

Virginia Water Monitoring Council Steering Committee Meeting

November 14, 2005

United States Geological Survey Office, Richmond, VA

Minutes by Robin Wilder

Steering Committee representatives attending:

Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay (ACB) – Jen Sidleck, Dick Clark (Lake Anna Civic Association)
County of Henrico – Robin Wilder

James River Association (JRA) – Chuck Frederickson

Virginia Association of Counties (VACo) – Matt Ellinghaus

Virginia Association of Municipal Wastewater Agencies (VAMWA) – Marvin Booth

Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (VASWCD) – Dana Roberts

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) – James Beckley, Stuart Torbeck

Virginia Department of Forestry (DOF) – Sam Austin

Virginia Department of Health (VDH) – Dan Dietrich

Virginia Water Resources Research Center (VWRRC) – Jane Walker

Organizations without a representative at the meeting:

American Water Works Association (AWWA – Virginia chapter)

Citizens for Water Quality (CWQ)

Clean Virginia Waterways (CVW)

Longwood University

United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region III

United States Geological Survey (USGS)

Virginia Agribusiness Council (VAC)

Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU)

Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR)

Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF)

Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)

Virginia Foundation of Independent Colleges (VFIC)

Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences (VIMS)

Virginia Municipal League (VML)

Virginia Save our Streams (VASOS)

Virginia Water Well Association (VWWA)

Committee Chairs attending:

Operations – Sam Austin

Inventory – James Beckley

Education – Dana Roberts

The Virginia Water Monitoring Council (VWMC) Steering Committee met November 14, 2005 (11:00 AM – 3:00 PM) at the United States Geological Survey Office in Richmond, Virginia. Marvin Booth, Steering Committee Chair, led the meeting. The meeting was called to order at 11:00 AM. Following the welcome and introductions, the meeting agenda was reviewed and approved. The minutes from the September 12, 2005 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Financial Report:

Jane Walker reported that the VWMC has a financial balance of \$6,966 as of November 14, 2005. The VWMC is still expecting a DEQ grant of \$6,315. The conference grossed \$1,950 in registrations. Expenses for the conference totaled thus far \$1,097.

Old Business:

Water Monitoring Day Activities: Dana Roberts reported an overall good day for teachers and students. Coordination with the schools was relatively easy. Approximately 140 students participated. James Beckley reported that DEQ sent out 210 water quality monitoring kits statewide. Over 300 requests for kits were received.

VWMC Conference: The completed evaluation forms indicate the VWMC can charge more money, have coffee next year, and start earlier. Ideas for topics next year include:

James Beckley wants to focus more and reach out to local governments and get them hooked up with citizen monitors.

Matt Ellinghaus recommended education on what monitoring is required by local government permits. Robin Wilder added educating on the non-point source pollution that contributes as much to the problem as treatment plants.

Jane suggested break out sessions to focus on different audience groups.

Volunteer Monitoring in Virginia: October 29th Meeting in Farmville, VA

This meeting was to coordinate volunteer monitoring in Virginia. The attendees were leaning towards having the Citizens for Water Quality be the entity to head this team. Meeting minutes were distributed last week to attendees and other interested persons. Two committees were formed: a technical committee and an executive committee. Approximately 30 people attended the meeting.

Volunteer Monitoring in the Mid-Atlantic Conference, November 4-5, 2005 at Canaan Valley Institute
VWMC sponsored a session led by Jeff & Joanna Cornell at this conference. James Beckley gave an Inventory GIS presentation. Heather Barrar gave the same talk given at the VWMC conference. There was a good speaker about how monitors should talk to their local governments. There was a good turnout. Field trips and laboratories were conducted on the 4th and the presentations were conducted on the 5th.

New Business:

Steering Committee Election Process

Jane Walker read the Operating Guidelines specific to the Steering Committee. The Nomination Committee met and four people have agreed to serve: Chuck Frederickson (JRA), Robin Wilder (Co. of Henrico), Rick Webb (UVA), and Carolyn Thomas (Ferrum College). Jane has determined that one more organization needs to rotate off or be re-nominated. These organizations include DCR, VDH, or VAMWA. The VWMC still needs a representative from DCR. Possible candidates include Nicole Sandberg or Lane Guilliams. Marvin will write a letter to Rick Hill at DCR requesting a designated representative from DCR. Marvin also agreed to be re-nominated to the steering committee and will send Jane his bio. Nominations are open until the end of the month. Voting will be done via email.

Officer Nominations:

As described in the Operating Guidelines, the current Steering Committee chair, chair of the Operations Committee, and administrative assistant met to nominate officers for 2006.

Nominations made for the offices are as follows:

Chair: Chuck Frederickson
Vice-chair: Marvin Booth
Secretary: David Buckalew

Additional nominations are open until the end of the month. Voting will be done via email.

DEQ Citizen Monitoring Grant for 2006

VWMC has submitted a proposal for National Water Monitoring Day activities in the amount of \$6,000. Funds must be spent by May 31st. Jane needs feedback on what kinds of educational programs we should do between now and the end of May.

- Buying references/books/kits for monitoring day.
- Training for teachers to assist in doing water monitoring projects with students.
- Possibly a video on the webpage rather than a workshop for teachers.

Committee Reports:

Operations: Sam Austin reported. Thank you to everyone who helped before, during, and after the annual meeting to make it successful. The Operations Committee had meetings on the Steering Committee membership and upcoming elections.

Inventory: They are updating the database to mesh better with the GIS map. James Beckley gave a presentation on the GIS mapping interface with the web-based database at the Volunteer Monitoring in the Mid-Atlantic Conference. It was viewed positively at that workshop.

Marketing: James Beckley reported on an email he received from Darryl Glover. On November 29, 2005 the VCU Marketing Class will give a presentation on the VWMC Marketing Plan. Darryl would like Steve Begg, Michele Monti, and he to attend that presentation.

Finance: No report.

Education: Dana Roberts reported on the World Water Monitoring Day events earlier. She has also forwarded some LID links to Jane for the website.

Groundwater: Jane Walker reported that Jessica and John have developed a survey and it is on the website. We received an extension on the Altria grant until December 2006.

Other Announcements:

The Association of Science Teachers has a conference this Saturday in Roanoke.

Future Meeting Date:

Wednesday, January 11, 2006, 11am

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10pm