

Waterworks Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, July 16, 2015

Sydnor Hydro, Inc.
2111 Magnolia St,
Richmond, VA 23223
10:00 am – 12:15 pm.

Chair: John Aulbach, Virginia Department of Health
Secretary: Mark Anderson, Virginia Department of Health
Timekeeper: John Aulbach, Virginia Department of Health

Members Present:

Andy Crocker, Southeast RCAP
Roger Cronin, American Council of Engineering Companies of Virginia
John Danielson, Virginia Water Well Association
Scott Dewhirst, Virginia Section AWWA
Doug Ellis, Department of Housing and Community Development (on behalf of Bill Shelton)
Robert Glowacky, Virginia Department of General Services
Elmer Handy, Vice Chair, Virginia Rural Water Association
Steven Herzog, Virginia Water Environment Association
Scott Kudlas, Department of Environmental Quality
Ignatius Mutoti, Virginia Society of Professional Engineers
Jesse Royall, Sydnor Hydro, Inc. (Community waterworks owner)
David Van Gelder, Hanover County DPU (Class 1 operator)

Guests in Attendance:

Jay Armstrong, Virginia Department of General Services
Sarah Hinderliter, Virginia Department of Health
Nate Mathis, Virginia Department of Health
Robert Bohannon, Hunton and Williams
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: Agenda Adoption/Adoption of May 2015 Meeting Minutes

Discussion: There was a motion to adopt the draft minutes as revised and the motion was seconded. There was no discussion. Draft agenda and minutes were adopted unanimously.

Conclusion: Move to next item

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

Agenda Item: Public Comment

Discussion: There were no comments.

Conclusion: Move to next item

Action items: None

Agenda Item: Chair's Report

Discussion: Mr. Aulbach updated members:

- On the status of the Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR). The proposed rule language is consistent with the federal rule which allows it to go through the exempt process. He plans to send to EPA for comments before the NOIRA. The RTCR will be included in the full regulations revision and thus be included in the APA process at that time. A review team, headed by Bennett Ragnauth, is conducting an internal review and any changes will go to the RAP.
- That budget cuts became effective July 1, 2015. ODW financial support of 16 DCLS courier sites was eliminated. Three FTEs were also eliminated in the consolidation of the ECFO to CFO and SEVFO. All impacted employees accepted vacant positions within ODW.
- That there is concern that the salary range of environmental inspector staff plays a role in the turnover rate. Brian Blankenship will be project leader in exploring career path alternatives for the inspector staff.
- That the Pamunkey Indian Tribe received federal recognition. Steve Pellei will liaise with the tribe. If a waterworks is located in the reservation once tribal lands are defined, jurisdiction belongs to the federal government.
- That the City of Danville and Halifax County Service Authority have had taste and odor problems since February. The City began feeding powdered activated carbon and the service authority had to install feeders before treating with PAC.
- That CDC has a new target concentration of 0.7 mg/L for fluoride. One waterworks is considering stopping fluoridation over budget concerns. Mr. Crocker commented that since the new target concentration is 30% less than the previous, that it would effectively reduce chemical costs by 30%.

Conclusion: Move to next item

Action items: None

Agenda Item: UCI Road World Championship

Discussion: Mr. Anderson briefed committee members on the UCI Road World Championship being held in the Richmond area for nine days beginning September 19. ODW has coordinated with the City of Richmond DPU and Emergency Management and will meet again the last week of July to identify resource needs and other gaps. Mr. Anderson stated that the additional sampling of water provided by the City may be problematic once the races begin and vehicle access is restricted. SE-RCAP is working with VA AWWA to provide training under an EPA Training and Technical Assistance Grant to Assist Small Drinking Water Systems,

Conclusion: Move to next item

Action items: None

Agenda Item: DCLS Update

Discussion: Mr. Glowacky reported that during the UCI Road World Championship there is concern over access to the lab for staff and courier service.

