

Waterworks Advisory Committee Meeting

January 23, 2014

DEQ Piedmont Regional Office, Innsbrook

Chair: John Aulbach, Virginia Department of Health
Secretary: Mark Anderson, Virginia Department of Health
Timekeeper: John Aulbach, Virginia Department of Health
Members Present: Greg Boardman, Virginia Tech (Academia) via phone
Roger Cronin, American Council of Engineering Companies of Virginia
Doug Ellis, Department of Housing and Community Development via phone
Elmer Handy, Virginia Rural Water Association
Jerry Higgins, American Water Works Association – Virginia Chapter
Scott Kudlas, Department of Environmental Quality
Jesse Royall, Sydnor Hydro, Inc. (Community waterworks owner)
Caleb Taylor, Virginia Municipal League
David Van Gelder, Hanover County DPU (Class 1 operator)
Larry Wallace, Southeast RCAP (on behalf of Hope Cupit)

Guests in Attendance:

Joseph Brown, Southeast RCAP
Susan Douglas, Virginia Department of Health
Barry Matthews, Virginia Department of Health
Robert Payne, Virginia Department of Health
Steve Pellei, Virginia Department of Health

Minutes

Agenda Item: Call to order

Discussion: Mr. Aulbach convened the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Conclusions: Move to next item

Action items: None

Agenda Item: Introductions

Discussion: Mr. Aulbach introduced new member, Mr. Van Gelder. He then asked attendees to introduce themselves and their organizations.

Conclusions: Move to next item

Action items: None

Agenda Item: Agenda Adoption/Adoption of November 2013 Meeting Minutes

Discussion: Agenda was adopted unanimously without revision. There was no discussion. Minutes were adopted unanimously after no discussion.

Conclusion: Move to next item

Action items: **Mr. Anderson to distribute November's minutes as approved.**

Agenda Item: Public Comment

Discussion: There was no member of the public in attendance.

Conclusion: Move to next item

Action items: None

Agenda Item: Chairman's Report

Discussion: Mr. Aulbach updated the committee members on the hiring veterans that ODW is involved with several partners, including the USEPA, the U.S. Army Quartermaster

School, the joint Work for Water Committee, and the Board for Waterworks and Wastewater Works Operators, and the board's staff at the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation. He cited one success to help the veteran, Reservist, Guardsman, and active service member to document experience verification in Virginia. Mr. Aulbach explained that the process initially is focusing on the Army and its veterans, because of the proximity of the Quartermaster School (training component for Army Water Treatment Specialists or 92Ws) at Fort Lee, but can be extrapolated to other services. After the initial learning curve with the Army, ODW staff will reach out to the other services as well. Successes and lessons learned will be shared with other states through VDH's partners including USEPA, the Association of Boards of Certification, AWWA, and the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators. Mr. Aulbach also stated that the program of instruction for the Water Treatment Specialist will be reviewed by a joint Quartermaster School-ODW team of subject matter experts to determine instances where Army terminology and jargon can be replaced with terms used by the drinking water industry. This will help soldiers and veterans when they take a licensure exam and when soldiers respond to natural disasters in the Homeland.

Conclusion: Move to next item

Action items: None

Agenda Item: Legislative Update:

Discussion: Mr. Aulbach reported that HB 674 passed the House and is under consideration by a Senate Committee. The bill addresses aligning the definition of a "waterworks" closer to the definition (of a public water system) contained in the Safe Drinking Water Act. One concern was voiced on the change from "domestic use" to "human consumption" in the definition. It was explained that this change is in agreement with the federal definition, which eliminates an inconsistency which has been problematic.

Conclusion: Move to next item

Action items: None

Agenda Item: Regulatory Update:

Discussion: Ms. Douglas provided an update on the Regulatory Advisory Panel (RAP). She reported that she is in the process of contracting for a facilitator to work with the RAP. The ODW regulatory team is wrapping up Parts 1 and 2 and starting reviewing Part 3. Splitting and delaying Part 3 was presented as an option to the Director ODW who has indicated a desire to keep the process moving.

Conclusion: Move to next item

Action items: None

Agenda Item: DWSRF Program Update:

Discussion: Mr. Pellei stated that the FFY 2015 solicitation cycle is underway. VDH expects to receive around \$14 million or approximately around the same amount as 2014. Solicitation information is on the ODW web site and solicitation CD-ROMs will be mailed out this week. Six regional workshops will be held to help assist with the preparation of the waterworks application packet. Provisions of the Davis-Bacon and 30 percent cap on grant awards continue. For FFY 2014 funds, the public comment period is open until January 31, 2014. The USEPA goal for nonliquidated assets is 12 percent. Virginia currently has about six percent in the construction funds that are not liquidated.

