

**Wastewater Infrastructure Policy Working Group (WWIWG)**  
**June 30, 2022, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**  
**Meeting Summary**

Meeting Location  
Virginia Department of Health  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor Main Conference Room  
109 Governor Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Virtual: Virtual access via WebEx platform

List of Attendees:

**Working Group Members**

Scott Morris – Chief Deputy, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)  
Shawn Crumlish – Virginia Resource Authority (VRA)  
Chase Sawyer – Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD)  
Lance Gregory – Virginia Department of Health (VDH)

**Other Participants**

Julie Henderson	Karen Doran	Danna Revis	Alvie Edward
Saqia Jordan	Anthony Creech	Chris Pomeroy	Gabriel Irigaray
Jessica Steelman	Lauren Linville	Dr. Marcia Degen	Matt Weaver
Nicole Sandberg	Pat Calvert	Tanya Pettus	Yi-ting Chiu
Kelly Hengler	Mary Hill		

**1. Call to order, welcome and introductions.**

Mr. Gregory welcomed and stakeholders to the meeting. Participants introduced themselves to the group.

**2. Review summary from April 26, 2022 meeting.**

Mr. Gregory noted members might not have had ample opportunity to review the summary. Postponed review until next meeting.

**3. Old Business**

**A. Wastewater Infrastructure Funding Updates.**

Ms. Doran provided the attached presentation updating the WWIWG on the status of DEQ's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. DEQ received \$75 million in funding for septic, straight pipe, and sewer collection system repairs. An additional \$125 million was provided to

address combined sewer overflows in three specific localities; Alexandria, Lynchburg, and Richmond. DEQ also received \$100 million for nutrient removal projects and infrastructure improvements in the Town of Pound and the City of Petersburg.

DEQ update their implementation plan for ARPA funding based on Treasury's Final Rule, and is finalize a septic partner funding component. DEQ plans to provide outreach to eligible applicants in August and begin accepting applications in late summer to fall of 2022.

Ms. Doran also noted that annual solicitation for Virginia Clean Water Revolving Loan Funds (VCWRLF) was open from June 6, 2022 to July 29, 2022. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Funds provided an additional \$36.4 million in supplemental funds for VCWRLF.

Next Mr. Gregory and Ms. Sandberg provide an update on septic system funding programs through VDH. The Septic and Well Assistance Program (SWAP) funded through ARPA had received 175 applications for 184 septic and well repair projects across the Commonwealth. VDH had also received two applications through the SWAP local partners program. As a result of increase demand, additional SWAP funding allocations were being directed to Eastern Virginia. They noted that VDH had not received any applications in Northern Virginia, likely a result of the program using federal poverty guidelines for income eligibility as opposed to area median income.

#### **B. Wastewater Infrastructure Needs Assessment Update.**

Ms. Doran provide an update on the wastewater infrastructure needs assessment outline in legislation that created the WWIWG. The legislation requires DEQ and VDH to work with stakeholders to determine the estimate of funding necessary to provide universal access to fully protective wastewater treatment that is not eligible for Water Quality Improvement Funds. The first report is due July 1, 2023. Ms. Doran walked through the timeline outlined in the attached presentation, including data gathering and surveys from stakeholders. She asked the WWIWG to encourage existing facilities and localities to assist with the effort and provide needs data when requested. She also asked for input from the WWIWG on how best to estimate straight pipe and pit privy numbers.

Ms. Hengler invited WWIWG members to the Suffolk Civic League which holds meetings the third Monday of every month and is always looking for speaker.

#### **C. Continued Discussion on Implementation of Recommendation from 2021 Working Group Report to the Governor and General Assembly.**

The WWIWG continued discussion of recommendations provide by stakeholders in 2021 during regional roundtable discussions. Mr. Gregory noted that VDH had received funding from the Department of Conservation and Recreation to pass through to the Virginia Institute of Marine Science to continue their work on mapping of septic failure hot spots.

House Bill 769 of the 2022 General Assembly Session directs VDH to take over enforcement of septic tank pump out requirements in the Northern Neck, Middle Peninsula, and Eastern Shore

regions of Virginia. Implementation of the bill will require completion of a full inventory of systems in those areas which will help to achieve several recommendations presented by stakeholders during the roundtable discussion.

With regards to K-12 education recommendations, WWIWG members noted a need to connect with the Department of Education. Stakeholders suggested possible workforce development through community colleges as another way to increase wastewater infrastructure literacy.

