# Minutes of the September 15, 2026 Meeting
# Eastern Shore of Virginia Ground Water Committee

A regular meeting of the Eastern Shore of Virginia Ground Water Committee was held in the ESVA Chamber of Commerce board room in Melfa, Virginia on Tuesday, September 15, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. Virginia.

1. **Call to Order**

Chairman Leatherbury, indicating that a quorum was present, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

**Present:**
Dixon Leatherbury
Claudette Lajoie
Sue Mastyl
Paul Grossman
Matt Spuck
Daniel Hershey

**Absent:**
Elaine Meil
Calvin Washington
Mike Mason
Grayson Chesser
Steve Sturgis

**Non-members Present:**
Rita Chandler, A-NPDC
Anne Doyle, A-NPDC

**Minutes of the September 15, 2026 Groundwater Committee Meeting**

Britt McMillan, Arcadis
Jason Pope, USGS
Cecil Byles, DEQ
Aylett Lipford, VA DWR
Michael Carlo, VA DWR
Andy Teeling, Painter, VA
Sheila Traina, Cheriton
Ken Dufty, Exmore
Greg Tempe, Onancock, P.C.
Dana Simson, Onancock, P.C.
Jessica-Rose Celik, Accomac, VA
J. E. Gillen, Belle Haven, VA

2. **Public Participation**

Two members of the public spoke, the second member offering her time to the first member.

3. **Presentation by the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources**

Aylett Lipford and Michael Carlo, DWR Wetland Biologists, gave a PowerPoint presentation on voluntary wetland restoration and enhancement projects taking place on Eastern Shore property owned by the state. Upon the presentation's conclusion, Ms. Mastyl asked if DWR had considered introducing

beavers. The presenters noted that introduction of a new species into a region carried a host of specific requirements and presented a species control issue. Ms. Lajoie asked how many monitored wells were on DWR's Eastern Shore property. The presenters responded that there are fewer than 10 monitored wells in Accomack County, and none in Northampton County.

**4. Minutes of the June 16, 2026 and the August 18, 2026 Meetings**

Adoption of the minutes of the June 16 meeting and the August 18 meeting were requested. Mr. Grossman moved to accept the June minutes, seconded by Mr. Hershey. The motion carried unanimously. Regarding the August minutes, Ms. Mastyl requested correction of two typographical errors before approval. Mr. Grossman moved to approve the August minutes. Mr. Hershey seconded it, and the motion was approved unanimously.

4. **Financial Statement**

The A-NPDC audit is in progress. As a result, the financial statement will be presented to the Groundwater Committee during its October 2026 meeting, once the audit is completed.

5. **Staff Report**

Ms. Rita Chandler provided the staff report, noting that the groundwater consultant would provide technical updates as well as specific project information during his report. She noted a bylaws change would be presented later in the agenda, and she introduced a second recommended bylaws change related to the nomination of officers during the July meeting. Since the committee no longer meets during the month of July, a bylaws change is needed. The topic was discussed and committee members were in favor of moving the nominations date to the June meeting. Chairman Leatherbury concluded that this bylaws change would be voted on during the succeeding (October) meeting.

Ms. Chandler noted that she included the September meeting packet the Volume 39, Number 9 ShoreLine Journal article written by Ms. Mastyl. Ms. Mastyl serves on the editorial board of the ShoreLine Journal for the 501(c)(3) organization Citizens for a Better Eastern Shore. After the committee's discussion, Ms. Mastyl agreed to put future groundwater articles under the *staff report* heading rather than using her name while she serves as a Groundwater Committee member.

**8. Old Business:**

The project for the Groundwater Committee has not been selected for FY26 yet. Discussion ensued; identification of a project will be held off until Mr. McMillan provides an updated list of potential projects at the October meeting.

A motion to accept the amendment to the Bylaws of the Groundwater Committee to allow for public participation at both the beginning and the end of the agenda was made by Member Grossman and seconded by Member Mastyl. The motion was approved unanimously.

**9. New Business:**

None

10. **Groundwater Consultant Report**

Consultant McMillan reviewed the Hydrologist Consultants report. He will send out the September report to the Groundwater Committee members in color to facilitate reading of the color-coded maps along with the summary of the recent USGS report provided by Jason Pope. Discussion ensued about improving monitoring well clusters for continuous monitoring. Currently, only four of the twenty cluster monitoring wells (four wells per cluster) on the Eastern Shore are continuous monitoring. DEQ generally installs the monitoring equipment and the cost is anticipated to be approximately $100,000 per cluster of four wells. Once installed, DEQ or USGS is responsible for maintaining the equipment.

11. **Attachments**

**12. Public Participation** – One member of the public suggested that DEQ and USGS hold an educational meeting for the general public.

**13. Next Scheduled Meeting**

The next scheduled meeting for the Ground Water Committee will be held on Tuesday, October 20, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. in the ESVA Chamber of Commerce's boardroom in Melfa, Virginia.

10. **Adjournment**

Mr. Grossman moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Hershey. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

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L. Dixon Leatherbury, Chairman Elaine K. N. Meil, Secretary/Treasurer