

EASTERN VIRGINIA GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Bank of America Building, 3rd Floor Conference Room,
1111 East Main Street, Richmond, VA

July 14, 2022

MEETING MINUTES

Committee Members Present	
Doug Powell – James City County Service Authority	Robert Wayland – Citizen from the Northern Neck
Robert Pickett – Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District Association	
Dave Jurgens – City of Chesapeake	

For the record, the following members were absent from the meeting: Nina Butler, Stewart Leeth, Andrea Wortzel, Dwayne Roadcap, Chief Adkins, Stephen Schoenholtz, Hope Culpit, Martha Moore, Peggy Sanner, John Loftus, Kurt Stephenson, Michael Rolband, Jessica Steelman, Keith Martin, Neiman Young, Mark Bennett, and John O’Dell

Department of Environmental Quality Staff Present	
Scott Kudlas — Director, Office of Water Supply	Joseph Grist — Water Withdrawal Permitting and Compliance Program Manager
Elizabeth Gallup – Guidance and Regulation Coordinator – Water Planning Division	Brandon Bull – Water Policy Manager

Visitors Present	
Jamie Mitchell – Hampton Roads Sanitation District	
Dan Holloway – Hampton Roads Sanitation District	
Jason Early - STANTEC	

Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Scott Kudlas convened the meeting at 10:15 am; he welcomed members to the fourth Eastern Virginia Groundwater Management Advisory Committee meeting of the Fiscal Year 2022. A quorum was not present.

Committee members and visitors introduced themselves and the organizations they represented.

Meeting Agenda

Mr. Kudlas went over the planned meeting agenda outline.

- Presentations on SWIFT from HRSD
- Open floor for public comment

Floor was opened for member questions regarding the meeting agenda; no questions from the body.

Presentations

Groundwater levels in the Virginia coastal plain aquifer system have been steadily declining since the early 1940s, reaching levels that spurred a number of legislative and executive actions over the last decade including the establishment of this advisory committee. The Committee has been very invested in promoting the opportunity that the HRSD Sustainable Water Initiative for Tomorrow (SWIFT) represented to potential make regional improvements in these groundwater levels and restore some portion of land subsidence. The concept for this managed aquifer recharge project was included as a recommendation to the legislature and the executive branch in 2017. Since that time progress has been made in obtaining funding, completing a number of proof of concept demonstration projects, and establishing an oversight committee and monitoring lab (the Potomac Aquifer Recharge Oversight Committee and the Potomac Aquifer Recharge Monitoring Lab). The overall project is envision to be a 100 million gallons per day injection project at up to seven sites. The first full scale injection project located at the James River Wastewater Treatment Plant in Newport News is close to finishing the federal Underground Injection Control (UIC) Permit process as the comment period on the draft permit concluded on July 8. Given this, the Committee was interested in receiving a comprehensive update on the effort. The presentations from Jamie Mitchell and Dan Holloway comprised the entire agenda of this meeting.

The presentation focused on the UIC permitting effort and the technical aspects of considerations of such significant volumes of water into the Potomac aquifer. The permitting presentation explained the different points in the treatment process that monitoring controls are required and for what chemical parameters. There was significant discussion of the conditions related to PFOA and PFAS compounds, the recommended changed HRSD has proposed back and the rationale for these recommendations. Overall, the HRSD presentation reflected agreement with the permit. The hydrogeologic portion of the presentation updated the committee on design and operational changes made to the full-scale injection wells to improve the long-term ability to avoid well and aquifer clogging. Additional information was provided on the variability of aquifer and water quality characteristics at this injection site and the implications that were taken into consideration to manage them. The construction period is expected to be approximately 3

years and includes wastewater treatment upgrades, drinking water treatment process installation and construction of injection and monitoring wells.

Public Comment

Floor was opened to public questions or comments.

There were no public comments.

Next Committee Meeting

Mr. Kudlas concluded the meeting and thanked the committee for their time, attention, and willingness to serve on the committee. The next meeting is expected to be held at DEQ sometime in the fall.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

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