



A-NPDC

ACCOMACK-NORTHAMPTON PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION
P.O. BOX 417 • 23372 FRONT STREET • ACCOMAC, VIRGINIA 23301
(757) 787-2936 • TOLL FREE (866) 787-3001 • FAX: (757) 787-4221
WEBSITE: www.a-npdc.org

Minutes of the December 18, 2018 Meeting Eastern Shore of Virginia Ground Water Committee

The meeting of the Eastern Shore of Virginia Ground Water Committee was held at 10:00 AM on Tuesday, December 18, 2018 in the A-NPDC Conference Room of the Enterprise Building in Accomac, Virginia.

Members Present:

Charles Kolakowski
Daniel Hershey
Elaine Meil
Eugene R. Hampton
Grayson Chesser
Jim Belote
John Coker, Chairman
Paul Muhly, Vice Chairman

Members Absent:

Michael Mason
John Salm
Robert Meyers

Others Present:

Anne Violi, Accomack Citizen
Carmie Savage, ESSWCD
Curt Smith, A-NPDC
Holly Porter, DPI
Janet Sturgis, Northampton Planning Comm.
Jeff Poulterer, ES Locavores
Jim Crunk
Joseph Betit, Accomack Citizen
Ken Dufty, Northampton Resident

Larry Breech, ESRC&DC
Meriwether Payne, Accomack Resident
Rich Morrison, Accomack County
Roberta Kellam, Northampton Resident
Sarah Harrison Linton, Tyson Foods
Shannon Alexander, A-NPDC



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1. Call to Order

Chairman Coker called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM.

2. Public Participation

Three members of the public signed up to participate.

Mr. Larry Breech of the Eastern Shore Resource Conservation and Development Council introduced himself and offered to provide technology expertise regarding water reuse and organic aquifer enhancement.

Mrs. Janet Sturgis of Northampton County referenced the meeting with Rear Admiral Ann Phillips, the new Special Assistant to the Governor for Coastal Adaptation and Protection. She requests a public forum to educate Ann Phillips and the public about groundwater management concerns on the Shore.

Mrs. Roberta Kellam referenced the VDEQ groundwater information exchange held November 13th and stated that she has requested that in 2019 the event be held on the Shore, in or near Cape Charles. She stated that VDEQ is interested in a study on the saltwater interface and needs approximately \$200,000 or staff support. She noted that the pre-modeling for water withdrawals from the new CAFO permit applications show salt water intrusion and that there were inconsistencies between applications for the amount of water that would be needed for cooling purposes.

Holly Porter of DPI contributed information about the variations in growers, operations, and houses.

Britt McMillon reminded the Committee and the public that over a decade ago when VDEQ was just beginning to permit agricultural uses, the permit application use requests were estimates and were refined over time with data.

Mrs. Kellam referenced the Virginia Code and indicated that it may be easiest to request an Attorney General opinion concerning the authority of the localities to manage groundwater withdrawals. She also stated that she no longer served on the State Water Control Board and that there was now no member from the Shore. Chairman Coker indicated that the letter to Gov. Northam requesting an Eastern Shore appointment upon the term expiration should be sent soon and then a reminder letter in the late spring.

3. Review of the November 20, 2018 Minutes

The draft minutes of the November, 2018 meeting were presented.

Vice Chairman Muhly moved to approve the Minutes of the November 20, 2018 meeting. The motion, seconded by Committee Member Hampton, carried unanimously.

4. FY 2019 Financial Status Report

The FY 2019 Financial Status Report was not presented. The January report will include all transactions for November and December.



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5. Nomination for 2018 Ground Water Award

Staff reported that Committee Members and the public should be prepared to provide nominations before or during the January meeting.

6. Staff Update

The following staff updates were presented:

Committee Attendance Record

The FY2019 Committee Attendance Record was presented.

Environmental Reviews and Permits

Staff referred to the packet to report the current public notices from VDEQ.

Other Items

Desalination Options

Staff provided an update with regards to communication with the Town of Chincoteague and the Town of Cape Charles. During the meeting with Congresswoman Elaine Luria, Chincoteague representatives included the desalination plant in their discussions.

VDH Septic & Well Services – Hardship Guidelines to be developed by July 1, 2019

Staff provided a draft 2-page comment letter in response to the draft guidance. Overall the Committee agreed with the comments, but requested minor edits.

Vice Chairman Muhly moved to submit the updated letter to VDH as official comment from the Committee on the draft hardship guidelines. The motion, seconded by Committee Member Belote, carried unanimously.

HHWC Update

Staff reported that they intend to present a draft Joint Resolution Agreement to both Counties Boards during their respective January meetings.

Potential Legislative Initiatives

Staff supplied an update from the subcommittee discussions and subsequent research efforts. Staff is to return to the Committee with additional information in January and February. Discussion concerning use of local zoning options to manage water quantity, due to the direct correlation of quantity and quantity due to salt water intrusion, ended with a concern about enforcement and a need for additional information.



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Research & Publications

Staff included three publications concerning groundwater economics and governance.

7. Ground Water Consultant Report

The consultant provided a summary of the 2nd Annual VDEQ Groundwater Information Exchange which occurred November 13th.

The consultant reported that if VDEQ is to work with USGS to develop a saltwater intrusion monitoring strategy there will need to be a budgetary request made by representative(s). All Committee Members present agreed that staff should reach out to Delegate Bloxom and Senator Lewis to move this item forward well in advance of the January 11th deadline for budgetary amendments.

8. Other Matters:

Ms. Alexander identified two items of concern that were communicated to her by Mr. Granville Hogg and requested to be brought to the Committee:

1 – A malfunctioning stormwater pond on Townfield Rd in Northampton County which is continuously draining surficial aquifer waters to Mill Creek.

2 – Concerns about Bayview convenience center nutrient/bacteria loading to Kings Creek.

Discussion ensued about a VDH presentation from years ago that provided information about the source of bacterial contamination in ESVA waterways.

Mr. Smith reminded the Committee about the ditch LiDar data that is newly available.

9. Schedule Next Meeting & Adjournment

The next Committee meeting was scheduled for January 15th, 2019 at 10:00 AM in the A-NPDC Conference Room of the Enterprise Building in Accomac.

Chairman Coker adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m.

Copy test:

John Coker, Chairman

Elaine K. N. Meil, Secretary