

# A-NPDC

ACCOMACK-NORTHAMPTON PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION  
 P.O. BOX 417 • 23321 FRONT STREET • ACCOMACK, VIRGINIA 23301  
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 WEBSITE: www.a-npdc.org

## Minutes of the August 15th, 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, August 15th, 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
Ann Hayward Walker	Charles Kolakowski	Britt McMillan, ARCADIS*
Sue Mastyl	Elaine Meil, Secretary	Curtis Consolvo, GeoResources
Paul Grossman	John Coker, Vice Chairman	Jason Pope, USGS*
Daniel Hershey		
Grayson Chesser		
Steve Sturgis		

*\*Signifies Zoom participant*

1. Call to Order

Chairman Muhly called the meeting to order at 10:04 AM.

2. Public Participation

None.

3. Minutes of June 15th 2023 Meeting

The draft minutes of the June 15th 2023 Meeting was presented.

**Mem. Grossman moved to approve the minutes. Seconded by Mem. Hershey, the motion carried.**

4. July 2023 Financial Report

The FY 2024 Financial Status Report for July 2023 was presented.

Total Bills Payable as of July 30<sup>th</sup> 2023 equaled \$946.00; total revenues received equaled \$0.00.



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**Mem. Grossman moved to approve the FY 2024 Financial Status Report for July 2023. Seconded by Mem. Walker, the motion carried.**

## 5. Nominations and Election of Committee Officers

**Chmn. Muhly opened nominations from the floor for Chairman of the Eastern Shore of Virginia Ground Water Committee (GWC). Mem. Walker nominated Vice Chmn. Coker for GWC Chairman. The nomination was seconded by Chmn. Muhly.**

**Mem. Grossman moved to close nominations for GWC Chairman. Seconded by Mem. Mastyl, the motion carried.**

**By unanimous vote, Vice Chmn. Coker was elected GWC Chairman.**

**Chmn. Muhly opened nominations from the floor for Vice Chairman of the Eastern Shore of Virginia Ground Water Committee (GWC). Mem. Walker nominated Chmn. Muhly for GWC Vice Chairman. The nomination was seconded by Mem. Chesser.**

**Mem. Grossman moved to close nominations for GWC Vice Chairman. Seconded by Mem. Mastyl, the motion carried.**

**By unanimous vote, Chmn. Muhly was elected GWC Vice Chairman.**

**Chmn. Muhly opened nominations from the floor for Secretary of the Eastern Shore of Virginia Ground Water Committee (GWC). Mem. Mastyl nominated Sec. Meil for GWC Secretary. The nomination was seconded by Chmn. Muhly.**

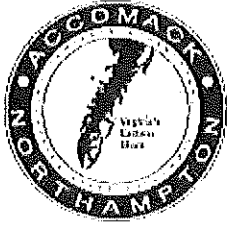
**Chmn. Muhly moved to close nominations for GWC Secretary. Seconded by Mem. Hershey, the motion carried.**

**By unanimous vote, Sec. Meil was elected GWC Secretary.**

## 6. Fiscal Year 2024 Proposed Annual Budget

The FY2024 Proposed Annual Budget was presented.

**Mem. Grossman moved to approve the FY 2024 Financial Status Report for May 2023. Seconded by Mem. Walker, the motion carried.**



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## 7. August 15, 2023 Staff Report

Staff updated the committee on:

- VA Pollution Abatement Program Permit Numbers VPA-01079, -01035, -01080, -01047, -01076.
- Groundwater Withdrawal Permit GW0042502 - YMCA Camp Silver Beach; 6272 YMCA Lane, Jamesville, VA 23395
- Groundwater Withdrawal Permit GW0069701 - David's Nursery; 3339 Mt. Hope Rd., Exmore, VA
- Groundwater Withdrawal Permit GW0033101 - Accomack County Office Building Water Works; Town of Accomack, Accomack County, VA 23301
- Groundwater Withdrawal Permit GW0065601 - Bowen Farm; 3061 Seaside Road, Exmore, VA 23350
- Groundwater Withdrawal Permit GW0046001 - Ballard Brothers Fish Company, Inc.; 1511 Townfield Dr. Cape Charles, VA 23310
- Groundwater Withdrawal Permit GW0039202 - Sunset Beach Resort and Campground; 32254 Lankford Hwy, Cape Charles, VA 23310
- June 21, 2023 9VAC25-192, June 22 State Water Control Board Meeting, and June 28 9VAC25-190 and 9VAC25-151 State Water Control Board meetings.

