

Virginia Water Monitoring Council Steering Committee Minutes

Tuesday, September 12, 2006

Ruffner Hall, Longwood University, Farmville, VA

Minutes by David Buckalew

Steering Committee representatives attending:

Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay (ACB) – Jessica Bretz

County of Henrico, Department of Public Works (HDPW) – Robin Wilder

Clean Virginia Waterways (CVW) – Katie Register

Ferrum College (FC) – Carolyn Thomas

James River Association (JRA) – Chuck Frederickson

Longwood University (LWU) – David Buckalew

People Protecting Watershed Headwaters (PPWH) – Jim Disbrow

University of Virginia (UVA) – Rick Webb

Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (VDCR) – Nicole Sandberg

Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOT) – Sam Austin

Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) – John Kauffman

Virginia Department of Health (VDH) – Michele Monti and Dan Dietrich

Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) – Lyle Varnell

Virginia Water Resources Research Center (VWRRC) – Stephen Schoenholtz, Jane Walker

Organizations without a representative at the meeting:

United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region III

United States Geological Survey (USGS)

Virginia Agribusiness Council (VAgC)

Virginia Association of Counties (VACo)

Virginia Association of Municipal Wastewater Agency (VAMWA)

Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (VASWCD)

Virginia Citizens for Water Quality (VCWQ)

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ)

Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)

Virginia Municipal League (VML)

Virginia Rural Water Association (VRWA)

Committee Chairs attending:

Marketing – Jim Disbrow

Education

Finance – Katie Register

Groundwater

Inventory

Membership – Lyle Varnell

Operations – Sam Austin

Welcome and Introduction: Mr. Chuck Frederickson (JRA), 2006 VWMC Chair, led the September VWMC Steering Committee, calling order at 11:10 a.m. All present verbally

provided their name and affiliation. Two new faces – Rick Webb (UVA) and Stephen Schoenholtz (new Director of VWRRRC) were introduced.

Approval of Agenda: The meeting's agenda was examined and adopted as written.

Approval of the July 12, 2006 Meeting Minutes: The minutes were approved as written.

Financial Report:

Jane Walker (VWRRRC) distributed the financial statement showing a balance of \$4,511 as of Sept 12, 2006 with pending support from the VDEQ Citizen Monitoring Grant of \$6,000. On July 1, the balance was \$6,880 with administrative additions of \$3,497 and expenses of \$5,866.

Old Business:

1) Groundwater inventory

So far, Jessica Schildroth (VCWQ) has received about 20 responses for the inventory. Mapping of the well locations has begun and may be complete by the end of the month. The inventory will provide general information on each well such as location, depth, and parameters monitored. Additional parameters may be discussed as the project progresses.

New Business:

1) VWMC Steering Committee terms of office

Jane Walker (VWRRRC) reported that the terms of service for six (6) members of the Steering Committee expire in December 2006. Those individuals include: Karen Anderson (VCWQ), David Frackelton (VAC), Rick Hill (VDCR), John Kauffman (VDGIF), Michele Monti (VDOH), and Lyle Varnell (VIMS). Of the aforementioned, John, Michele, and Lyle immediately agreed to be re-nominated to the Committee. An ad-hoc committee of volunteers will convene to identify new nominees to the Committee (ad-hoc committee: Michele Monti, Sam Austin, Lyle Varnell, and Chuck Frederickson).

Among the list of possible choices for new members includes representatives from:

- Virginia Community College System
- Virginia Lakes and Watersheds Association
- Virginia Well Water Association
- Elected Government Official
- Soil and Water Conservation District Board member
- VA Association of Municipal and Wastewater Agency (since Marvin Booth is now at VDEQ – Lynchburg)
- Eastern Shore Riverkeeper
- SE-RCAP
- Independent lab

Other ideas were discussed relative to re-thinking where we are as an organization. Lyle Varnell (VIMS) suggested we announce a general invitation for nominees for Steering Committee membership at the Oct VWMC Conference. Also, since we have become more technical in our focus (relative to our annual conference topics, etc.), we may desire to invite a representative from an environmental consulting company.

2) 2006 VWMC Conference:

The VWMC Annual Conference is to be held on Thursday, October 12, at the Henrico Training Center in Richmond. Jane Walker (VWRRC) distributed ad flyers for the conference. Michele Monti (VDOH) suggested that we add “State, Federal, and Local Government officials” to the list of Who Should Attend. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. with the conference commencing at 9:00. Jane reported that a general itinerary of speakers for the conference is not yet solidified, but would be by the end of the week. At the time of the meeting, Nancy Love (Virginia Tech), Janet Herman (UVA), Mark LaGuardia (VIMS), Jason Early (EAI), Mark Bennett (USGS), Robert Croonenberghs (VDOH), and Jason Hill (VDEQ) were strong possibilities as speakers.

Pre-registration for the conference must be received by Wednesday, October 4. Stacey Brown with Virginia Save Our Streams is developing a website for the conference, and Robin Wilder (HDPW) mentioned she will need one week prior notice for lunch requests. Robin also reports there will be coffee and a morning refreshment break. Jane Walker (VWRRC) will send PDF attachment flyers to a list of interested parties (e.g., the Nature Conservancy, the Roundtables listserv, etc.) and that all members should advertise as they see fit. Several members mentioned they may be available in the morning to help with registration (Jane, Katie, Carolyn, Robin).

