

A-NPDC

ACCOMACK-NORTHAMPTON PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION
 P.O. BOX 417 • 21372 FRONT STREET • ACCOMACK, VIRGINIA 23001
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 WEB SITE: www.a-npdc.org

Minutes of the May 16th, 2023 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, May 16th, 2023 in the hybrid format – virtually on the Zoom Platform and in person – in the conference room of the Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce in Melfa, VA.

<u>Members Present</u>	<u>Members Absent</u>	<u>Others Present</u>
Paul Muhly, Chairman	Mike Mason	Kellen Singleton, A-NPDC
John Coker, Vice Chairman	Charles Kolakowski	Britt McMillan, ARCADIS*
Sue Mastyl	Paul Grossman	Joe Betit, ES Mgmt.
Roberta Kellam	Ann Hayward Walker	Jennifer Lorden, ES Mgmt.
Daniel Hershey		Cathy Plant, VDH
Grayson Chesser		Jessica Hargis, VDH
Elaine Mell, Secretary*		Jeremy Eggers, NASA
		David Liu, NASA
		Amy Barra, NASA
		Kristi Francisco, NASA
		TJ Meyer, NASA*
		Curtis Consolvo, GeoResources*
		Joe Grist, VDEQ*
		Bill Leslie, r/o Cpt. Cove*
		Jason Pope, USGS*
		Brian Joynes*

**Signifies Zoom participant*

1. Call to Order

Chairman Muhly called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM.

2. Public Participation

None.

3. Minutes of April 18th 2023 Meeting

The draft minutes of the April 18th 2023 Meeting was presented.

Mem. Mastyl moved to approve the minutes. **Seconded by Mem. Hershey**, the



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motion carried with Vice Chm. Coker abstaining.

4. April 2023 Financial Report

The FY 2023 Financial Status Report for April 2023 was presented.

Total Bills Payable as of May 9th 2023 equaled \$844.72; total revenues received equaled \$0.00.

Mem. Kellam moved to approve the FY 2023 Financial Status Report for April 2023. Seconded by Mem. Coker, the motion carried.

5. May 16, 2023 Staff Report

Staff updated the committee on:

- VA Pollution Abatement Program Permit Numbers VPA01079, VPA01035, VPA01080, VPA01047, VPA01076.
- The proposed enforcement action for the Town of Cape Charles concerning violations of State Water Control Board statutes and regulations.
- Groundwater Withdrawal Permits GW0072400 - The Ivy Farm, Locustville, Accomack County, VA and GW0065701- Kuzzens, Inc., Machipango, Northampton County, VA.
- June 26, 2023 9VAC25-190 and 9VAC25-151 State Water Control Board meetings.

Staff updated the committee on old and new business including GWC website status and the April 25, 2023 DEQ Drought Watch Advisory Declaration for Affected Drought Evaluation Regions including the Eastern Shore.

Mr. McMillan informed the Committee that the Drought Water Advisory was created 22-23 years ago adding that the system could serve as an additional trigger for an official state advisory. Mr. Grist further detailed that the advisory is composed of multiple agencies who factor in crops, fire threats, groundwater levels, and regional conditions. Chm. Muhly and Mem. Mastyl inquired about local monitoring and agriculture water use effects.

Chm. Muhly updated the Committee on GWC search engine results. The Committee discussed local misconceptions concerning the Eastern Shore's sole source aquifer designation and the potential policy influence. Mr. McMillan confirmed the designation and will supply the Committee with the supporting document.



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6. NASA PFAS Status Update

Mr. Eggers, Office of Communications Associate Chief at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center – Wallops Flight Facility introduced the NASA team to the GWC. Since 2017 NASA has been working closely with ATSDR, EPA, the Town of Chincoteague, VDEQ, and VDH to track regulatory changes and update the public and local, state, and federal agencies on sampling results and actions being taken.

David Liu, PE, Medical and Environmental Management Division Goddard Space Flight Center - Wallops Flight Facility presented *NASA Update on Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (2023)* updating the Committee on:

Past and present actions being taken by NASA concerning Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) including:

- NASA's supplemental supply of water to the Town of Chincoteague from 2017 to April 2021.
- PFOS and PFOA low detection limits in drinking water since September 2019
- NASA's installation of a water treatment system to remove PFAS; beginning in April 2021
- Wallops Flight Facility Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances concentrations of PFOA and PFOS less than 1 ppt and detections of four other PFAS compounds at less than 5 ppt.
- The removal of two production wells were from service; the installation and connection of a new well.
- The installation/sampling of perimeter wells and observation wells with no detection off-site exposure via groundwater.
- Quarterly sampling of surface water in Little Mosquito Creek, Jenneys Gut, and on-site streams (more than 90 samples at 13 locations).
- The increase in the number of compounds analyzed as new methods are developed/approved for drinking water with 29 compounds currently being analyzed to lowest available detection limits.

A history and technical specs on the granular activated carbon (GAC) based PFAS Water Treatment System. The treatment system has effectively removed PFAS from the water provided to the Town of Chincoteague's drinking water system. NASA samples the system bi-weekly.

On-going PFAS site investigations that have detected PFAS sources present in several areas on both Main Base and Wallops Island, including fire stations, former fire training area, and Lear Jet Crash area with PFAS detected in surface water samples on-site, in Little Mosquito Creek and Jenneys Gut. NASA is studying treatment options to control on-site sources and/or eliminate off-site movement of PFAS. NASA is currently working with ATSDR, EPA, VDEQ, and VDH to develop a plan for additional investigation and treatment options for PFAS on and around the Facility.