Conclusion: Move to next item

Action items: None

Agenda Item: Revision to the Capacity Development Strategy Update:

Discussion: Mr. Matthews updated committee members on the revising the Capacity Development

Strategy. The focus group reviewed the strategy in November. Almost all suggestions were incorporated into the revised strategy. Major revisions were: (1) Three-year reassessments were reorganized as technical, managerial, and financial capacity; (2) Receivership language was added; and (3) the mentoring program was revised to be voluntary. Minor revisions were made for clarity and consistency. Members did not think a formal approval of the strategy was needed as WAC representation was on the focus group and each member has an opportunity to comment on the revised strategy.

Conclusion: Move to next item

Action items: **Members to review the draft strategy and send comments, if any, to Mr. Aulbach by February 6, 2014.**

Agenda Item: SCC Update:

Discussion: No SCC representative in attendance.

Conclusion: Move to next item

Action items: None

Agenda Item: DEQ Update

Discussion: Mr. Kudlas provided an update to the Committee on a number of topics:

- Completion of Pending Regulatory Actions- Mr. Kudlas told the Committee that all three actions related to the Ground Water Management Act of 1992 had been completed. This includes the comprehensive revision to the regulation as well as the expansion of the Eastern Virginia Groundwater Management Area. He said that his staff had worked with VDH staff to develop a list of 350 community water systems in the expanded area that potentially needed a permit. DEQ staff is following up with these folks to work with them on developing the existing user permit application. He noted that the statute requires all existing user applications to be filed within six months or the user waives their right to claim an existing user permit.
- Completion of Water Supply Plan Review- Mr. Kudlas informed the Committee that all 48 water supply plans, covering every city, county and town in the state, had been reviewed. He said that all of the plans had been found to be consistent with the regulations but all had conditions for things they needed to work on. All localities had been notified of DEQ's findings in letters sent out the first week of January 2014. He also said that DEQ staff was writing the State Water Resources Plan. This Plan takes the local information and evaluates the impact to beneficial uses. He expected that this Plan would be released by DEQ as early as April 2014.

Conclusion: Move to next item

Action items: None

Agenda Item: DCLS Update

Discussion: No DCLS representative in attendance.

Conclusion: Move to next item

Action items: None

Agenda Item: DHCD Update:

Discussion: Mr. Ellis had nothing to report, but asked if other members had questions for him. There were none.

Conclusion: Move to next item

Action items: None

Agenda Item: SE-RCAP Update

Discussion: Mr. Wallace introduced Mr. Joseph Brown, State Technical Assistance Provider, to committee members. Mr. Brown has a facilities management background and can

provide assistance to utilities with capacity development, audits, and other best management practices. Mr. Wallace reported that the enrollment for the employment advancement program for TANF participants is close to the goal of 20 students. The funds from the Virginia General Assembly (which is passed through the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development) have been exhausted and currently there is a backlog of approximately \$80,000.

Conclusion: Move to next item

Action items: None

Agenda Item: VRWA Update

Discussion: Mr. Handy reported that the (federal) continuing resolution provided funding for Rural Water. VRWA staff is developing VRWA's training program

Conclusion: Move to next item

Action items: None

Agenda Item: VA AWWA Update

Discussion: Mr. Higgins reported that the Utility Management Committee is conducting weekly conference calls while the General Assembly is in session following the status of bills pertaining to the drinking water community. As chair of the VA WARN, Mr. Higgins promoted membership and briefly described the benefits—all at no cost to the WARN members.

Conclusion: Move to next item

Action items: None

Agenda Item: VT Update

Discussion: Professor Boardman reported that a tentative schedule for all CY 2014 course has been prepared. There will be nine CPE lectures through the year; the groundwater math course is scheduled in February in Roanoke; the small system operators' short course for March in Richmond, and the hands-on distribution short course for the week of April 7th in Virginia Beach.

Conclusion: Move to next item

Action items: None

Agenda Item: New Business

Discussion: Mr. Higgins commented favorably on the source water assessment conducted at the MSA. The contractor provided the assessment free of charge to the Authority as the scope of work was covered under a contract with VDH. Mr. Matthews explained that opting to use a VDH contractor (there are three statewide) was voluntary.

Conclusion: Move to next item

Action items: None

Agenda Item: Update member Contact Information

Discussion: A reminder was made to notify Mr. Anderson or Ms. Hewlett, ODW, of changes in members' contact information.

Conclusions: None

Action items: None

Agenda Item: Next Scheduled Meeting

Discussion: The next WAC meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 20, 2014. Meeting will be via Polycom.

Conclusions: None

Action items: **Mr. Anderson to notify members of broadcast locations.**

Agenda item: Adjournment

Discussion: There was a motion to adjourn and that motion was seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Meeting Adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Conclusions: None

Action items: None

Mark C. Anderson, Secretary

John J. Aulbach II, PE, Chair