#### **4. Public Comment**

Member of the public noted that voices on these issues need to be gathered from everyone and not just have agencies speak for communities. The commenter noted that Sussex 1 State Prison, Sussex 2 State Prison, and Lawrenceville Prison do not have proper water and wastewater disposal facilities.

Ms. Hengler commented that the new DEQ Environmental Justice coordinators are critical to the efforts of the WWIWG. She also noted that social workers and rural community team members can provide keep support at a local level identifying and addressing needs.

#### **5. Adjourn**

**Wastewater Infrastructure Policy Working Group**  
**§ 62.1-223.2**  
**June 30, 2022, 10:00 am to 12:00 pm**  
**Meeting Agenda**

**Meeting Location:**

**Virginia Department of Health**  
**5<sup>th</sup> Floor Main Conference Room**  
**109 Governor Street**  
**Richmond, VA 23219**

**Virtual:**

Join from the meeting link

<https://vdhoep.webex.com/vdhoep/j.php?MTID=m52b2ae27df145bba676d0fe0f821fe0e>

Meeting number (access code): 2633 173 0135

Meeting password: 6xEB6XHVKV4

**JOIN BY PHONE**

1-844-992-4726 United States Toll Free

+1-408-418-9388 United States Toll

- 1. Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions**
- 2. Review summary from April 26, 2022 meeting.**
- 3. Old Business**
  - a. Wastewater infrastructure funding updates.**
  - b. Wastewater infrastructure needs assessment update.**
  - c. Continued discussion on implementation of recommendation from 2021 Working Group report to the Governor and General Assembly.**
- 4. Public comment.**
- 5. Adjournment**

***§ 62.1-223.1. State policy as to community and onsite wastewater treatment. It is the policy of the Commonwealth to prioritize universal access to wastewater treatment that protects public health and the environment and supports local economic growth and stability.***



# DEQ Wastewater Funding Update

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Karen Doran

Clean Water Financing and Assistance Program

June 30, 2022

# ARPA WW Funds Update

## GA 2021 Special Session II – ARPA funds appropriated to DEQ

- \$75,000,000 – septic, straight pipe, and sewer collection system repair, replacement, and upgrades
- \$125,000,000 – combined sewer overflow (CSO) grants to specific localities – Alexandria, Lynchburg, and Richmond
- \$100,000,000 – ENRC Program nutrient removal projects, and infrastructure improvements in Town of Pound and City of Petersburg

# ARPA WW Funds Update

## DEQ's draft Implementation Plan

- \$75M – SSS ARPA funds
  - Establish eligibility and ranking criteria
  - Solicit applications for SSS ARPA fund grants
  - Split out septic funds – provide to partners only
- \$125M – CSO ARPA funds
  - Establish tracking system for locality 100% match certification
  - Solicit applications from 3 localities for CSO ARPA fund grants
- \$100M – ENRC+PP ARPA funds
  - Establish eligibility and ranking criteria
  - Solicit applications from ENRC Program localities and Petersburg and Pound (Wise Co PSA)

# ARPA WW Funds Update

## Next steps

- Implementation Plan updated based on Treasury's Final Rule
- Currently finalizing septic partner funding portion
- Finalize full Implementation Plan – July
- Provide outreach to eligible applicants – August
  - Direct outreach to named CSO and ENRCPP recipients
  - Webinar for SSS applicants
- Begin accepting applications – late summer/fall 2022



# Virginia Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund

- VCWRLF
  - Provides below market rate loans to localities (and other entities)
  - Annual solicitation for applications open now – June 6 – July 29
- Eligible project types
  - Wastewater
  - Stormwater
  - Living Shorelines
  - Land Conservation
  - Brownfields
  - Onsite septic (local program only)

# Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Funds

- Provides additional appropriations for Clean Water State Revolving Funds (including VCWRLF)
  - For FY22 – BIL supplemental funds = \$36,424,000, including 49% in principal forgiveness (\$17,847,760), BIL PFAS funds = \$1,914,000
- Allows states to utilize 2% of appropriated funds for technical assistance
- Includes additional requirements to be applied to the new appropriations and to the program
- Intended Use Plan updated and out for public comment June 15 – July 15

# Contact information

Karen Doran, CWFAP Program Manager

[karen.doran@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:karen.doran@deq.virginia.gov)

