



Commonwealth of Virginia

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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Travis A. Voyles
Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources

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

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

DATE: August 12, 2024

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) held a TRC meeting on August 12, 2024, at DEQ's Central Office, 1111 E. Main St. Richmond, VA 23219. The meeting began at 9:30 am and ended at approximately 3:30 pm. The purpose of the meeting was to help DEQ begin the process to review and revise the Virginia Stormwater Management Handbook (Handbook) as provided in Section 1.4.2 of the Handbook.

Participants attending the meeting were:

Table with 2 columns and 14 rows listing TRC Committee Members and their affiliations.

Jacob Dorman – Contech for Stormwater Equipment Manufacturers Association	Jerry Stonefield – Fairfax County
Justin Doyle – James River Association	Nathan Thomson – (alternate) James River Association
Michael Dreiling - VEDP	Jared Webb – Appalachian Power
Ed Duggan – Hydroworks	Hannah Zegler – Dominion Energy
KC Filippino – Hampton Roads Planning District Commission	

The following members of the TRC were not in attendance:

Tanjina Afrin – Virginia Military Institute	Mark Miller – Aquashield
Channing Blackwell – Virginia Society of Professional Engineers	Abigail Patterson – Virginia Economic Development Partnership
Jim Clarke – Advanced Drainage Systems	Jaewan Yoon – Old Dominion University

**Interested Members of the Public**

Sheldon Bower – Parker Design Group	Charlie Paullin – Virginia Mercury
Tanner Brantley – Williams Mullen	Trent Warner – Elevate Communities

**DEQ Staff**

Nelson Daniel – Policy Analyst	April Rhodes – Manager, Office of Stormwater Management
Meghan Mayfield – Director, Water Permitting Division	Rebecca Rochet – Deputy Director, Water Permitting Division
Bill Norris – Team Lead, Regulatory Analysts, Water Division	Jeanette Ruiz – Regulatory Analyst
Tanya Pettus – Ombudsman	

**Meeting Opening and Introductions:**

DEQ Director Mike Rolband welcomed the participants and provided an overview of the purpose of the Virginia Stormwater Management Handbook (Handbook), the process for its development and the vision of the Handbook to be a “living document.”

DEQ Water Division staff provided an overview of the TRC’s role in helping to review, revise, and keep the Handbook up to date and reminded everyone that the Handbook is not a regulation or law, but is guidance which helps users understand and satisfy requirements in state law and regulation. Staff also provided an overview of requirements for a public body under Virginia’s Freedom of Information Act requirements.

DEQ encouraged TRC members to provide immediate feedback on the cadence and makeup of the meeting.

TRC members, members of the public, and DEQ staff introduced themselves. Meeting attendees are listed in the tables above.

**Discussion Summary (DEQ):**

- The goal of the group is to help DEQ produce Version 1.2 of the Handbook.
- The TRC will not be discussing comments DEQ has received about Version 1.1 of the Handbook because the 30-day public comment period for Version 1.1 has not closed and Version 1.1 is not effective as agency guidance. [*Note: the public comment period concluded after the meeting, on August 14, 2024.*]
- For the first TRC meeting, DEQ staff said they would present and discuss comments the agency received during the 30-day public comment period for Version 1.0 of the Handbook [*Note: the 30-day public comment period for Version 1.0 was from February 26, 2024 through March 27, 2024*] and additional technical comments that the public submitted through enCodePlus, the online host for the Handbook, through August 9, 2024.
- Comments that members of the Handbook’s original Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG) submitted prior to the release of Version 1.0 (and were not addressed in Version 1.0) were not being discussed during the meeting. These comments may be considered at future TRC meetings.
- DEQ staff compiled comments from enCodePlus in a spreadsheet and organized them to follow the order of the Handbook. Staff noted that comments about typographical errors, broken links, and many other non-substantive concerns had been addressed in Version 1.1. The list of revisions is available on DEQ’s website.
- Going through the spreadsheet sequentially, DEQ staff reviewed technical comments from chapters 1 through 6 and part of chapter 7 of the Handbook and solicited feedback and comments from the TRC.

Based on feedback from the TRC, topics that may require further discussion include:

- Adding language from DEQ’s memorandum on dam maintenance to the Handbook and consider including additional spillway and dredging information;
- Consider adding language regarding construction general permit requirements for single family detached residential structures;
- Consider adding more information about common plan of development;
- Consider adding language regarding the use of existing stormwater management facilities designed under old technical criteria.
- Clarifying and updating tables in Section 6.3.3.4 (related to selection of BMPs) with regards to the allowable design acreages of bioretention facilities;
- P-FIL-05 (Bioretention) – recommend adding maximum drainage area design limitation and correct 100-year floodplain freeboard requirements;
- C-SCM-10 (Dewatering Structure) – consider including references to manufacturers specifications, additional language on proper removal, and adding metrics regarding downslope sediment barriers;
- C-SCM-05 (Compost Filter Sock) – clarify pyramid versus stacking requirements;
- C-ECM-01 (Straw wattles) – consider adding additional language to address sizing requirements, including minimum and maximum;

- C-ECM-09 (Stormwater Conveyance Channel) - consider amending the expansion joint requirements for concrete lined channels;
- C-ENV08 (Pump Around Diversion) - clarifying design criteria language on continuous pump and single day;
- C-ENV-14 (Modified Turbidity Curtain for Streams)– consider adding language to clarify design criteria;
- C-SSM-06 (Sodding) – consider adding requirements for non-VCIA certified sod and updating soil depth and decompaction requirements; and
- C-SSM-09 (Temporary Seeding) Sections 2.0 and 3.0 – providing guidance on inspection and maintenance related to specified weather conditions.

**Public Comments:**

- Trent Warner stated that sometimes concrete channels are the best option when flow from a site is fast. When used, he recommends expansion joints in concrete channels should be spaced every 30 feet. Mr. Warner also indicated that he represented DEC, which has a list of recommendations from 80+ engineers across the Commonwealth to present. He indicated that they would like to participate with the TRC. Mr. Warner continued by stating staff have DEQ’s Central Office have helped DEC members resolve issues they have experienced with plan review by DEQ’s regional offices.
- Sheldon Bower indicated that they (DEC) have experienced issues with plan review and approval related to grandfathering, plats, and interpretation of whether a site/project is under a common plan of development.

**Action Items:**

DEQ will sort comments, not yet discussed, by theme so TRC members can join focus group discussions on topics of interest to them. Breaking into focus groups during TRC meetings will allow members to discuss specific issues that align with their experience and expertise – and also allow the group as a whole to consider more comments during a meeting.

**Next Steps:**

DEQ will prepare comments by theme and provide potential focus group topics, as well as communicate the details to committee members in advance of the next meeting.

DEQ staff will develop a list of topics for the next TRC meeting and will work with members to schedule the next meeting in late August or early to mid-September. Staff will follow up with the TRC by email and post meeting information on the Virginia Regulatory Town Hall.