



Commonwealth of Virginia

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

www.deq.virginia.gov

Travis A. Voyles
Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources

Michael S. Rolband, PE, PWD, PWS Emeritus
Director

SUBJECT: Waterbar and Utility Access Road Advisory Committee Meeting #3, Meeting Minutes

Date: December 5, 2024

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) held an advisory committee meeting on 12/5/2024 at 9:00 am at the DEQ Piedmont Regional Office located at 4949-A Cox Road, Glen Allen, VA 23060. The purpose of the meeting was to help DEQ continue the process of reviewing and revising specifications in the Virginia Stormwater Management Handbook (VSMH) for waterbars and utility access roads.

The following advisory committee members attended the meeting:

Eric Clay, Dominion Energy	Kyle W. Marshall, Williams
Chris Solden, Arcadis (DEQ Consultant)	Jared Webb, AEP

The following interested members of the public attended the meeting:

Jay Lemmerman, WSSI	Chris Schrinel, WSSI
Jay Johnstone, C2 Environmental	Colin Walthall, WSSI

The following DEQ staff attended the meeting:

Kathleen Alexander, Stormwater Program Engineer	Nelson Daniel, Policy Analyst	Zack Robinson, Office of Water Compliance
Chantz Ballard, Plan Review Manager, Office of Stormwater Management	April Rhodes, Manager, Office of Stormwater Management	
Anthony Cario, Regulatory Analyst, Water Division	Rebecca Rochet, Deputy Director, Water Permitting Division	

Welcome and Introductions:

DEQ staff opened the meeting by welcoming participants and outlining the purpose of the group. Additionally, staff reviewed guidelines for members participating in advisory discussions, including what constitutes a public meeting and the FOIA requirements for public meetings.

DEQ staff facilitated discussions on markups submitted by advisory committee members prior to the meeting. DEQ staff presented the markups received, and the advisory committee members discussed the suggestions.

Waterbars

The advisory committee began by reviewing markups of a revised draft construction BMP, C-ECM-08 Waterbars, which would be updated in Chapter 7, Design Specifications for Construction BMPs, in the VSMH.

Members initially discussed several wording changes to improve clarity and readability in Sections 1.0-4.0 of the specification. Members primarily reviewed markups made to Section 5.0, Design Criteria. Members discussed a markup regarding height for waterbars. The consensus was to maintain a general height of 18 inches and to add language permitting a reduction to 12 inches in certain situations defined in the specifications. Members discussed the maximum drainage area for each waterbar. While the current specification is less than two acres, the group agreed to explore reducing this acreage to minimize the need for calculations and ensure effective erosion control. Members discussed the comments regarding 5% grade and suggested changes to address highly erodible soils and site dormancy. Members discussed markups on the outlet design criteria including appropriate size, depth, and locations for a sump. While a depth of four feet was initially suggested, concerns were raised about safety and practicality. The group agreed to explore alternative designs and to consider the specific needs of each project. Finally, members reviewed markups for the proposed detail drawing for waterbars and discussed drawing changes to show discharge to a vegetated area.

Gravel Access Roads

The group discussed comments and markups received about the draft BMP for Permanent Linear Utility Access Roads, which is based on Section 5.1.3, Linear Development Projects, of the VSMH.

DEQ staff explained that additional work will be needed to complete the specification. The members discussed if the specification should apply to other linear utilities, be limited to electric utilities or apply to entities that construct access roads under their DEQ-approved Standards and Specifications. Members also discussed topics including buffer zones, using penetrometers, road widths, grade (striking 10% grade wording), and stabilization. Based on feedback from members, DEQ will make additional revisions to the draft specification.

Public Forum:

No comments were made from the public.

Action Items:

DEQ staff will incorporate changes in the specification for waterbars and provide a copy of the revised specifications to advisory committee members. DEQ expects to have a revision of the draft specifications ready by Friday, December 13, 2024, for review. The Technical Review Committee for the VSMH will be updated on the waterbar specification at their December meeting and DEQ will relay their feedback to the committee.

Committee members were asked to continue to work on reviewing the access road specification and submit markups or feedback to DEQ.

Follow-up Meeting:

DEQ staff will send a doodle poll to members gauging availability for the next meeting which is expected to be held in January 2025.