to correct/add information to the application.

The Office of Water Supply (OWS) will hiring up to 5 new positions to help process the additional permits resulting from the GWMA expansion and other OWS functions.

The Groundwater Characterization Program hired a full-time employee (Bill Whitlock) to work with Scott Bruce to re-establish the ambient monitoring program.

OWS is working with USGS to establish salt-water intrusion network (monitoring wells).

Conclusion: Move to next item
Action items: None

Agenda Item: Regulatory Update:

Discussion: Ms. Douglas updated the members that binders are being prepared for distribution to the regulatory advisory panel (RAP) for reviewing proposed revisions to the regulations. There are 31RAP members. ODW is still working on the Revised Total Coliform Rule and determinations should be completed by the end of the calendar year.

Conclusion: Move to next item
Action items: None

Agenda Item: SE-RCAP Update

Discussion: Mr. Wallace reported that EPA awarded $4.5 million technical assistance provider (TAP) grants to RCAP and NRWA. Another $300,000 grant was awarded to RCAP for educating and assisting private well owners. A $2 million grant was awarded to the UNC EFC for training and technical assistance in financial and managerial capacity. SE-RCAP has already met with Mr. Matthews for an initial planning meeting. Mr. Wallace stated that about four and one-half FTE technical assistance providers will be hired.

Mr. Wallace related that SE-RCAP is working with the VA AWWA Water Reach Committee to get the RO-treated, drinking water dispenser operational.

SE-RAP is expecting $400,000 to500,000 in funding from The General Assembly. Four hundred thousand dollars were obligated immediately. There is approximately $1 million in identified needs. Recipients included Grayson County (two projects), Thomas Bridge Water Corporation, and Giles County.

Conclusion: Move to next item
Action items: None

Agenda Item: VRWA Update

Discussion: Mr. Handy reported that VRWA is preparing for its outdoor expo in Fishersville,

DRAFT

August 12-14.
Conclusion: Move to next item
Action items: None

Agenda Item: VA AWWA Update
Discussion: Mr. Higgins reported a table-top exercise (TTX) will be given in November through the VA WARN. He also reported that VA AWWA is joining the Virginia Water Environment Association to host the Water JAM in Hampton, September 8-11, 2014. He also related that the AWWA Water Utility Committee is interested and eagerly awaiting the *Waterworks Regulations* revisions.
Conclusion: Move to next item
Action items: None

Agenda Item: VT Update
Discussion: Dr Boardman reported that Amy Pruden gave a CPE broadcast on microbiology yesterday [July 16] and reviewed training activities for the remainder of the year:

- Management, Methods, and Money: Understanding Concepts in Capacity Development next week in Roanoke.
- The Short Course for Waterworks Operators at Virginia Tech, August 4-8, 2014.
- Establishing a Sustainable Waterworks Short Course in September in Richmond.
- Groundwater Math Short Course on November 5-7 in Richmond.
- Three more CPE videoconferences in September, October, and November.

Conclusion: Move to next item
Action items: None

Agenda Item: New Business
Discussion: Mr. Aulbach reported that four abstracts were presented to the ASDWA for presentation at its October conference. All four were accepted. Mr. Aulbach and Mr. Matthews were selected to present a paper and Mr. Anderson was selected to present two. Mr. Anderson added that Horsley Witten (EPA's security contractor) is presenting a paper on the cybersecurity assessment initiative in Virginia.

A motion was made and seconded to meet regularly at the Sydnor Hydro, Inc. meeting room. A discussion followed. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Royall abstained from the vote.
Conclusion: Move to next item
Action items: None

Agenda Item: Update member Contact Information

Discussion: A reminder was made to notify Mr. Anderson or Ms. Hewlett, ODW, of changes in members' contact information.
Conclusions: None
Action items: None

Agenda Item: Next Scheduled Meeting

Discussion: The next WAC meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 18, 2014. Meeting will be in person at Sydnor Hydro, Inc
Conclusions: None
Action items: None

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Agenda item: Adjournment

Discussion: There was a motion to adjourn and that motion was seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Meeting Adjourned at 12:34 p.m.

Conclusions: None

Action items: None

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Mark C. Anderson,
Secretary

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John J. Aulbach II, PE
Chair

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