

## Virginia Water Monitoring Council Steering Committee Meeting

February 16 2011

DEQ Piedmont Office/Conference Call

Minutes by Robin Wilder

### **Steering Committee representatives attending:**

Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay (ACB) – Chris French  
Clean Virginia Waterways (CVW) – Katie Register  
County of Chesterfield – Weedon Cloe  
County of Henrico – Robin Wilder  
County of James City – Fran Geissler  
University of Mary Washington – Michael Bass  
United States Geological Society (USGS) – Tracy Hancock  
Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) – Stuart Torbeck, James Beckley, Mary Lee  
Tratina  
Virginia Department of Health (VDH) – Dan Dietrich  
Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences (VIMS) – Lyle Varnell  
Virginia Water Resources Research Center (VWRRC) – Jane Walker

### **Organizations without a representative at the meeting:**

Ferrum College  
Longwood University  
Newport News Waterworks  
Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District  
Virginia Association of Counties (VACo)  
Virginia Citizens for Water Quality (VCWQ)/Friends of the Shenandoah  
Virginia Department of Forestry (DOF)  
Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF)  
Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)

The Virginia Water Monitoring Council (VWMC) Steering Committee met at the DEQ Piedmont Office and by conference call on February 16, 2011 (3:00– 4:30 PM). Katie Register, Steering Committee Co-chair, called the meeting to order, and Chris French, Steering Committee Co-Chair, led the meeting. The meeting was called to order at 3:10 PM. Following welcome and introductions, the meeting agenda was reviewed and approved. The minutes from the December 14, 2010 meeting were reviewed and approved.

### **Financial Report:**

The financial report was provided via email. The balance as of February 16, 2011 was reported as \$-15,050, but this balance does not include \$18,717 from the Altria 2010 grant, a pending proposal of \$2,500 from VDH, \$3,662 from the proceeds of the 2010 VWMC Conference, or the proceeds from the MS4 workshop held in December.

### **Announcements:**

- Stuart Torbeck announced the following:
  - 305B/303d report – DEQ will release final report on 2/28/2011
  - The DEQ wants data for the 2012 assessment.
  - DEQ wants to know about community events so they can participate
  - March 28, 2011 is the assessment guidance target date.
  - Water Quality monitoring strategy will be updated/revised soon (being streamlined due to budgetary issues – DEQ has lost 1.5 million for the monitoring program since 2007)

- The Governor wants to participate in an outreach event. Southside Richmond community of Bell Meade is having a community clean-up.
- Chris French announced information regarding the Historic Greenspring Run in western Louisa County. Runners and volunteers are needed on 4/9/2011
- Tracy Hancock announced the NWMC is planning their 2012 conference. A planning meeting will be held 2/17/2011.
- Katie Register announced Clean Virginia Waterways is planning many water conservation and rain barrel workshops for Richmond, Farmville, Roanoke, and Fredericksburg.
  - April 30<sup>th</sup> – a teachers conference is scheduled.
- Jane Walker asked everyone to send announcements to her in an email so they can be sent out to the VWMC membership.

### **Old Business:**

#### **Officer Election Results:**

Chris French/Katie Register – Co-chairs

Weedon Cloe – Vice-chair

Robin Wilder – Secretary

#### **MS4 Compliance Workshop Evaluations**

Fran summarized the evaluation results. Overall it was a success and provided fodder for future workshops.

#### **Steering Committee Survey Results**

The steering committee had a discussion regarding the results of this survey. The following was discussed:

A sub-committee is needed to hash out possibilities for the group and make a recommendation to the larger steering committee. Those interested in being on this committee include: Chris French, Weedon Cloe, Jane Walker, Stuart Torbeck, Lyle Varnell, Michael Bass, Fran Geissler. Since Lyle, Michael, and Katie are all busy through April, mid-May will be the first meeting time for this committee.

### **New Business:**

#### **Attendance Policy of VWMC:**

USGS, DEQ are permanent members and not affected by this policy. Non-permanent members are affected. The policy as it stands required attendance at Steering Committee meetings 2 times per year. The steering committee may begin enforcing this policy.

**Webinar:** James Beckley conducted a webinar regarding a possibility that the VWMC could move its inventory of water-monitoring programs in Virginia to a Web-based GIS system. University of Richmond student interns may be interested in helping to update the inventory. DEQ does not have staff available to update the VWMC's inventory. A private company, [www.batchgeo.com](http://www.batchgeo.com), enables clients to create maps with geo-locations or contact info. Up to 5000 data points can be mapped for free. Since the VWMC's data is out of date, the VWMC should consider updating the inventory on the website.

#### **2011 Annual Conference**

No funds are available for a conference coordinator. No one has time to plan this event this spring. Therefore, the consensus is to delay the Annual Conference until late fall 2011. The existing committee will meet to discuss/plan this event.

#### **Future Business**

Nominations for the steering committee will be discussed via email.

**Future Meeting Date:**

Jane Walker will send out a Doodle request to set the next meeting date.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10pm.