

**Water Audit
Regulatory Panel Advisory (RAP) Meeting #1**

**Wednesday, June 8, 2022
3rd Floor Conference Room
DEQ Central Office
1111 East Main Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219**

Start – 9:58 AM

Attendees:

- RAP Members
 - Drew Blackwell, Cavanaugh & Associates
 - Andy Crocker, SERCAP
 - Ron Harris (Newport News Waterworks), Mission H₂O
 - Alan Johnson, City of Danville Water & Wastewater
 - David Jurgens, City of Chesapeake Public Works
 - Michael Kerns, Sussex Service Authority
 - Bill Mawyer, Rivanna Water and Sewer Authority
 - Mike McEvoy (Western Virginia Water), Virginia Municipal Drinking Water Association
 - Chris Pomeroy (AquaLaw), Virginia Municipal Drinking Water Association
 - Jennifer Rogers (Dominion Energy), Virginia Manufacturers Association
 - Dr. Julie Shortridge, Virginia Tech
- DEQ Staff
 - Scott Kudlas – Director, Office of Water Supply
 - Joe Grist – Water Withdrawal Permitting & Compliance Manager
 - Elizabeth Gallup – Guidance & Regulation Coordinator, Water Planning Division
 - Brandon Bull – Water Policy Manager
- Members of the Public
 - Traci Goldberg, Fairfax Water

Welcome and Introductions:

Scott Kudlas opened and welcomed everyone to the first RAP meeting. He followed with an overview of the agenda, the purpose of the RAP, and the role of the RAP members.

RAP members and DEQ staff introduced themselves.

Existing Regulations:

Joe Grist presented a summary of existing water withdrawal conservation statutes and regulations. RAP members asked follow-up questions about where in the existing regulations the requirements for water audits and leak detection plans will be incorporated.

Overview of Water Audit Programs:

Elizabeth Gallup presented an overview of existing water audit programs by sector. RAP members asked questions and made comments throughout the presentation concerning the benefits or disadvantages

of requiring the AWWA Water Audit method versus an alternative water audit method and the feasibility of smaller utilities to implement water audit plans. There were also questions regarding Tennessee's switching between requiring the AWWA Water Audit method versus their current requirement of using an internally-developed form.

After the presentation concluded there were discussions regarding what might be required for the manufacturing and agricultural sectors given that an audit tool like the AWWA Water Audit software is only for use in the utilities sector.

AWWA Water Audit Method:

Drew Blackwell provided an overview of the AWWA free water audit software, the steps that occur after completing the audit to examine the real loss analysis results, and showed how states are recognizing progress after implementing the water audit tool. RAP members asked clarification questions throughout the presentation.

Discussion:

The RAP discussion centered around the presentations and information presented earlier in the meeting. Clarifying questions were asked about which types of withdrawal permits the regulations apply to and DEQ staff reiterated that they are for both groundwater individual permits and surface water individual permits. Several group members made comments about the difference programmatically between groundwater and surface water and wondered if the audit requirements should be different for each. With regards to the other sectors affected by this regulation, agriculture and manufacturing, the question was posed whether we could require reporting requirements to align with other programs.

The discussion ended with questions to consider for the next meeting.

- How complex do we want the audit and leak detection requirements to be?
- What do applicants have to provide to prove they are meeting the requirements?

Public Forum:

An opportunity for public comment was provided. Traci Goldberg commented about the realities of leak detection in terms of cost, time, and manpower and asked the group to keep those in mind.

Next Steps:

DEQ staff will develop a strawman to review at the next meeting and will consider reaching out to the Virginia Department of Health to discuss capacity development and aligning efforts.

Meeting ended at 3:15PM

Next Meeting:

Scheduled for Wednesday, June 29, 2022 at DPOR – Commonwealth Conference Center.