804-836-5912

Program website

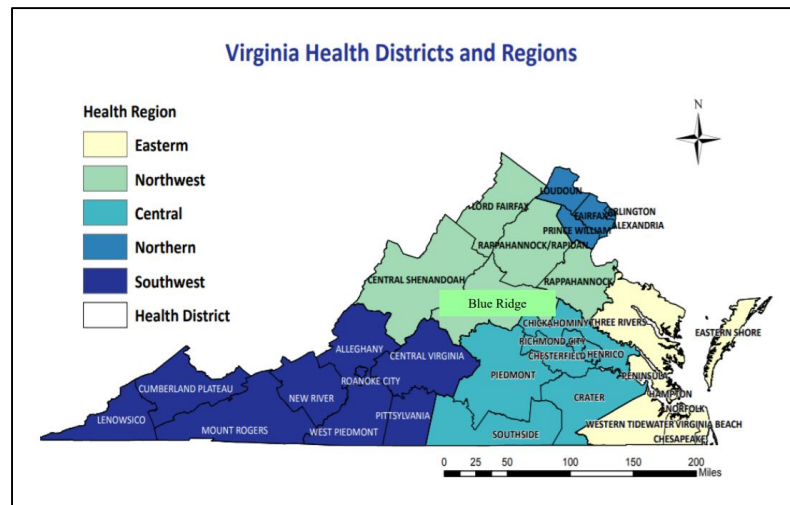
<https://www.deq.virginia.gov/water/clean-water-financing>

# SWAP Update

- Direct Projects
  - 175 applications & 184 projects
  - 6 applications denied
  - 91 septic
  - 10 sewer connection
  - 77 wells
  - 9 installed, 12 under contract, 32 in bid process.
- Local Partner Projects
  - 2 approved partners in Eastern Region

# Regional Demand

Region	Applications	Projects
Central	39	43
Eastern	70	74
Northern	0	0
Northwest	27	28
Southwest	39	39
<b>Total</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>184</b>



# Direct Project Allocations

Region	Initial Allocation	Est. Average	Est. Max
Central	\$1,133,195	\$860,000	\$1,034,579
Eastern	\$728,483	\$1,480,000	\$2,202,351*
Northern	\$526,126	\$0	\$0
Northwest	\$607,069	\$560,000	\$794,285
Southwest	\$1,052,253	\$780,000	\$1,027,007
Total	\$4,047,126	\$3,680,000	\$5,058,222

\*2,802,331 with Local Partner Projects. 24.3% of all funding.

# Lessons We Learned

- High demand for assistance for conventional septic repairs and private wells.
- AMI vs. FPG for Northern Region.
- No band-aid designs.
- Additional cost can equal system cost.
  - Site clearing cost.
  - Sewage hauling prior to repair.
- Property access and easement issues.
- System cost, and contractor availability.

# Next Steps

- RFA 2 Open
- RFQ for contractors
- Soft pause on direct projects.





# Commonwealth Wastewater Needs Assessment Update

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Karen Doran

Clean Water Financing and Assistance Program

June 30, 2022

# Wastewater Needs Assessment Update

- Governing legislation – *VA Code § 62.1-223.1-3*
- Commonwealth Wastewater Infrastructure Policy
  - Prioritize universal access to wastewater treatment that protects public health and the environment and supports local economic growth and stability
- Commonwealth Wastewater Infrastructure Needs Assessment
  - DEQ and VDH with stakeholders determine estimate of funding necessary to implement the policy, needs not eligible for WQIF grant

# Wastewater Needs Assessment Update

- First report due to GA – July 1, 2023
- Conduct assessment every four years
- DEQ and VDH developed initial plan and timeline
  1. Gather data – 7/1/2022 – 10/31/2022
  2. Evaluate data – 11/1/2022 – 1/1/2023
  3. Outreach/survey to localities – 1/1/2023 – 2/15/2023
  4. Draft report – 2/15/2023 – 3/15/2023
  5. Mgmt/policy review – 4/1/2023 – 6/1/2023
  6. Submit report to OSNHR – 6/1/2023
  7. Submit report to GA – 7/1/2023

# Wastewater Needs Assessment Update

- Gather data – DEQ
  - Collect point source data on existing facilities using information gathered for EPA CWNS
  - Working group action item – encourage existing facilities/localities to work with us and provide needs data
  - <https://www.deq.virginia.gov/water/clean-water-financing/needs-assessment>
  - Contact Lauren Linville or Matthew Link for more information
    - [Lauren.linville@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:Lauren.linville@deq.virginia.gov) or (804) 929-5136
    - [Matthew.link@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:Matthew.link@deq.virginia.gov) or (804) 929-5585

# Wastewater Needs Assessment Update

- Gather data – VDH
  - Collect non-point source data on existing onsite systems using EHD and inadequate treatment areas (straight pipes/pit privies) using VIMS wastewater data viewer and local health department information
  - Working group action item – provide input on how to estimate straight pipe and pit privy numbers

# Questions