At its meeting of July 11, 2023, the Northampton County Board of Supervisors unanimously appointed Mr. Steve Sturgis to succeed Mrs. Kellam. Staff and members welcomed Mem. Sturgis to the GWC.

On July 14, 2023 the Eastern Shore Post republished a June 22, 2023 Virginia Mercury article "Scientist Study Natural Processes Affecting Eastern Shore Aquifers" by Charlie Paullin. Staff presented the article to the GWC.

The Committee discussed article inaccuracies and GWC response. Mem. Mastyl will draft a written response to the article addressing inaccuracies.

## 8. Presentation: The Virginia Eastern Shore Groundwater Model by Jason Pope

Jason Pope, Hydrologist at U.S. Geological Survey, presented his initial findings of The Virginia Eastern Shore Groundwater Model: A Nexus for Hydrologic Information Exchange and Analysis across Federal, State, and Local Agencies.

The group discussed the importance of the findings. GWC Advisor McMillan expounded explaining that topobathymetric info goes beyond model, e.g., sea level rise - enabling detailed delineation.

Mr. McMillan and Mr. Pope encouraged the Committee to explore, share, and provide feedback to the USGS Level Monitoring Application.



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75% of surface water withdrawals appear to be dug agriculture ponds.

Spatial pattern analysis suggests that paleochannels are primary groundwater sources for wells within paleochannel regions.

Mr. Pope explicated that more comprehensive well record data would advance efforts. The effects of anthropogenic contamination and well depth was discussed. Sourcing data from commercial well drillers was presented as a possibility.

Mr. Pope estimated model completion by the end of next year, 2024, after calibration work is completed.

Mem. Chesser inquired about DEQ water impoundment categorization. Mr. Consolvo reasoned it was a lack of DEQ categorization.

## 9. Residential Well Testing Program

The Ground Water Committee and GWC staff met June 30th, July 14th, and August 4th at the Northampton Free Public Library to draft an initial scope for the Residential Well Testing Program. The draft budgets \$84,528 for Residential Well Testing Program implementation.

Mem. Walker and Chmn. Muhly requests feedback from the larger group on the initial draft scope.

## 10. August 15, 2023 Ground Water Consultant Report

Mr. McMillan updated the group on the specifics of new draft permits. He noted that Sunset Beach Draft Permit GW0039202 stood as an example of potable, surficial supply availability on the Eastern Shore adding that an update from DEQ was needed before any presentation concerning surficial ground water supply was presented to the Board of Supervisors.

Inconsistencies and misstatements with Ballard Brothers GW0046001 Permit Application were noted including the lack of site info for surficial aquifer and water quality monitoring requirements as well as the inclusion of saltwater intrusion dynamics falsehoods and surficial aquifer mischaracterizations.

The group discussed GWC procedure to address DEQ oversights and misstatements. Mem. Grossman advised developing a GWC protocol including providing GWC Advisor prior license to comment to DEQ for Committee.

Mem. Chesser noted the lack of organizational continuity and ESVA familiarity within the DEQ adding that the DEQ previously had a dedicated staff representative for the ESVA region.



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## Schedule Next Meeting & Adjournment

The next Committee meeting was scheduled for September 19, 2023 from 10AM-12PM at the ESVA Chamber of Commerce, Melfa, VA.

**Mem. Grossman moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mem. Hershey, the motion carried. The Meeting was adjourned at 12:12 PM.**

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John Coker, Vice Chairman

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Elaine K. N. Meil, Secretary