

Technical Advisory Committee: GP for Non-Agricultural Surficial Aquifer Withdrawals

Electronic Communication Meeting via GoToWebinar

June 10, 2021

Meeting Minutes

Committee Members Present:

John O'Dell, Virginia Well Drillers Association
Brent Graham, Two Rivers Country Club
Ben Rowe for Martha Moore, Virginia Farm Bureau
Samuel Doak, Virginia Tech
Peggy Sanner, Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Scott Vogel, Virginia Department of Health
Jason Early, Cardno

DEQ Staff:

Joseph Grist, Water Withdrawal Permitting and Compliance Program Manager

Visitors:

Willie Downs
Renee Hoyos
Andrea Wortzel
Kenneth Bannister
Patrick Calvert
Mathew Smolnik

Proceedings:

- 1) Welcome and Introductions:
 - a) The meeting broadcast began at 9:00am and was called to order by Mr. Grist. A quorum was present.
- 2) May 27, 2021 Meeting Minutes
 - a) The committee approved the draft meeting minutes for the May 27, 2021 TAC meeting as final.
- 3) Review and Discussion:
 - a) Mr. Grist reviewed with the Committee updates to Draft Chapter 920 recommended in regards to maintaining alignment with SB673 (2020). Updates included clarifying both groundwater management areas are subject to Chapter 920 and the movement of the mitigation plan criteria for applicants to Section 90 (Application) and clarifying the duty to mitigate in Section 100 (General Permit). The committee discussed termination agreement language and how to monitor compliance after a permit terminates.
 - b) The committee reviewed draft Section 80 (Prohibitions and Exclusions).

- i) For subsection A the committee added language to clarify this Chapter pertains to withdrawals greater than 300,000 gallons in any one month.
- ii) For subsection B the committee discussed and recommended that yield test results of at least two surficial test wells, separated by a minimum of 500 feet, be required to determine if a ratio of greater than one surficial well per acre would be required to support the proposed beneficial use. The committee also recommended that the Department could determine whether the separation distance between test wells could be less than 500 feet.
- iii) For subsection C the committee discussed several water quality constituents and impacts, and provided initial recommendations for six water quality standards, that if any one is exceeded, could justify applying for an individual permit for the purposes of withdrawing irrigation water from outside of the surficial aquifer.
- c) The committee reviewed and discussed draft Section 90 (Application) and the requirement for a complete suite of geophysical logs, to include alternative approaches that could allow the Department to determine whether a geophysical log is required or not for the application. The consensus of the committee was that the assurance that a well would not be installed below the surficial aquifer, and that the data that would be obtained at the location to better inform the coastal plain framework, was of greater benefit than not requiring the geophysical log above a standard depth given the uncertainty previously discussed.
- d) The committee requested adding definitions to the draft chapter for agricultural irrigation, nonagricultural irrigation, and irrigation as provided by §62.1-255 of the Code of Virginia.

4) Public Comment

- a) There were no public comments provided.

5) Next Steps

The Committee identified the following items for further discussion:

- a) Mr. Grist is to provide the draft Chapter 920 version for further consideration and final review, to include review of the specific water quality standards proposed.
- b) Committee to provide any additional comments or supporting documentation to Mr. Grist in regards to the water quality standards proposed or other recommendations prior to the next meeting.
- c) Determine during next meeting if any additional meetings are necessary.

6) Next Meetings: June 22, 2021 (9am to 12pm) on GoToWebinar.

The meeting adjourned at 11:10am.