Conclusion: Move to next item

Action items: None

Agenda Item: DEQ Update

Discussion: Mr. Kudlas reported on:

- Key personnel change within his program.
- Reorganization of the Office of Water Supply consisting of a permitting and a planning division.
- That he presented on the “Proposed Virginia Water Protection Permit Amendments - Surface Water Withdrawals” at the VA AWWA Water Supply Resources & Quality - Planning for Regulatory Changes seminar on June 23, 2015.
- That the new requirement for certified water well systems providers to register wells being constructed in ground water management areas with the State Water Control Board (HB 1871) went into effect on July 1, 2015. DEQ and VDH collaborated to develop a unified form. Online registration has been tested in-house.

Conclusion: None

Action items: None

Agenda Item: DHCD Update

Discussion: Mr. Ellis reported that the 2016 funding allocation for Water and Sewer Assistance Community Development Block Grant is \$3 million in addition to the \$1.7 million earmarked for the ARC region.

Conclusion: None

Action items: None

Agenda Item: SE-RCAP Update

Discussion: Mr. Crocker informed members that the funding cycle has restarted with funding requests backlogged from last year. SE-RCAP received approximately \$500,000 from the Virginia Department of Social Services for the Community Services Block Grant. SE-RCAP provides training and technical assistance to localities and on needs assessments, engineering studies, and planning with regard to water and wastewater problems with most awards under \$100,000. SE-RCAP is helping one community with a failing storage tank and helping a MHP and another privately owned waterworks in connecting to local service authorities.

Conclusion: None

Action items: None

Agenda Item: VRWA Update

Discussion: Mr. Handy reported that the VRWA Annual Expo in Fishersville will be held August 18-20, 2015. He also reported that funding grants from EPA and USDA are on track.

Conclusion: None

Action items: None

Agenda Item: VA AWWA Update

Discussion: Mr. Dewhirst restated that VA AWWA is collaborating with SE-RCAP to provide training to operators from small waterworks to be held at a location in Southwest Virginia. The theme for the 2015 WaterJAM is Going Green. Dates for the JAM are September 14-17. In October, VA AWWA is offering a customer service workshop in Newport News. He also proposed that the industry look at the Professional Operator designation as a way to make skills transferable and allow for the recognition of professional credentials that may increase earning potential and expand job opportunities.

Conclusion: None

Action items: **Mr. Anderson to research the Professional Operator designation and provide the members with more details.**

Agenda Item: New Business

Discussion:

- Mr. Pellei reported that EPA is still emphasizing that states reduce their unliquidated obligations. ODE submitted its 2015 DWSRF grant application on June 1, 2015. After the application was submitted, EPA informed Virginia that the grant was reduced from \$14.6 million to \$14.5 million. It appears that for 2016, the Drinking Water SRF will decline from \$900 million to \$700 million nationally. If this reduction holds true, Virginia could see a \$2 to \$2.5 million reduction in its SRF. For 2016, ODW offered \$24 million in construction funds. Mr. Pellei revisited that signage is required on the construction site that EPA funds are being used. He concluded with announcement that the project engineer vacancy in Abingdon had been filled.
- Mr. Aulbach provided insight into a recent visitation policy change (and no photographs allowed) at a service authority that would hinder ODW staff in making arrangements to conduct sanitary surveys. The policy is being reassessed by the survey authority's board. He also relayed that an engineer in LFO just passed his PE exam and that ODW is assisting a new ADE in LFO with getting an advanced degree from Virginia Tech.
- Mr. Anderson asked members to provide organizational input on training gaps to be discussed at next Spring's Operator Certification Stakeholders' Meeting. With projected budget cuts, ODW wants to ensure that the most needed offerings are retained. Emphasis is to retain those offerings that cannot be replicated by the industry, such as the hands-on training at a surface water treatment plant and the distribution system courses.

Conclusion: None

Action items: None

Agenda Item: Update Member Contact Information

Discussion: Members having changes in their contact information need to provide changes to Mr. Anderson or Ms. Hewlett.

Conclusion: None

Action items: None except for members with changes.

Agenda Item: Next Scheduled Meeting

Discussion: The normal schedule of the third Thursday in September conflicts with the last day of WaterJAM. The following week is the UCI Road World Championship.

Conclusion: None

Action items: **Ms. Hinderliter is to survey members on available dates the week prior to WaterJAM and the week following the UCI Road World Championship.**

Agenda Item: Adjournment

Discussion: Meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Conclusion: None

Action items: None

Mark C. Anderson,
Secretary

John Aulbach
Chair

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