

## Water Supply Plan Advisory Committee

Thursday, May 3, 2012

Hunton & Williams

### Members Attending:

Mike Lawless, Chuck Murray, Rob McClintock, Art Petrini, Scott Smith, John Carlock, Bill Cox, John O'Dell, Judy Dunscomb, Beate Wright, Rick Linker, Tom Botkins, Larry Dame, Barry Matthews, Bob White

### Guests Attending:

Tim Morse, Bob Fledderman, Ron Harris, Speaker Pollard, Andrea Wortzel, Greg Prelewicz, Gina Shaw, Tal Day, Cabell Vest, Aaron Keno, Richard Grossman, Blair Kruse, Tricia Dunlap, Ernie Aschenbach, Vernon Land, Mike Lang.

### DEQ Staff Attending:

Scott Kudlas, Tammy Stephenson, Angela Neilan, Sara Jordan, Brenda Winn, Heather Mackey, Mary Ann Massie, Valerie Rourke, Scott Bruce, Brad White.

Ms. Stephenson gave introductions and thanked Ms. Wortzel/Hunton and Williams for hosting the meeting. Round table introductions were made.

### Subcommittee Reports

Subcommittee 4: *Impact of consumptive use alternative water sources, including water reuse and rainwater harvesting; Environmental flows necessary for protection of instream beneficial use of water for fish and wildlife habitat*

Ms. Dunscomb gave the report for Subcommittee 4, reviewing the issues the subcommittee was charged with addressing and providing a handout of the subcommittee's draft report. The subcommittee arrived at set of principles which Ms. Dunscomb reviewed with the Committee. The report for Subcommittee 4 will not appear within the text of the State Water Resources Plan (SWRP), rather will be considered during plan development. A copy of this subcommittee report is a part of the minutes of this meeting.

### Subcommittee 6: *Draft final report for WSPAC*

Dr. Cox gave the report for Subcommittee 6, which developed an outline for the SWRP that followed the enabling regulation. Dr. Cox explained the organization and development of the outline through subcommittee work. Dr. Cox said the report is not meant to be a draft of SWRP text, as the full committee has not yet agreed to some of possibilities presented; rather the outline is primarily a compilation of subcommittee discussion and reports to date. The main meat of the outline is the recommendations (1-9) found on page 1 of the report. Committee members may have more to add to the 'other issues' section of the outline (found on page 9).

Ms. Wortzel mentioned that there were a few other issues that needed further discussion by the full committee, and either consensus on those issues needs to be reached or a list of issues for

which consensus could not be determined needs to be developed. Some of these issues include environmental flows, funding, and the use of the State Water Resources plan in the permitting process.

Mr. Murray said there needs to be a methodology for calculating supply. It may not need to be defined now, but there should be more consistency in determining water supply, much like the 'methodology' review. He provided a handout prepared by Fairfax Water on the evaluation of reuse. Mr. Murray suggested the Committee should review methods for estimating supply and make recommendations.

Ms. Dunscomb asked if Mr. Murray would draft some language regarding Water Supply; he agreed to do this. Mr. Linker noted that the permit application is the vehicle for detailed method details in determining supply. The subcommittee determined that all methods used in projected demand appeared adequate. Estimates should be scrutinized, but no specific method should be dictated.

Mr. Botkins suggested that the modeling that DEQ is doing should serve as the basis for a consistent method of determining water supply.

Ms. Wright mentioned that data gaps should be identified, such as ground water data.

Mr. Kudlas noted that a key benefit of State Water Resources Plan will be a snapshot of where supply is tight and where there is availability. He added that additional resources will be needed to get better ground water data outside groundwater Management Areas. At this time, monitoring wells are a regular permit condition for permittees in the current groundwater Management Areas. Six more monitoring wells have been installed in the western part of the state in recent years, but there is a goal of having at least one monitoring well in each county of the state. Much has to be done to accomplish this goal.

Ms. Dunscomb added that another data gap or issue is grandfathered users; how do we get a handle on availability when ~90% of surface water users are non-permitted?

It was mentioned that safe yields need to be revisited as the water system changes (a "watch-out" item).

Mr. Linker suggested that a list of tools that are available, and tools that are needed, should be developed. These could include proposed changes to the water reuse regulation, climate change evaluation, stormwater evaluation, and lack of groundwater data.

Ms. Wortzel said there are two additional things to consider, 1) cost and funding sources for the needs identified by Mr. Kudlas in a presentation to the State Water Commission several years ago; and, 2) the role of the SWCB in complying with SWRP (per the regulation).

Dr. Cox added to Mr. Linker's suggestion concerning available and needed tools, suggesting that they be added under #9 of the outline, "other policies and procedures to enhance effectiveness of water supply and water planning." Supply concerns could also be added to item # 9 of the draft

report as “methodologies of calculating supply,” and could include those “watch-out” items and guidance for localities.

Ms. Stephenson provided a summary of the morning’s discussion and asked for confirmation for the Committee’s path forward. Additional items needing further discussion include the role of SWCB in complying with the SWRP, a list of tools, and a list of “watch-out” items. Ms. Stephenson noted that presentations on Funding (Kudlas) and the Environmental Flows Project (Burgholzer) will be scheduled for the next WSPAC meeting.

The Committee agreed with Ms. Stephenson’s summary. Ms. Wortzel volunteered to prepare a final report for group review and comment at the next Committee meeting. Mr. Linker mentioned that Subcommittees 1 and 2 discussed the topic of Delegate Bulova’s bill which codifies that the SWCB is to consider water supply plans when making permit decisions. Dr. Cox suggested that the SWRP should be readily available, but not binding; and that the plan should be informative to permitting process and future plan iterations.

#### Presentation

Groundwater Data/Resource Management, Brad White, DEQ

- Conglomeration of 5 or 6 databases
- ~60,000 wells in database
- Used for regional analysis of groundwater yields geographically, how deep are fractures, support USGS efforts/research (i.e.: coastal plain, used to map vertical distribution of chloride)
- There is known data duplication on wells in database, but staff is working to eliminate this
- Well data ranges in date collected from few in 1800s to early 1990s; no continuous monitoring, only one-time collection of data

Mr. Matthews of VDH noted VDH public well data has historically been on paper. Transferring to useful electronic format is time consuming; water quality data held by VDH is post-treatment which cannot correlate directly to pre-treatment ground water quality.

Mr. Bruce added that many wells are drilled every day, and, with a few tweaks in regulation and agency operations, DEQ and VDH could be gathering lots of data.

The Committee was receptive to the suggestion of pursuing electronic submittal of well drilling data by drillers.

Ms. Dunscomb asked what information or data was critical to improving our understanding of ground water? Mr. Bruce said data on the occurrence, movement, quality, availability of ground water.

Meeting Wrap-Up

Ms. Stephenson said final reports need to be completed by December, and reiterated upcoming presentations will be provided on funding and the environmental flows project. Ms. Stephenson noted that Ms. Wortzel will provide a draft final report for next full-group meeting to discuss.

Mr. Linker, Mr. Murray, Ms. Wortzel, and Ms. Wright volunteered for Subcommittee #7 which will write a statement on water supply, SWCB roles, with information on what DEQ has already been doing concerning Safe Yield (Tech Bulletin 355), climate change analysis, flow analysis, etc.

Ms. Stephenson will poll members for a meeting which will probably be held in July.

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