



A-NPDC

ACCOMACK-NORTHAMPTON PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION
P.O. BOX 412 • 23322 FRONT STREET • ACCOMACK, VIRGINIA 23301
(757) 787-2936 • TOLL FREE (866) 787-3001 • FAX: (757) 787-4221
WEBSITE: www.a-npdc.org

Minutes of the April 15, 2025 Meeting

Eastern Shore of Virginia Ground Water Committee

The meeting of the Eastern Shore of Virginia Ground Water Committee was held at 10:00 A.M. on Tuesday, April 15, 2025. It was held in person at the Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce's board room in Melfa, Virginia.

<u>Members Present</u>	<u>Members Absent</u>	<u>Others Present</u>
John Coker, Chairman	Charles Kolakowski	Britt McMillan / ARCADIS
Calvin Washington Sr. / Vice Chairman	Mike Mason	Rita Chandler / A-NPDC
Sue Mastyl	Steve Sturgis	Faith Lewis / A-NPDC
Daniel Hershey		Granville Hogge *
Paul Grossman		Caitlin Kelly / DEQ *
Elaine Meil / A-NPDC		Curtis Consolvo / Geo Resources *
Ann Hayward Walker		Granville Hogg*
Grayson Chesser		

* Participated by Zoom.



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1. **Call to Order**

Chairman Coker called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

2. **Public Participation**

No public participation at this meeting.

Chairman Coker polled everybody in the room to see if there were any issues with federal government funding. Shortages of funds or the freezing of funds has affected several organizations. Staff being fired or forced to retire has been an obstacle in getting things promoted to the next level or completed because of the shortages.

3. **Minutes of the March 18, 2025 Meeting & Committee Attendance**

Approval of the minutes for March 18, 2025 and the Committee Attendance Record were requested. Member Mastyl wanted a few corrections to the minutes before being approved. The verbiage regarding Google to downgrade the search mechanism to the previous website. The correction was noted.

Member Mastyl moved to approve the minutes from the March 18, 2025 meeting and the Committee Attendance Record, as amended. Seconded by Member Gossman, the motion was carried by unanimous vote.

4. **Financial Status Report**

The March Financial Status Report was presented.

Member Grossman moved to approve the March Financial Status Report as presented. Seconded by Member Walker, the motion was carried by unanimous vote.

5. **April 15, 2025 Staff Report**

Old Business:

County Letter Regarding Term:

- A letter was compiled and ready for Chairman Coker to sign to notify both county supervisors of the groundwater committee members that have agreed to another term.
- The purpose of the letter was to communicate the measures to resolve the matter of the Committee membership and the terms would match the Joint Resolution. The current term of all appointed members terms would be from January 9, 2023 until January 8, 2026.
- Chairman Coker signed the letter.



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Search Results for the Website:

- Staff has contacted Google to request them to demote the a-npdc.org website and forward to the esvaplan.org site.
- Bing search has already demoted a-npdc.org.
- Ben Fox, from Accomack County, has been contacted and the link from the old website to the new site has been completed.

Residential Well Testing Update:

- Staff obtained the two samples for the retests. They were collected on April 15, 2025..
- GWC Consultant McMillan transported these samples to the laboratory in Richmond.
- There were two residential wells positive for E Coli.

Water Supply Planning

- A Water Supply Plan Kick-Off meeting was held on 03/13/2025 at 1:00 p.m. at the Parksley Regional Library.
- All localities were invited to attend.

New Business:

There was no new business to discuss at this time.

6. **April 15, 2025 Ground Water Consultant Report**

GWC Consultant received correspondence from Jason Pope, USGS. He has been away with a family medical emergency. He will continue his work on the Ground Water model. Concerns were noted of possible funding cuts. Chairman Coker stated this needed to be a priority and was very important to the work of the Ground Water Committee.

There were no draft permits currently submitted for public comment. There have only been two draft permits since October 1, 2024. They are Eastern Shore Yacht and Country Club (GWI000206) and Brady Poultry Farms (GWI000700).

GWC Consultant gave a presentation on the results of the Residential Well Samplings. A draft copy of the Eastern Shore of VA Ground Water Committee Residential Well Testing Summary Results was included in the packet. Some of the results are listed below.

- **Nitrate+Nitrite & Sulfate** - All samples for nitrate and sulfate were below their respective drinking water maximum contaminant level. Nitrate is mostly associated with agricultural and lawn care sources and poorly functioning septic systems. Sulfate is most commonly associated with marine sediments and naturally occurring organic matter occurring in aquifer material.
- **Iron** - The iron levels were low for most residents. 90% were less than 1 mg/L and 0.5 mg/L. The highest concentration was 3.49 mg/L.



