

**Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Districts**  
**Dam Owner Workgroup**  
**Meeting Summary**

Augusta County Government Center  
Cafeteria (2nd Floor)  
75 Government Center Lane  
Verona, VA 24482  
**May 23, 2019**  
**9:30 am – 3:00 pm**

**I. Joint Procurement for Term Contract for Engineering Services**

Piedmont Soil and Water Conservation District in cooperation with the DCR District Dam Engineer provided a review copy of the Joint Term Contract for Engineering Services Request for Proposals (RFP) to the group. The review copy contained updates and revisions suggested by the group at the February 28, 2018 workgroup meetings. Any comments or questions on the RFP should be directed to Deanna Fehrer (Piedmont) and are due by June 12, 2019. The districts are encouraged to review the proposed timeline (Page 4) and the scoring criteria (Page 6).

The proposed timeline to issue the RFP is June 17, 2019 with proposals due on July 31, 2019. Copies of the received RFP will be sent to each district for review and scoring. Scores will need to be submitted to Deanna Fehrer (Piedmont) by August 9, 2019.

The proposed timeline for interviews of short listed engineering firms is September 3, 2019 to September 18, 2019. Please contact Deanna Fehrer (Piedmont) if you would like to serve on the interview panel.

The interview panel recommendations will be discussed with the group at the September 19, 2019 workgroup meeting. The interview panel will submitted the recommendations to Piedmont SWCD Board on September 24, 2019 for approval with the intent of issuing a Notice of Award on September 25, 2019.

**II. Remote Monitoring**

The District Dam Engineer updated the group on the remote monitoring project. The FY19-20 budget was amend to provide \$400,000 in additional funds for the Soil and Water Conservation District Dam Maintenance, Repair, and Rehabilitation Funds for the purchase and installation of remote monitoring equipment for District-owned high and significant hazard dams.

DCR plans to procure the needed remote monitoring equipment from a vendor by issuing a Request for Proposal (RFP). DCR is looking to procure the following from the remote monitoring equipment vendor:

1. A unit with integrated cellular communication ability. This unit would be used in locations with good cellular coverage.
2. A unit that can be connected to an external communication device. This unit would be used in locations with no or poor cellular coverage.
3. All units will include a battery with solar charging capability.
4. Web based software to display the data from the remote monitoring equipment. The software must provide text and email alerts. The software must be able to export any collected data.

DCR has meet with two separate vendors to learn about remote monitoring systems currently available. One vendor has provide DCR with a BETA test unit which is currently deployed at Bush River #4 (<https://stg.hobolink.com/p/4e44a9d39aaa40fc625e1e578cc90d79>). More information about the vendors can be found at:

1. ONSET: <https://www.onsetcomp.com/>
2. OneRain: <https://onerain.com/>

The District Dam Engineer has been coordinating with the DCR Telecom Coordinator on communication options available at each dam. The DCR Telecom Coordinator has extensive experience in bringing cellular internet services to State Parks. DCR has purchased a signal tester to determine what cellular communication would be possible at a dam. The District Dam Engineer will coordinate with each district on conducting a signal test at each dam in the future.

Conduit pipe, pull boxes, and mounting pole will need to be constructed on the dam prior to the installation of the remote monitoring equipment. The District Dam Engineer will coordinate with the District on the needed construction. It is anticipated that the District will hire a local contractor for this work. All costs associated with this work will be reimbursed by DCR.

### **III. Dam Safety Inventory System (DSIS)**

The District Dam Engineer distributed copies of the DSIS User Guide and Workflow Quick Reference Guide to the group. If you have any issues or questions with DSIS, please contact the District Dam Engineer.

