



Commonwealth of Virginia

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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SUBJECT: Virginia Stormwater Management Handbook Technical Review Committee (TRC) Meeting Minutes

DATE: December 9, 2024

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) held the second TRC meeting on December 9, 2024, at DEQ's Central Office, 1111 E. Main St., Richmond, VA 23219. The meeting began at 9:35AM and ended at approximately 3:10 PM. The purpose of the meeting was to assist DEQ in reviewing and revising the Virginia Stormwater Management Handbook (VSMH) in accordance with Section 1.4.2 of the VSMH.

The following members of the TRC attended the meeting:

Table with 2 columns listing attendees: Phil Abraham, Rene Hypes, Channing Blackwell, Richard Jacobs, Jacob Bottoms, Sam Krauland, Graham Bryant, Kristen Mahoney, Ranee Buck, Sal Musarra, John Burke, Jerry Stonefield, Justin Curtis, Jill Sunderland, Jacob Dorman, Jared Webb, J. Alex Foraste, Jaewan Yoon, Dawson Garrod, Hannah Zegler.

The following members of the TRC were not in attendance:

Table with 2 columns listing non-attendees: Tanjina Afrin, Mark Miller.

Andrew Clark – Home Builders Association of Virginia	Jacob Newton– Virginia Electric Cooperatives
Jim Clarke – Advanced Drainage Systems	Wil Orndorff – Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR)
Noelle Crowley –Virginia Water Environment Association Stormwater Committee	Abigail Patterson – Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP)
Angela Davis – Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR)	Chris Pomeroy - AqualLaw
Justin Doyle – James River Association	Chase Sawyer – Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD)
Ed Duggan – Hydroworks	David Scott – Xerxes/Mattr
Mike Gerel – Chesapeake Bay Foundation	

The following interested member of the public attended the meeting:

Thomas Branin – Colonial Construction Materials	Colin Walthall –Wetland Studies and Solutions, Inc (WSSI)
Paul Gallant – Concrete Pipe and Precast, LLC (CPP)	Trent Warner – Elevate Communities, LLC
Greg Lester – Elevate Communities, LLC	David Warriner, Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR)
Ginny Snead – A. Morton Thomas and Associates, Inc (AMT)	

The following DEQ staff attended the meeting:

Kay Alexander –Stormwater Program Engineer, Water Permitting Division	April Rhodes – Manager, Office of Stormwater Management
Chantz Ballard – Plan Review Manager, Office of Stormwater Management	Rebeccah Rochet – Deputy Director, Water Permitting Division
Nelson Daniel – Policy Analyst	Jeanette Ruiz – Regulatory Analyst
Meghan Mayfield – Director, Water Permitting Division	Alex Samms – Chief Deputy, DEQ

Meeting Opening and Introductions:

Rebeccah Rochet welcomed members of the TRC and public to the meeting and provided an overview of the proposed agenda, public meeting requirements in Virginia’s Freedom of Information Act, and the comments and outcomes from the first TRC meeting. She asked if anyone wished to make corrections or updates to the minutes from the first TRC meeting that DEQ posted on Town Hall. No one offered corrections or revisions so DEQ will post the minutes as “final” on Town Hall.

TRC members suggested the focus of the working group should be solely on technical issues and that DEQ should make minor corrections, edit for grammar, and update citations as needed for drafts of future revisions to the VSMH. Other members asked: (1) whether there will be example

plans – DEQ staff said that is something under consideration, but the agency has not taken action on the topic; (2) whether there will be any forthcoming regulatory changes or guidance documents – DEQ staff responded that there may be additional guidance created to clarify common plans of development and other issues as they come up, with the objective to incorporate relevant guidance into future revisions of the VSMH; and (3) are previous versions of the VSMH catalogued – they are filed on the DEQ website under .

Progress Updates:

DEQ provided updates on the progress of development for the VSMH, Version 1.2 that included:

- Responding to Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG) Comments from Nov/Dec 2023;
- Efforts of the Waterbar and Linear Utility Access Road Advisory Committee.
- Responding to outstanding Comments DEQ received on Version 1.0 of the VSMH; and
- Discussing how DEQ and the TRC will review and respond to Comments received on Version 1.1 of the VSMH.

