

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

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION MEETING VIA GOTOWEBINAR

October 22, 2020

MEETING MINUTES

Committee Members Present	
Robert Pickett — VA Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts	Shannon Alexander — Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission
Robert Wayland — Citizen at Large	Peggy Sanner — Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Stewart Leeth — Smithfield Foods, Inc.	John Aulbach — Aqua Virginia
Ben Rowe — Proxy for Martha Moore, Farm Bureau	Mark Bennett — USGS
Anna Killius — James River Association	Hope Cupit — SERCAP
Nina Butler — WestRock	Dwayne Roadcap — Virginia Department of Health
Andrea Wortzel — Mission H2O	Keith Martin — Virginia Chamber of Commerce
David Jurgens — City of Chesapeake	Ted Henifin — Hampton Roads Sanitation District
Doug Powell — James City County Service Authority	Kurt Stephenson — Virginia Tech
Stephen Schoenholtz — Virginia Water Resources Research Center	John Loftus — Virginia Economic Development Partnership
Mark Bennet, USGS	

For the record, the following members were absent from the meeting: Neiman C. Young, John O’Dell, Chief Adkins, and David Paylor.

Department of Environmental Quality Staff Present	
Scott Kudlas — Director, Office of Water Supply	Joseph Grist — Water Withdrawal Permitting and Compliance Program Manager
Jutta Schneider — Director, Water Planning Division	Brandon Bull — Water Policy Manager

Visitors Present	
Beckham Stanley – VA Agribusiness	Brian Watch – Jacobs
Daniel Holloway – Jacobs	Daniel Horne – VA Department of Health
Jason Powell – VA SFAC	Jason Early – Cardno
Jeff Manuszak – Langan	John O’Dell – Water Well Solutions LC
Justin Curtis -- Aqualaw	Katie Krueger – VA HRPDC
Ken Bannister – Koontz Bryant Johnson Williams Group	Kyle Shreve – VA Agribusiness

Mark Lucas – Jacobs	Mark Perry – VA Department of Health
Ryder Bunce – VA Department of Health	Marko Hearon
Matt Wells — WestRock	Muoi Gano
Rachel Belizie	Robert Bohannon – Hunton AK
Shelby Olsen – Omega Protein	Sheryl Stephens – DAA
Thomas Cross – VA Senate	Todd Wood – AQUAVEO
Tony Singh – VA Department of Health	Whitney Katchmark – VA HRPDC
Royd Nelson – AQUAVEO	

PROCEEDINGS

Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Scott Kudlas convened the meeting at 10:10 am; he invited members to the first Eastern Virginia Groundwater Management Advisory Committee meeting of the Fiscal Year 2021. The acronym “GWAC” was introduced as a commonly used title for the committee.

Mr. Kudlas took roll and confirmed a quorum of the committee was present, and expressed Mr. David Paylor’s regrets for being unable to attend. Committee members introduced their organization, role and history with the GWAC.

Meeting Agenda

Mr. Kudlas went over the planned meeting agenda outline (agenda is reworked following time constraints near the close of the meeting). The intended agenda was as follows:

- Presentation on the most recent modeling DEQ is employing to validate the long term aquifer sustainability
- Presentation in the Sustainable Water Initiative for Tomorrow [SWIFT]
- Survey of committee on desired topics for review and discussion in future meetings
- Open floor for public comment

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

Establishing Meeting Ground Rules and Purpose

Mr. Kudlas established the committee ground rules.

- Overarching goal to treat members with civility and respect, while providing input into managing the Commonwealth’s groundwater resources to the best of the committee’s ability.

Mr. Kudlas defined the purpose of the group as outlined in the Virginia Acts of Assembly.

- The legislation reestablished the GWAC for an additional 5 years, with potential sunset after 5 years.
- The committee is directed to convene no less than 4 times a fiscal year.
- The committee is empowered to make recommendations to the state to enhance groundwater management.

- DEQ is to inform the committee on groundwater activity updates, submit topics for examination in future meetings, and submit the meeting proceedings to the state Water Commission, Governor and General Assembly by November 1 each year.
 - It was noted that the 2020 report was filed before this meeting convened, to meet the November 1 deadline. Mr. Kudlas informed the body on the contents of the filed report.

Presentation

Comprehensive presentation on the expected aquifer conditions based on simulations from the Coastal Plain model, by Mr. Todd Wood of AQUAVEO.

- “VAHYDROGW-VCPM: 2019-2020 ANNUAL SIMULATION OF REPORTED AND TOTAL PERMITTED USE” –Todd Wood, AQUAVEO

Floor is opened to questions from the first presentation.

Mr. Ted Henifin: inquired about the change in reported volume of withdrawal in the Aquia from 2018 to 2019. Mr. Kudlas and Mr. Wood indicate they will do some research to adequately answer the question.

Mr. Kurt Stephenson: touched on the assumptions in the model simulations, especially with respect to unpermitted water withdrawals. Mr. Kudlas provided a source of USGS data used at the time to model unpermitted usage, and outlined that the data’s age posed a challenge to addressing the uncertainty.

Mrs. Peggy Sanner: asked Mr. Kudlas to speak on the extent to which DEQ operates in tandem with Maryland and North Carolina in modeling usage. Mr. Kudlas spoke to ongoing efforts to communicate and coordinate data and modeling efforts with Maryland. In addition to the recently updating neighboring states withdrawal reporting, Mr. Kudlas noted North Carolina’s acknowledgement of the positive effect Virginia’s management has had on the shared aquifer in North Carolina.

Comprehensive presentation on the expected aquifer conditions based on simulations from the Eastern Shore model, by Mr. Wood of AQUAVEO.

- “VAHYDROGW-ES: 2019-2020 ANNUAL SIMULATION OF REPORTED AND TOTAL PERMITTED USE” –Todd Wood, AQUAVEO

Floor is opened to questions from the second presentation.

Mr. Stephen Schoenholtz: asked for a gauge on the uncertainty in the data, and to what extent it is accounted for in the models. Mr. Kudlas outlined areas of uncertainty, such as unreported withdrawals, indicating that PEST analyses are conducted at regular intervals and suggesting that the maturing compliance program also increased confidence with respect to data uncertainty. Mr. Wood noted the complexity of these types of models and the importance of regular calibration in reducing the uncertainty.

Mrs. Sanner: how was the reported amount use data employed in the permitting process?
Question was answered within presentation slides.

Mr. Stephenson: inquired whether reported use included all poultry operations on the shore. Mr. Joseph Grist informed committee that yes, any known poultry farm operating higher than the 300,000 gallon a month threshold was permitted and that those who are not permitted are not withdrawing groundwater over that threshold. Mr. Grist also noted four to five additional poultry related permit applications pending at the time of the meeting.

Agenda Revision

Mr. Kudlas opened up the agenda for revision as the meeting had 10-20 minutes remaining. The Committee agreed to push the SWIFT presentation to a future date, and the survey of future topics were requested from members until mid-November.

To emphasize the impact of committee topics, Mr. Kudlas acknowledged nearly all of the previous committees recommendations have resulted in some sort of activity associated with them. He also noted the then-current bills in the works [SB1599, SB679, SB673].

Public Comment

Floor is opened to public questions or comments.

There were no requests to make public comments.

Next Committee Meeting

Mr. Kudlas concluded the meeting and thanked the committee for their time, attention, and willingness to serve on the committee.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm