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

1. **Call to Order**
   Vice Chairman Washington called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

2. **Public Participation**
   Brian Murray was concerned about monitoring the ground water usage of the increasing developments in Bay Creek and Exmore. This could possibly deplete the ground water resources. In response to Mr. Murray it was understood if usage was anything over 300,000 gallons of water a month, it would require a permit from DEQ. This would also be tracked in the municipal water systems in Cape Charles and Exmore.

3. **Minutes of the March 17, 2026 Meeting & Committee Attendance**
   Approval of the minutes for the March 17, 2026 Meeting and the Committee Attendance Record were requested.

   Member Mastyl moved to approve the minutes from the March 17 2026 meeting and the Committee Attendance Record. It was seconded by Member Grossman, the motion was carried by unanimous vote.

4. **Budget Amendments**
   Staff presented a handout and explained the budget amendments to the committee. They were listed below:

   Budget Amendment B - Ground Water Plan Project Implementation
   Budget Amendment C - Ground Water Plan Update

   Member Grossman moved to approve the budget amendments (B&C). It was seconded by Member Mastyl, the motion was carried by unanimous vote.

5. **Financial Status Report**
   The Financial Status Report was presented. Member Grossman moved to accept the Financial Status Report as presented. This was seconded by Member Hershey, the motion was carried by unanimous vote.

6. **April 21, 2026 Staff Report**

   **<u>Old Business:</u>**

   <u>Project Identification for FY 2026</u>
   The first working session for identification of potential projects for the coming year was done at last month's meeting. The GWC requested the three recommendations from USGS to be added to the list. The table was broken down into 4 categories such as Institutional Mechanisms, Eastern Shore

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Research Needs, Monitoring, and Alternate Source Development. GWC Advisor McMillan will update the table with updated information.

Institutional Mechanisms include the County Comprehensive Plans and updating the ordinances. This will ensure Ground Water Protection and Preservation is included in those ordinances and plans to the extent possible.

Eastern Shore Research Needs include the Hydraulic Characteristics, Water Quality, and Other such topics as deep aquifers and climate change.

Monitoring includes Hydraulic Characteristics and Water Quality.

Alternate Source Development include Surficial (Columbia) Aquifer, Brackish Water / Saltwater Treatment (membrane & ultrafiltration), Reuse, and Enhanced Recharge & Aquifer Storage & Recovery.

Member Mastyl made a motion for GWC Advisor McMillan to draft a letter to NASA asking them to voluntarily report their water usage. The Chair stated the motion as to draft a letter to NASA, it was carried by unanimous vote. DEQ has a water withdrawal reporting program which is outside of the permit requirements. This is where NASA would report, which is in the state database. GWC McMillan stated NASA (Wallops Island) had previously reported in 2023-2024 but it didn't appear the NASA (Main Base) was included.

The list of Ground Water Projects needs to be updated for 2026. The Committee will be able to put priority projects up front and manage what resources might be available to assist in making the project a success.

There were numerous comments made regarding choosing the resources available and prioritizing the projects.

Subsidence Monitoring

A request was made to USGS to prepare a concept write up along with a rough estimate of the project costs for the purpose of seeking funding to support the installation of subsidence monitoring, including aerial monitoring, at the tide gauge in Kiptopeake. Sam Caldwell from USGS will be giving an estimate.

Greg Connick and John Jastram, USGS, have drafted a proposal for subsidence monitoring and are engaged in conversations with NOAA to confirm their willingness to collaborate. This will give us permission to install equipment at the tide gauge.

Separately, USGS has been compiling information about airborne electromagnetic surveys to map paleochannels and freshwater-saline interface.

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Desalinization Systems

There was a discussion regarding the process of desalinization. The cost of construction and operating the system needs to be researched.

**New Business:**

Special Election Needed to Fill Vacancy of the Chairman

According to Article IV of the Committee Bylaw, the positions of Chairman and Vice Chairman are to alternate between the two counties with neither position representing the same county at the same time. The Chairman and Vice Chairman have a two consecutive term limit. Officer terms end in June.

Chairman - Vacant, Northampton County
Vice Chairman - Calvin Washington, Accomack County
The Chair stated the motion as to nominate Member Dixon Leatherbury to fill the vacancy of chairman until the end of June 2026. This was seconded by Member Grossman, the motion was carried by unanimous vote.

7. **Groundwater Consultant Report**

GWC McMillan stated in 2016 the Committee distributed to the public a 2 page informational document which was easy to read and understand. He asked what was the pleasure of the Committee to update this document and have it available to the public. The handout was titled, Beneficial Use of the Surficial Aquifer. This was very useful in informing the public about the surficial aquifer.

Home and Fitchett Farms, (GWI000355), has submitted a draft permit for a renewal. This permit is used for agricultural irrigation which is for 110 acres of land. The proposed permit expands operations from 92 acres to 110 acres. This is approximately a 20% increase in the irrigation area. The irrigation water is supplied by four wells screened in the surficial aquifer. One emergency backup well is also screened in the surficial aquifer. The permit term has also been extended from a 10 year term to a 15 year term. GWC McMillan explained the pertinent information related to this permit.

Member Grossman made a motion GWC McMillan send a letter of support to DEQ. This was seconded by Member Chesser, the motion was carried by unanimous vote.

8. **Attachments**

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**9. Other Matters**

There were no other matters at this time.

**10. Scheduled Next Meeting**

The next scheduled meeting for the Groundwater Committee will be held on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce's Boardroom in Melfa, Virginia.

**11. Adjournment**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 p.m.

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Calvin Washington, Vice Chairman

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Elaine K. N. Meil, Secretary/Treasurer