Chuck Frederickson (JRA) mentioned there will be newly minted handouts/brochures for the conference and that we should have our display in view at the registration table. The suggestion of having handouts available from other organizations was generally agreed upon by all members. Jane Walker (VWRRC) suggested that if we are to have a copy of our annual report available for the Conference, she would need individual committee summaries by the end of September.

3) LOA between ACB/ DCR/DEQ/IWLA VaSOS/VCWQ/VWMC – The Virginia Citizen Water Quality Monitoring Program:

The signing ceremony is expected to take place at the Richmond World Water Monitoring Day event on Friday, October 20, 2006 on Robious Landing Park in Chesterfield County. VWMC is sponsoring the ceremony and all Committee members were encouraged to advertise this event as well as the VWMC Conference. Chuck Frederickson (JRA), felt that the specified deliverables provided by this agreement are beneficial given the significant partners in the realm of Virginia water quality and could be added to the 2007 VWMC Workplan.

4) 2006 Water Monitoring Day:

James Beckley (VDEQ) reported via email that, as of Sept 1, approximately 300 monitoring kits had been purchased and distributed. USGS purchased an additional 100 kits for science classes in Roanoke, VA. A total of 500 kits have thus far been distributed throughout VA – more than double the number of kits of any previous year! Katie Register (CVW) mentioned that more water monitoring kits are available at Regional EPA offices. There was some question whether or not all river basins in Virginia were involved in the event.

5) Marketing the VWMC:

Jim Disbrow (PPWH) presented a chronology of the marketing committee's efforts in getting the marketing materials printed. Jim met with representatives from Triple Image Graphics in Culpeper to discuss printing of flyers, brochures, water bottles, magnets, and bumper stickers and received estimates of costs, etc. Jim mentioned that he would forward the information to Jane Walker and James Beckley. Jim felt strongly that the materials would be ready for the VWMC Conference. Several Committee members suggested we have these materials ready for the LOA Signing on Oct 20 and for other conferences and meetings (e.g., Environment VA Conference in April, etc.)

Committee Reports:

Operations: No information to report.

Inventory: No information to report.

Marketing: Identity and Communications: See New Business

Membership: Each Steering Committee member should have received an updated electronic copy of the VWMC membership list from Jane.

Finance: Katie Register (CVW) reported three items:

- 1) There is a pending proposal to the VDEQ Citizen Monitoring Grant program for \$6K.
- 2) She will meet with reps at Phillip Morris next week to discuss the possibility of sponsorship funding either for unrestricted support or to support the email announcements.
- 3) All VWMC members shall receive an email request for gift donations in October.

A general discussion ensued regarding the placement of donor names on the VWMC website.

Education: See New Business.

Groundwater: See New Business.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stephen Schoenholtz (VWRRC) announced the **Virginia Water Science and Technology Symposium**, hosted by the VWRRC, November 1-3 on the Virginia Tech campus.

Carolyn Thomas (FC) distributed reminder cards for the upcoming **Smith Mountain Lake Water Monitoring Conference**, November 8-10 on the Ferrum College campus.

Jessica Bretz (ACB) announced the **Chesapeake Bay Restoration Workshop** to be held at Shepherd University, Shepherdstown, West Virginia, November 14-16.

Katie Register (CVW) announced the **Living Shoreline Summit** in conjunction with VDEQ and VIMS will be held in Williamsburg, Virginia on Dec 6-7. This meeting will discuss the new 5-year integrated coastal zone management plan.

- **DEQ updates via James Beckley email:**

- 2006 Water Quality Assessment Integrated Report: DEQ received comments from the EPA and the public about the report and had responded to all by September 12. DEQ expects approval from EPA by the end of September. The report is at <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/wqa/>, and you may contact Darryl Glover for additional information. If you would like to receive a copy of the report with maps on CD, contact Patricia Carpin at (804) 698-4575 to be placed on mailing list. Hard copy reports with maps are available for a fee.
- Update on 2007 Citizen Monitoring grants: 23 total grant applications received. Of these, 12 applied for the regular grant award and 7 applied for the mini-grant. Four non-competitive support awards will be distributed (ACB, Smith Mountain Lake Association, Virginia Save Our Streams, and VWMC). DEQ thanks the grant review committee consisting of VWMC members and others who met on Sept 7. Awards will be announced by October 16.
- DEQ Non-agency Database: Plans are to have the database ready for the public by September 30. There will be a training session at Longwood University on Saturday, September 23 from 10 am to 1 pm to go over use of the database and how to upload data. Due to limited seating, attendees should pre-register by September 18.
- Nominations for DEQ Monitoring for calendar year 2008 will be accepted from October 1 – December 31, 2006. DEQ will be going to a calendar-based monitoring year starting January 1, 2007. Contact James Beckley at (804) 698-4025 if you have any questions.
- Plans for the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Conference (NELAC) certification for laboratories seem to have stalled nationally. EPA has discontinued financial support. It is not known what Virginia will do regarding lab certification at this time.
- DEQ's use of citizen monitoring data: DEQ has released official guidance on the use of citizen and other non-DEQ groups' biological monitoring data. DEQ will begin to use this guidance starting this fall, and DEQ "certified" data will be included in future 305(b)/303(d) Integrated Water Quality Assessment Reports starting in 2008.

Chuck Frederickson adjourned the meeting at 1:10 pm.

The next agreed upon meeting date was set for **Monday, November 20 – Location to be determined.**