#### **a. DCR – Dam Safety Updates**

Dam Safety will be utilizing DSIS to track regulatory compliance. Example of regulatory compliance tracking with DSIS are:

- 1) Annual Owner Inspections
- 2) Emergency Action Plan – Table Top Exercise
- 3) Emergency Action Plan – Annual Drill
- 4) Emergency Action Plan or Emergency Preparedness Plan Expiration

Dam Safety has indicated that they will start to refer to enforcement dam owners that do not make progress on conditions that are listed on a Conditional Certificate. Many District owned dams are currently under a conditional certificate for inadequate spillway

capacity. The District Dam Engineer is currently preparing a MOU to document the steps being taken to address the inadequate spillway capacity of District owned dams.

b. FORM DCR199-246

Dam Safety had developed form DCR199-246 to be used with DSIS submittals. A copy of the form was provided to the group.

c. Automatic Email Notifications

DSIS will send out Notification email when documents are submitted, reviewed, and approved. The email will be sent to the owner of the dam and the person that submitted the document.

d. Contacts

This Section of DSIS contains information on the Dam Owner and Consulting Engineers for the Dam. The emails listed in this section are used as part of the automatic email notification system.

e. Emergency Plans (EAP or EPP)

The Emergency Action Plans located in this section will be used by Dam Safety and VDEM during emergency situations. Districts are reminded to upload and update information in DSIS as part of the EAP/EPP update process. This section is also used to track required EAP Tabletop Exercise and Annual Drills.

f. Inspections

This section is used to submit both Owner and Professional Engineer inspections. DSIS can be used to generate a completed inspection form once all the required data has been input into the system. In order for an inspection to be submitted, a signed certification page must be uploaded to DSIS.

g. Certificates

This section is used for the submittal of the Operation & Maintenance Certificate Application. The District Dam Engineer will be responsible for uploading the required information for this section. District staff can track the status of the application and download a copy of the certificate from this section.

h. Permits

This section is used to submit Alteration Permits. Design information and copies of the Alteration permit can be downloaded from this section.

i. Grants

This section can be used to submit Small Dam Repair request. The District Dam Engineer shall be using DSIS to track and manage Small Dam Repair requests.

j. Attachments

This section is used to upload and download documents to DSIS. The attachments section is used for Uploads and the All Attachments section is used for download. When uploading files, please use the file naming system outlined in the Workflow Quick Reference Guide.

#### **IV. Rehabilitation Plan for Virginia SWCD Dams**

The rehabilitation list for district dams has been updated. Several dams have been removed from the rehabilitation list due to spillway Adequacy evaluations conducted by the Dam Rehabilitation Engineer. The Spillways were determined to have regulatory capacity due to reductions in the Probable Maximum Precipitation (PMP) values, new temporal distribution curves, and changes to hydrologic soil group classifications for the soils in the contributing watershed.

DCR has issued a RFP to select the engineering firm(s) to design the rehabilitation of South River #19 (Waynesboro Nursery) and Leatherwood Creek #5 (Lawrence). DCR will be schedule a planning meeting with Headwaters and Blue Ridge SWCD to discuss the rehabilitation process for these dams. The timeline for the RFQ is to select the engineering firm(s) by mid-July. It is anticipated that the engineering design will take approximately 12 months. The funding for the design engineer for these two dams will be covered by existing bond money.

DCR is in the process of submitting a budget request to cover the Dam Rehabilitation projects. DCR is requesting funding to support the design and construction of two dams annually. The total number of projects to be designed and constructed in a given year will be subject to the level of funding provided by the General Assembly.

#### **V. Dam Rehabilitation – Upper North River #77 – Hearthstone Lake Dam**

Construction has started for the Rehabilitation of Upper North River #77. This project is being funded by NRCS. If anyone would like to visit the construction site and observer the rehabilitation project, please contact Michael Jimenez at Headwaters SWCD.

#### **VI. Small Dam Repairs**

The Grant Agreements for Small Dam Repairs awards for FY2019 have been sent to the Districts for signature. The District Dam Engineer reminded the group that payments for Small Dam Repair projects will be issues as part of the DCR Quarterly Disbursement.

#### **VII. Virginia Association of Soil and water Conservation Districts – Legislative Agenda**

Don Wells (Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts) requested that DCR provide guidance to the Association for the next biennium on needed funding for:

1. Rehabilitation of District Owned Dams
2. Remote Monitoring of District Owned Dams
3. Small Dam Repairs for District Owned Dams.

#### **VIII. Schedule Next Meeting - September 19, 2019 – Location to be Determined**