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- **Bacteria** - Two samples tested positive for E. Coli. New samples were collected today to be retested. E. Coli is found in the intestines of warm blooded animals (humans, domestic and wild animals). E. Coli does not live or grow outside of the intestines. Total Coliform tested positive in 32 samples. Total Coliform is a naturally occurring bacteria in the soil, vegetation, and water.
- **Total Dissolved Solids** - Most of the samples showed it to be high. The most likely source of TDS on the Shore is Sodium and Chloride (saltwater). Eight samples had elevated levels and exceeded the Secondary Drinking Water Level of 500 mg/L.
- **pH** - Almost 40% of the samples were outside the "near neutral" range for pH of 6.5 to 8.5 (with neutral being 7). Water with a pH < 6.5 is considered acidic. Water >8.5 is considered basic. Water in the Columbia Surficial aquifer tends to be acidic (< 6.5) and water in the Yorktown-Eastover aquifer range from acidic, where the aquifer is composed mainly of sands to basic where the aquifer is composed of shell material.

The DEQ Permitting Enhancement and Evaluation Platform (PEEP) program provides information on where in the permit process an application is and the target completion date for the permit. The PEEP system can be accessed at the address below.

<https://www.deq.virginia.gov/get-involved/virginia-permit-transparency-and-permitting-enhancement-and-evaluation-platform>

There are four applications in process currently, all in Northampton County.

Facility Name	Permit No.	Owner	Target Decision Date
Highway Farm	GW1000291	Ray Newman	11/8/2025
Jones 2 Farm	GW1000360	Curtis Jones & son	11/8/2025
Newman Farms	GW1000290	Ray Newman	11/8/2025
Seaford Farm	GW1000371	Willis Family Limited Partnership	11/8/2025

Member Grossman requested the Committee submit FOIA requests for the above applications to view the justification of the permit and action items to review before the public comment notice is due.

Member Meil suggested making a FOIA blanket request for all the Ground Water permit applications received for Accomack and Northampton Counties for the year. This FOIA request would only be good for a year from the date requested. A new FOIA request would have to be drawn up once every year.



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The draft response to DEQ Director Rolband's letter on Brady Poultry Farm (GWI000700) Permit was shared with the Committee. The letter emphasized the disappointment about DEQ's decision regarding the request to conduct an alternative source investigation. The letter noted the long-term ground water user, Perdue Farms, recently had their Ground Water Permit amount reduced below current actual use due to over allocation in the area near Brady Poultry Farm. Discussion ensued regarding what they wanted to add to the above letter and the intention of the letter.

Member Grossman moved to approve the sending of the letter to DEQ. It was seconded by Member Mastyl, the motion was carried by unanimous vote.

7. **Attachments**

8. **Other Matters**

Granville Hogg had an issue with a ground water discharge on Townfield Road in Northampton County. He has brought this situation to Northampton County as well as the Ground Water Committee before on several occasions. The issue is the developer installed a 36" discharge pipe below the normal ground water level. The permit mistakenly allows drainage of the surficial aquifer. This has been permitted to drain the upper ground water aquifer. Northampton County has indicated to Mr. Hogg there has been progress in resolving the matter. Mr. Hogg stated there has been no progress. He would like the Ground Water Committee to investigate this matter. He has conducted several measurements of the discharge. During the drought there is a ground water discharge in excess of 300,000 gallons per month. This needs to be addressed to protect the Columbia Aquifer.

Chairman Coker stated this has been brought up before and he would allow Vice Chairman Washington to develop a letter addressing this issue and recuse himself. Chairman Coker will bring information about the developer to the next meeting.

He would also like the issue of reducing the use of ground water to wash shellfish. Mr. Hogg stated the shellfish can be washed on the site where they are grown and harvested. There is no need to use potable water to wash mud from the shellfish.

9. **Scheduled Next Meeting**

The next scheduled meeting for the Ground Water Committee will be held on Tuesday, May 20, 2025; at 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce's Board Room in Melfa, Virginia.

10. **Adjournment**

Member Grossman made the motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Member Walker, the motion was carried by unanimous vote.



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The meeting was adjourned at 11:59 a.m.

John Coker, Chairman

Elaine K. N. Meil, Secretary/Treasurer



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EASTERN SHORE OF VIRGINIA GROUND WATER COMMITTEE FY 2025 ATTENDANCE RECORD

Member	Jul	Aug	Se p	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Calvin Washington Sr.	*	X	X	X	X	*	X	X	X			
Dan Hershey	*	X	X	/	X	*	X	X	X			
Grayson Chesser	*	X	/	/	X	*	/	X	X			
Sue Mastyl	*	X	X	X	X	*	X	X	X			
John Coker	*	/	/	/	X	*	X	X	X			
Paul Grossman	*	X	X	/	X	*	X	X	X			
Steve Sturgis	*	X	/	/	/	*	X	/	X			
Ann Hayward Walker	*	X	/	/	/	*	X	X	X			
Charles Kolakowski	*	/	X	/	X	*	/	/	/			
Mike Mason	*	/	/	/	/	*	/	/	/			
Elaine Meil	*	X	X	/	X	*	X	X	X			
-	Not A Member	X					()	Alternate Present				
*	No Mtg Held	NA					/	Absent				
				Member Present								
				Not Applicable								

