

## Virginia Water Monitoring Council Steering Committee Meeting

September 19, 2000

DOF Building, Charlottesville, VA

Notes taken by Jane Walker

### Organizations with representatives that attended:

|   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| Citizens for Water Quality                                      | Bill Shanabruch |
| United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA--Region III) | Chuck Kanetsky  |
| United States Geological Survey (USGS--Virginia Office)         | Ward Staubitz   |
| Virginia Association of Municipal Wastewater Agencies (VAMWA)   | Dan Barker      |
| Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR)        | Matt Bley       |
|   | Fran Geissler   |
| Virginia Department of Health (VDH)                             | Michele Monti   |
| Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)              | Don Smith       |
| Virginia Department of Forestry (DOF)                           | Sam Austin      |
| Virginia Water Resources Research Center (VWRRC)                | Jane Walker     |
| Virginia Water Well Association (VWWA)                          | Jane Cain       |

### Organizations with representatives who were unable attend:

- American Water Works Association (AWWA--Virginia Section)
- Virginia Agribusiness Council
- Virginia Marine Resources Commission
- Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF)
- Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS)
- Virginia Manufacturers Association (VMA)
- Virginia Water Environment Association (VWEA)
- Water Quality Academic Advisory Committee

The Virginia Water Monitoring Council Steering Committee met September 19, 2000 (11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.) at the Department of Forestry building in Charlottesville, Virginia. Ward Staubitz (Acting Chair, Steering Committee) of the USGS led the meeting. Eleven people representing 10 organizations attended. Each person introduced himself or herself.

The minutes from the July 11, 2000, VWMC Steering Committee meeting were distributed and accepted.

### Operations Committee Report:

Jane Walker, of the VWRRC, gave a report of the Operations Committee. The committee had a conference call to discuss strategic planning, the annual meeting, and funding. Ron Gregory, Jane Cain, David Frackelton, Ward Staubitz, Jane Walker, and invited guest Tanya Denckla participated in the call. Tanya Denckla with the Institute for Environmental Negotiations helped prepare for the strategic planning component of the September 19, 2000 Steering Committee meeting.

The latest program for the annual meeting and workshops was presented. Jean Gregory, who is leading the workshop on water quality standards had requested suggestions for the content of her workshop. It was suggested that she spend about 20 minutes giving a general overview of water quality standards (history, the relationship between EPA and states, and current standards) and then concentrate on coliform and nutrient standards. Chuck Kanetsky with EPA will invite someone from EPA to work with Jean Gregory on this workshop and ask him/her to discuss the possible upcoming national nutrient standards.

During the opening of the VWMC Annual Meeting (10:15 a.m.), Ward Staubitz will explain to the membership how nominations for the Steering Committee will be accepted from the floor. Nominations from the floor must have signatures of support from ten members and be ready before the business meeting begins on November 7, 2000 (12:15 p.m.). The Operations Committee suggests that the current Steering Committee members be introduced and asked to stand prior to the elections so the membership becomes more aware of the representatives on the Steering Committee. An Election Committee will facilitate the election process and count the ballots.

The Interactive Session, which focuses on the future direction of the VWMC and committee formation, will occur in the afternoon. Len Shabman with the VWRRRC was suggested to assist with this part of the meeting. Jane Walker offered to ask Len Shabman for his assistance and volunteered to help facilitate the session.

Jane Walker reported that the total committed monies to date for the Council equals \$10,500 (US EPA 5,000; USGS 2,500; DCR 2,500; VA Agribusiness Council 500). A proposal to DEQ for \$5,000 will soon be submitted. Michele Monti suggested sending a grant proposal to VDH for \$2,500, and Sam Austin said that funding for the VWMC is still being considered by the DOF.

#### Communications and Outreach Committee Report:

Bill Shanabruch, with the Citizens for Water Quality and Chair of the Communications and Outreach Committee, reported that all VWMC members were emailed a copy of the Operating Guidelines and contact information for the Steering Committee members in early August. A mailing in September provided information on the annual meeting and contact information for the membership.

#### Inventory Committee Report:

Michele Monti, chair of the Inventory Committee, reported that the committee currently consists of 12 members. They met on September 6, 2000. Once Michele has completed her summary of the meeting, Jane Walker offered to distribute it to the Steering Committee and put it on the web site. A survey developed by DEQ several years ago is in the process of being revamped by the Inventory Committee. DEQ has offered to mail the edited survey once a more inclusive mailing list has been developed. It was suggested to put the survey on the web pages for the DEQ, DCR, and others in addition to the web page for the VWMC. More surveys can be distributed and collected at the annual meeting. From the obtained information, the committee

plans to create a database that tells what monitoring data are being collected, where it is being collected, and who to contact for more information. This inventory is to be an ongoing project with regular updates. Although DEQ has offered resources for the initial project, the need for future funding is expected. For phase II, the committee wants to list all the streams in the state that are being monitored and all Virginia streams that have impaired segments.

#### New Business:

Under new business, the election of the new steering committee members was discussed. At the last meeting, it was decided that everyone currently serving on the VWMC Steering Committee would be asked to continue to serve until at least November 2001 to continue the work of establishing the VWMC. The Operating Guidelines allow the Steering Committee to be comprised of up to twenty members (There are currently 17 voting members, and the EPA serves in an advisory role as a nonvoting member). With a vacancy of a representative from the United States Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS--Virginia Office), three new members can be elected in November 2000. Matt Bley with DCR, Don Smith with DEQ, and Jane Walker agreed to serve on the Elections Committee, and Matt offered to chair the committee. The committee will get together and form a slate of nominations by the end of September. The Communications Committee will then provide these names to the membership 30 days prior to the meeting as outlined in the Operating Guidelines.

Following the business component of the meeting, Tanya Denckla with the Institute for Environmental Negotiations facilitated a session on strategic planning. Notes for this part of the meeting are provided separately.

The next Steering Committee meeting was slated for Oct 17, 2000 at the USGS office in Richmond at 11:00 a.m. Final preparations for the annual meeting and a continued dialogue on strategic planning will occur at this meeting. If possible, Tanya Denckla will also come to this meeting to facilitate the strategic planning and possibly begin work on developing a vision for the VWMC.