

**Wastewater Infrastructure Policy Working Group
July 29, 2024, 10:00 AM TO 12:00 PM
Meeting Summary**

Meeting Location:

Virginia Department of Health
5th Floor Main Conference Room
109 Governor Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Virtual: Virtual access via WebEx platform.

List of Attendees:

Working Group Members

Lance Gregory- Virginia Department of Health (VDH)
Peter D’Alema – Virginia Resource Authority (VRA)
Kelly Ward – Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
Chase Sawyer – Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD)

Other Participants

Danna Revis	Brianna Heath	Chris Pomeroy	Elizabeth Andrews
Ivy Ozmon	Karen Doran	Kelli Greenstreet	Mitchell Smiley
Patrick Fanning	Preston Kirby	Anthony Creech	Amanda McGee
Andrew Jacobs	Charlie Paulin	Nicole Sandberg	

1. Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions.

Ms. Ward welcomed the attendees and called the meeting to order.

2. Review Summary from December 15, 2023.

The workgroup agreed to defer review of the summary to the next meeting.

3. Updates on DEQ wastewater funding.

Ms. Ward and Ms. Doran provided an update on DEQ’s wastewater funding. They noted that clean water solicitation ended the previous week. As of the end of July, DEQ has executed 55 ARPA grants, dispersing \$111 million.

4. Updates on VDH wastewater funding.

Mr. Gregory provided an update on VDH's funding for septic repairs through the Septic and Well Assistance Program (SWAP). VDH has installed over 100 septic systems and over 80 private wells through SWAP. Direct projects will be completed by December 31, 2024, leaving only local partner projects to be completed in 2025 and 2026.

5. Updates on additional federal or state funding.

No additional updates.

6. Continued assessment of onsite sewage system funding needs.

Mr. Sawyer noted that DHCD is establishing a workgroup looking at residential infrastructure funding, which could include water and wastewater infrastructure. DHCD has been soliciting interest for the workgroup. The meeting dates will be published on townhall. First meeting will be August 6th, with three meetings scheduled.

7. Affordability assessment for onsite sewage systems.

Mr. Gregory discussed an assessment completed by a professor in Alabama looking at the affordability of conventional onsite sewage systems and alternative onsite sewage systems. VDH is seeking to conduct a similar assessment to determine where there may be affordability issues in Virginia.

8. Regulatory updates impacting wastewater infrastructure.

Mr. Gregory noted that VDH is in the process of revising the Sewage Handling and Disposal Regulations and encouraged members to engage in the revision workgroups.

9. HB 1431 implementation by VDH.

Mr. Gregory provided a quick update on HB 1431 from the 2024 General Assembly Session. The bill requires VDH to recognize system with National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) 350 approval as Treatment Level 3 approved, as well as other units that have demonstrated meeting Treatment Level 3 standards through NSF 245 testing. This resulted in several dozen system being approved for use for Treatment Level 3 on July 1st.

10. Public Comment

No public comments.

11. Adjournment

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§ 62.1-223.2
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Virtual:

Join from the meeting link

<https://vdhoep.webex.com/vdhoep/j.php?MTID=mc222cbd0bc60fd97cc8bc890336d0d37>

Join by phone

1-844-992-4726 United States Toll Free

+1-408-418-9388 United States Toll

Meeting number: 2631 787 0361

Meeting password: qrJfEiPT845

- 12. Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions (5 minutes)**
- 13. Review Summary from December 15, 2023. (5 minutes)**
- 14. Updates on DEQ wastewater funding. (15 minutes)**
- 15. Updates on VDH wastewater funding. (15 minutes)**
- 16. Updates on additional federal or state funding. (10 minutes)**
- 17. Continued assessment of onsite sewage system funding needs. (15 minutes)**
- 18. Affordability assessment for onsite sewage systems. (15 minutes)**
- 19. Regulatory updates impacting wastewater infrastructure. (10 minutes)**
- 20. HB 1431 implementation by VDH. (10 minutes)**
- 21. Public Comment**
- 22. Adjournment**