A-NPDC
ACCOMACK-NORTHAMPTON PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION
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Minutes of the June 16, 2026 Regular Meeting of the Eastern Shore Groundwater Committee

1. Call to Order
   Chairman Leatherbury called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

2. Public Participation
   Andy Keeling, of Indian Trail, requested adding Public Comment to the end. This would require the by-laws of the committee to be changed.

   Jill Wilt, of Accomack County, commented about the water hydrants at CVS in Onley gushing water for over one month. Ms. Wilt requests the GWC consider further action.

   Ken Dufty commented about Vaulted Deep's proposal. Mr. Dufty also stated comments will be submitted for the Northampton County Rezoning proposal.

3. Minutes of the May 19, 2026 Meeting & Committee Attendance
   Approval of the minutes for the May 19, 2026 Meeting and the Committee Attendance Record were requested.

   Member Mastyl requested some minor typo corrections to be made in the May 19, 2026 minutes. Member Grossman requested a correction in the attendance record, a member who was present was listed as absent.

   Member Grossman moved to approve the minutes from the May 19, 2026 meeting with corrections and the Committee Attendance Record. It was seconded by Member Washington, the motion was carried by unanimous vote.

4. Financial Status Report
   The May Financial Statement was presented. Member Grossman moved to accept the May Financial Statement as presented. This was seconded by Member Mastyl, the motion was carried by unanimous vote.

5. June Staff Report

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Old Business

Project Identification for FY26

The working session for identification of potential projects for the coming year is still needed.

Subsidence Monitoring

The GWC has received a proposal from USGS regarding the subsidence monitoring.

Groundwater Award / Newspaper

The Annual Groundwater Award and photo of Paul Muhly's family accepting the award was in the June 12, 2026 edition of the *Eastern Shore Post.*

Informational Item

Ben Sagara of Department of Wildlife Resources spoke about a project they are working on to restore wetlands on 8,000 acres. Mr. Sagara offered to make a presentation to the Groundwater Committee at the September 2026 meeting.

Intern

Jason Pope stated the Eastern Shore Health District may be scanning VDH documents within a week or two. This would change the intern scope of work.

Member Grossman made a motion to postpone the matter of proceeding with the intern until the next meeting when more information was available. It was seconded by Member Washington. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

New Business

USGS Model Update

Jason Pope, from USGS, has provided an update that the completion of the new groundwater model is currently expected to be completed at the end of this year. A USGS report will then be generated. In discussions with DEQ, they expect it will take an additional year to implement it as a regulatory tool.

Groundwater Dashboard

Member Spuck stated that with increasing issues regarding development on the Shore, qualities such as transparency, clarity, accountability, and meaningfulness are very important when relaying information to the public. He suggested using a Groundwater Dashboard. The purpose of this dashboard is to compile complicated data in an easy to understand, clear, and simple format, to educate the public on different topics of concern, and to keep the information updated.

Website

A consultant has been selected and work is underway.

6. Groundwater Consultant Report

GWC McMillan stated there were no draft permits currently submitted for public comment at this time.

DEQ monitors drought conditions through the Drought Monitoring Task Force (DMTF)
The four drought levels are categorized as either normal, watch, warning, and emergency.
GWC McMillan will alert us each month the current level for the Eastern Shore of VA.
The entire Eastern Shore is under a drought warning. Several areas within Virginia have implemented mandatory conservation measures (but not on the Shore).

The 2026 Priority Matrix contained some items as priority 1. They are listed as follows:

- Freshwater-Saltwater Transition: The potential for saltwater intrusion continues to be one of the more important sustainability concerns with the confined Yorktown-Eastover aquifer system. This is not as well understood as groundwater level changes.
- Sea Level Rise: Along with climate change, this is a factor that impacts the freshwater-saltwater transition. While this is a long term concern and not short term, monitoring over an extended period is necessary to quantify sea level rise.
- Water Use: The principle uncertainty is quantifying the use that is not reported to DEQ, consisting of a large number of small withdrawals (less than 300,00 gal/month)
- Water Quality: Water Quality is not well quantified and is commonly assumed to be "poor" quality. A better understanding of the quality of the surficial aquifer is important to increase use of this more sustainable water source. Note, the category

for "agricultural nutrients - nitrogen is included with the surficial aquifer water quality.

7. **Attachments**

8. **Other Matters**

There were no other matters at this time.

9. **Scheduled Next Meeting**

The next scheduled meeting for the Groundwater Committee will be held on Tuesday, August 18, 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.

10. **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 12:20 p.m.

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L. Dixon Leatherbury, Chairman

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Elaine K. N. Meil, Secretary/Treasurer