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The GWC was presented with PFAS Contacts at NASA, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), the EPA, and Virginia contacts at the DEQ, VDH, and the Eastern Shore Health District.

Chm. Muhly inquired about the testing method and whether testing is conducted with a single or range of tests. Chm. Muhly also inquired as to whether PFAS testing was conducted at the Rocket Lab Facility. Mr. Liu detailed that the test is conducted with two duplicated test sets priced at \$400 per test. NASA has a research well at the Wallops Facility and also provides water to the facility.

Mem. Hershey asked if NASA is seeing PFAS migration in any specific direction. Mr. Liu responded that general flow is generally directed towards the surface level.

Mem. Kellam reiterated concerns regarding off-base PFAS use e.g., emergency incidences responded to by the Wallops Flight Facility Fire Department since Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF) use beginning in 1970. Mem. Kellam also inquired as to whether any PFAS bioaccumulation testing has occurred, how long Chincoteague residents were exposed, as to whether there was a follow-up, and if NASA is monitoring exposure routes. Mr. Liu instructed the Committee to direct questions about specific concerns and instances to his office and added that treatment options and PFAS remediation for surface water and migration are being studied. Archival research may be necessary to determine historical AFFF site use specifics. Mr. Eggers followed-up that there is no standard for PFAS biological testing and that Chincoteague drinking water supply exposure ended in 2017 adding that the EPA and ATSDR would best to contact concerning ongoing human health effects.

Chm. Muhly thanked the NASA team for their presentation and responsiveness. Mr. Eggers thanked the Committee for the opportunity adding that NASA has been proactive and relatively ahead on the ubiquitous issue.

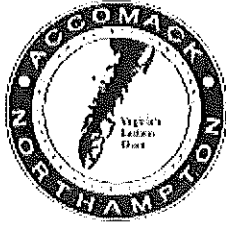
Staff will post Mr. Liu presentation on the GWC ANPDC website.

7. Residential Well Testing Program

Staff updated the Committee on Residential Well Water Testing Sub-Committee work. Chm. Muhly informed the Committee that Residential Well Testing Subcommittee meeting will be held in Nassawadox to reduce Sub-committee member travel times. The Committee discussed regional landfills as potential testing locations. Mem. Kellam added the need of the Committee to determine purview, mission statement, and to compile existing data. Mr. McMillan referred to an existing study by Gary Spearman concerning historical contamination.

8. May 16, 2023 Ground Water Consultant Report

Mr. McMillan discussed the 80-percent Drawdown Criteria. The primary technical limitation to how much groundwater can be withdrawn from the confined aquifers is based on lowered water levels, as established in the regulations under 9VAC25-610 as



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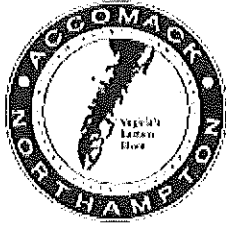
the 80-percent Drawdown Criteria. Mr. McMillan presented to the Committee illustrated applications of the 80% drawdown criteria to the Eastern Shore. A contour map of water level /drawdown of the Upper and Lower Yorktown Aquifer was presented. In general, the Lower and Upper Yorktown Aquifers are at 30 ft. and 10 ft., respectively, of the DEQ 80% drawdown criteria. The Perdue facility withdrawal area is approaching 80% drawdown criteria. Mr. McMillan is still in the process of analyzing the groundwater withdrawal information and will disseminate with sampling plan. Once past critical level, future withdrawals will be limited. The Committee discussed community awareness of at-risk aquifers.

Mr. McMillan updated the Committee on the draft Supplemental Surficial Aquifer Investigation including data request for the Eastern Shore Model Simulation of Potentiometric Groundwater Surface Elevations - Total Permitted Use and the 67 surficial aquifer wells associated with 23 permitted facilities on the Eastern Shore.

Mr. Grist updated the Committee on upcoming DEQ departures and introduced new staff. Scott Kudlas' last day at DEQ is May 31, 2023. Weedon Cloe started May 10, 2023 and is the new Program Manager for the Office of Water Supply. Jutta Schneider, Director of the Water Planning Division, will retire in August, but will take extended leave starting in early June. The Office of Water Supply is within Water Planning Division. Mr. Grist announced that he will be stepping down as Program Manager for the Office of Water Withdrawal Permitting in the Water Permitting Division on May 24, 2023 and will be transferring to the Marine Resources Commission to serve as Deputy Chief in the Fisheries Management Division. Chm. Muhly thanked Mr. Grist for his years of service and work.

Chm. Muhly read to the Committee Mem. Grossman's email concerning Town of Cape Charles violations "Fw: May 2023 Eastern Shore Ground Water Committee Meeting" for the record:

"Re Town of CC violations, this is a culmination of mishaps over a period of time. While awaiting our utility purchase (SCC filing soon), we have retained VAW to assist the TM in oversight of the plant and operators. Many mishaps are simply staff oversight. Will not expound on personnel matters. VAW is now here on a weekly basis. Budget \$150,000 for their services. We cannot sell our facilities fast enough!"



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Schedule Next Meeting & Adjournment

The next Committee meeting was scheduled for June 20, 2023 from 10AM-12PM at the ESVA Chamber of Commerce, Melfa, VA.

Chm. Muhly adjourned the meeting at 12:05 PM

Copy test:

John Coker, Vice Chairman

Elaine K. N. Meil, Secretary