Discussion Summary:

TRC Discussion on Public Comments Received on Version 1.1:

- DEQ received a comment about the specifications for P-SUP-06, regarding sediment forebays. The commenter requested to revise the VSMH to recommend forebays where inflow is greater than 10% of the total contributing drainage area. The TRC suggested adding language from a previous definition of ‘major inlet’ in the old specification, and that further consideration should be given to variations by BMP type.
- The TRC discussed a comment received in the same section of Specification P-SUP-06 on the topic of forebays and storage. The comment addressed the one-foot depth of storage over the permanent pool and included a recommendation for expanding the forebay footprint with less depth. The TRC suggested adding considerations for structures built in the coastal plain and increasing the size by 25% to offset less storage depth.
- The TRC also talked about a comment received for Specification P-BAS-01 recommending a reduction of the design storm event and freeboard requirements if the embankment is three feet or shorter for Constructed Wetlands. The Earthen Embankment Specification (P-SUP-01) provides an exemption for embankments three feet or less in height. The comment suggested considering alternative components such as drainage area, floodplains and downstream systems be taken into consideration regarding the embankment height for P-BAS-01 as referenced above.
- The TRC considered a comment received for Specification P-BAS-02 regarding mandatory aeration in the Level 1 Wet Pond in coastal plain areas and proposed deleting mandatory aeration or providing a reduction in the minimum size of the aquatic bench with aeration. Altering the Level 1 assigned efficiency is not the desired path.
- The TRC discussed providing clarification on the use and intent of the following words: “preferred,” “recommended,” and “shall.” The TRC suggested adding this to Chapter 1.
- A comment received for Specification P-FIL-09 requested allowing existing or new trees planted as BMPs to also be allowed to be counted towards other locality requirements and that the post-construction inspection frequency be evaluated. The TRC discussed and

suggested adding language to allow local Virginia Erosion and Stormwater Management Program (VESMP) authorities flexibility based on site conditions.

- The TRC considered a request for language to be added to Chapter 1 that VESMPs may adopt all or portions of the VSMH.

The TRC took a break from 12:00 PM -1:00 PM. When the TRC reconvened after lunch, DEQ staff presented an option of addressing the various topics using subcommittees. DEQ provided the following suggested topics for subcommittees:

- Construction BMPs
- Post-Construction BMPs
- Manufactured Treatment Devices (MTDs)
- Guidelines for Stormwater Management in Karst
- Plant Selection
- Standards and Specifications Agreement (Appendix J)
- Chapters

The TRC agreed to remove “chapters” as a topic needing its own subcommittee, and these comments will be presented to the TRC as a whole. The Post-Construction BMPs topic was consolidated with the Construction BMPs and MTDs including design topics to evaluate Chapters 7, 8 and all associated appendices.

The TRC also agreed that members could join multiple subcommittees, and their participation could align with their interests. Members are not required to attend all the meetings.

Public Comments:

David Warriner asked questions about unique dam safety maintenance and upgrade scenarios and how to meet requirements of the regulations.

Trent Warner polled members of the TRC inquiring who had served on the initial SAG, as well as who had design experience. Mr. Warner also inquired on if additional members, who are consultants, can be added to the TRC. DEQ staff explained that Section 1.4.2 of the VSMH outlines the groups/organizations that are members of the TRC.

Next Steps for the TRC:

DEQ will be sending emails to poll members to identify which subcommittee (if any) they wish to participate in and to identify the next dates for meetings and will include backup dates in case of inclement weather.

The TRC meeting ended at approximately 2:10 PM. Immediately following the TRC meeting, the first subcommittee meeting, the Construction and Post-Construction BMP Subcommittee, began at 2:10 PM (facilitated by DEQ staff).

Construction BMP and Post-Construction BMP Subcommittee Meeting Notes:

Sub-committee Discussion on Outstanding SAG Comments and Version 1.1 Comments:

- The subcommittee discussed a comment received for Specification C-PCM-04 on the topic of high-performance silt fence regarding the required flow through rate in Table C-PCM-04-5. The subcommittee requested a review of the flow rates in the table which are much higher than what is required in Table C-PCM-04-4 for standard silt fence. The subcommittee discussed requiring conformance with ASTM 6461, removing efficiencies from the table, distinguishing wire backed, and chain-link fencing supports, and changing “pine” to “hardwood stake”.
- The subcommittee discussed standard silt fence post spacing including the size of the post and how deeply it is staked into the ground. This topic will be considered further to see if spacing should be adjusted.
- The subcommittee discussed sediment basins and whether skimmers utilized during construction are an add-on.
- The subcommittee reviewed a comment for Section 5.1.7 on the topic of stream restoration. The comment requested adding language for other approvals that are required for nutrient credit release and/or stream mitigation. The subcommittee suggested including language for ESC requirements for clarification.

Next Steps for the Construction BMPs and Post-Construction BMP Subcommittee:

The next meeting will continue to work through outstanding comments received on the construction and post-construction standards and specifications, as well as comments received regarding associated design and calculations.