

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

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION MEETING VIA GOTOWEBINAR

JUNE 28, 2021

MEETING MINUTES

Committee Members Present	
Robert Pickett — VA Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts	Ben Rowe — Alternate for Martha Moore, Farm Bureau
Anna Killius — James River Association	Hope Cupit — SERCAP
Nina Butler — WestRock	Stephen Schoenholtz — Virginia Water Resources Research Center
Andrea Wortzel — Mission H2O	Keith Martin — Virginia Chamber of Commerce
David Jurgens — City of Chesapeake	Ted Henifin — Hampton Roads Sanitation District
Doug Powell — James City County Service Authority	Jessica Steelman — Accomack-Northampton Planning District
Dwayne Roadcap — Virginia Department of Health	Chief Stephen Adkins — Chickahominy Tribe
Stewart Leeth — Smithfield Foods, Inc	Peggy Sanner — Chesapeake Bay Foundation

For the record, the following members were absent from the meeting: Robert Wayland, Kurt Stephenson, Neiman C. Young, Mark Bennett, John Loftus, John Aulbach, and John O'Dell.

Department of Environmental Quality Staff Present	
Scott Kudlas — Director, Office of Water Supply	Jeff Steers — Director, Central Operations
Jutta Schneider — Director, Water Planning Division	Hannah Somers — Water Supply Planner
Brandon Bull — Water Policy Manager	David Paylor — Director, VADEQ
Joseph Grist — Water Withdrawal Permitting and Compliance Program Manager	Gouri Mahadwar — Water Supply Planner

Visitors Present	
Bryant Mountjoy — Cardno	Tony Singh — VDH
Carroll Courtenay — Southern Environmental law Center	Jamie Heisig-Mitchell — Hampton Roads Sanitation District
Darya Minovi — Progressive Reform	Vernon Land — Suffolk County
Jane Walker — Virginia Tech	Twyla Matteson — Sierra Club
Jason Early — Cardno	Pat Calvert — Virginia Conservation Network
Jerry Gouldman — King George County	Matt Wells — WestRock

John O'Dell — Water Well Solutions LC	Peter Nash — Golder Associates
Ken Bannister — Koontz Bryant Johnson Williams Group	

PROCEEDINGS

Welcome and Introductions

- Mr. Scott Kudlas convened the meeting at 10:05 am; he informed the body that this will be the final meeting of the Fiscal Year 2021 for the Eastern Virginia Groundwater Management Advisory Committee.
- Mr. Joseph Grist took the roll and noted a quorum of the committee was present

Meeting Agenda

Mr. Kudlas went over the meeting agenda items. The intended agenda is as follows:

- The primary topic of discussion for this week's meeting is Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS), as they were identified as a major area of interest for the committee. Agency experts on PFAS, Mr. Jeff Steers of the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VADEQ) and Mr. Tony Singh of Virginia Department of Health (VDH), present on the topic subject of further discussion later in the meeting.
- Opportunity for Q&A pertaining to PFAS presentations.
- In response to the survey of desired topics in the prior GWAC meetings, a breadth of proposed topics are reviewed to que up for discussion in subsequent meetings. The review focused on:
 - Ensuring staff understood the suggested topics provided
 - Polling general interest on proposed topics to prioritize topic of interest for future meetings

Presentations

Two complimentary presentations on PFAS by Mr. Steers and Dr. Singh.

- “Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substance (PFAS) VADEQ Strategies”, Jeff Steers, Director of Central Operations at VADEQ
- “Emerging Contaminants – PFAS in Virginia Drinking Water”, Tony Singh, Deputy Director of VDH Office of Drinking Water

Mr. Kudlas prompted discussion following and related to the presentations:

- Mr. Ted Henifin: Engaged Dr. Singh on future of funding for additional research and sampling measures. Dr. Singh identified existing stakeholders as key to continuing the then-current research plan. Mr. Steers identified perspective from wastewater perspective, indicating need for future funding.
- Mrs. Hope Cupit: inquired about public protections from PFAS in the water supply as well as regulatory measures to reduce manufacturing of PFAS goods. Dr. Singh addressed the necessity for public PFAS awareness outreach and communication. Mr. Steers noted that the material was then-currently in use in manufacturing, and suggested that action in this respect would be through the General Assembly.
- Mr. David Jurgens (in the online chat area): raised concern for drinking water quality in private wells with respect to sampling for non-biological contaminants such as PFAS. Dr.

Singh informed Mr. Jurgens that PFA has not come up in the topics surrounding drinking water wells. Mr. Kudlas acknowledged the emphasis on saltwater monitoring in the Eastern Management Area.

- Ms. Killius and Ms. Wortzel also had questions that were responded to.

The committee took a ten minute break from 11:25 to 11:35

Mr. Kudlas called for final thoughts on PFAS or other types of containments and Virginia's management of them.

- Mr. Kudlas outlined the challenge for management lies within establishing the level the risk and levels for these compounds, before being able to secure funding to identify that risk through sampling.

Review of Potential Committee Topics

Mr. Kudlas went through the various topics for future meetings provided by committee members, encouraging questions and clarification relating to the interest to be addressed.

Topic 1: incentivizing local governments and private well owners to connect to public surface water.

- Mrs. Andrea Wortzel: raised concerns around history of unpermitted withdrawals within the management area. Mrs. Wortzel suggested that if the state could better understand the how many and where these private wells exist, then connection to the public system could be encouraged.
- Mr. Robert Pickett: touched on the challenge of funding in rural areas to encourage connections of that nature. Mr. Pickett suggested adding gauges to wells to identify withdrawals in a given year. He also noted the tendency to overlook testing of non-biological contaminants in drinking water.

Topic 2: Groundwater monitoring, funding and ongoing modeling activity.

- Mrs. Wortzel: mentioned it would be helpful to revisit if there were any gaps in the modeling, and identify to what extent the simulated results provide insight to the expected results.

Topic 3: Updating findings from first GWAC

- Mrs. Wortzel suggests updating the body on the 12 recommendations from the first Groundwater Management Advisory Committee Report. Specifically, putting the recommendations in the context of the then-current aquifer status and trends in the water levels. Additionally she indicates it could be beneficial to walk the body through the "State Water Resources Plan" to touch on the needs of the groundwater management area.

Mr. Kudlas called for additional comments on the topics, and identified topic 2 and 3 for future meetings. Addressing the 2015 Groundwater Management Advisory Committee Report updates and modeling concerns.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Next Committee Meeting

Mr. Kudlas informed the body this was the last committee meeting of the 2021 Fiscal Year. Mr. Kudlas confirmed planning for four meetings in the 2022 Fiscal Year with the possibility for additional gatherings if necessary. Meeting dates for the next fiscal year were not proposed, however, the weeks of September 13th and 20th were suggested for consideration.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm