

Virginia Water Monitoring Council Steering Committee Meeting

April 13, 2010
Conference Call

Minutes by Robin Wilder

Steering Committee representatives attending:

Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay (ACB) – Chris French
County of Henrico – Robin Wilder
County of James City – Fran Geissler
University of Mary Washington – Michael Bass
Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) – James Beckley
Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) – John Kauffman
Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences (VIMS) – Lyle Varnell
Virginia Save our Streams (VASOS) – Jay Gilliam
Virginia Water Resources Research Center (VWRRC) – Jane Walker

Organizations without a representative at the meeting:

Clean Virginia Waterways (CVW)
County of Chesterfield
Ferrum College
Longwood University
Newport News Waterworks
Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District
United States Geological Society (USGS)
Virginia Association of Counties (VACo)
Virginia Citizens for Water Quality (VCWQ)
Virginia Department of Forestry (DOF)
Virginia Department of Health (VDH)
Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)

The Virginia Water Monitoring Council (VWMC) Steering Committee met by conference call on April 13, 2010 (1:00–2:30 PM). Chris French, Steering Committee CoChair, led the meeting. The meeting was called to order at 1:05 PM. Following the welcome and introductions, the meeting agenda was reviewed and approved. The minutes from the February 17, 2010 meeting were reviewed and approved with corrections.

Financial Report:

Jane Walker reported that the VWMC has a financial balance of \$19,509 as of April 13, 2010.

Announcements:

Upcoming conferences/seminars/workshops and publications were discussed. James Beckley announced DEQ will be publishing the 2010 draft 305b/303d report in late July/August 2010. He also reported that another round of grants is likely to be released later this year depending on the actions of the legislature. Chris French announced a Bayscapes Workshop will be held May 1 at Forest Hill Park. Also, on May 15th, the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay along with the South Anna Monitoring Project will be hosting a 5K and 10K run in the historic Greensprings District to benefit conservation efforts in the area.

Old Business:

2009 Grant Obligations

- a. Stream School – Stacy Brown is still working on this. April 2010 completion is our internal goal.
- b. World Water Monitoring Guide for Citizens – Katie Register is on target to complete this guide by the end of April 2010.

Membership Survey

Fran Geissler will have bulleted results of the membership survey ready for distribution at the May Conference.

New Business:

2010 Conference Planning:

Katie Register provided a handout entitled 2010 VWMC Annual Conference Progress Report, April 13, 2010. Chris French encouraged everyone on the steering committee to sign up as soon as possible. Everyone was also encouraged to distribute the conference information to their contact lists and as many stakeholders as possible.

Volunteers are needed to help on registration day. The following individuals volunteered during the conference call: Fran Geissler and Robin Wilder. Additional possibilities for volunteers mentioned during the conference call included Stuart Torbeck and Weedon Cloe as both of these individuals are local to the conference site.

Jane Walker asked for assistance in getting the VWMC display and brochures to the conference as she will not be able to attend. Robin Wilder offered for her daughter, a student at Va. Tech, to bring the board to Richmond this weekend.

How Can VWMC Help Localities with MS4 Compliance?

A discussion was facilitated by Chris French regarding how the VWMC may be able to assist localities in meeting some of the burgeoning requirements of their MS4 permits. Fran Geissler indicated that the November 2010 conference focusing on stormwater issues would be a good forum to engage many of the localities. The VWMC can help facilitate a discussion among both Phase 1 and 2 communities about the new MS4 requirements and then see how the VWMC can then meet the perceived needs of these community governments.

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Monitoring Requirements for Grantees

Chris French indicated that during a seminar hosted by Altria for their grantees, a partnership had been formed between Altria and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation with the NFWF tasked with developing monitoring requirements for all of Altria's grant recipients. Whether these monitoring requirements will be different from DEQ's existing requirements for monitoring data is unknown and we hope the requirements will not exclude citizen monitoring efforts.

Future Meeting Date:

Thursday, June 17th 1-3:30pm Conference Call (1-804-698-4508)

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15pm