The Virginia Water Monitoring Council (VWMC) Steering Committee met at the DEQ Piedmont Office and by conference call on May 25, 2011 (1:00–3:00 PM). Chris French, Steering Committee Co-Chair, led the meeting. The meeting was called to order at 1:10 PM. Following welcome and introductions, the meeting agenda was reviewed and approved. The minutes from the February 16, 2011 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Financial Report:
No financial report was available.

Announcements:
- Stuart Torbeck announced the following:
  - 2012 Final Assessment Guidance issued
  - 14 citizen nominations received for streams to monitor.
  - Hardness studies are being conducted at three wastewater plants.
  - Rick Browder is taking over the Biological Monitoring position.
- Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay announced:
  - Call for Papers/Presenters for the NWMC Conference, April 30 – May 4, Portland Oregon. This conference is being combined with River Rally.
Old Business:

Terms Ending:
– Jane has asked Steering Committee members if they want to continue to serve. When she returns we will get her report. We may need another representative from VACO – one possibility is Joe Lurch.

Additional nominations for Steering Committee:
1. Camellia Okpodu, Norfolk State Univ. – active and has students who are active in VWMC.
2. Ken Brooks, citizen WQ monitor in Northern Neck
3. Susan Alexander, VDOT

Steering Committee Survey Results:
Subcommittee to discuss results. Fran will organize a meeting in early July – date to be determined by Doodle.

2011 Conference Planning:
Proposed six possible dates. Looking at availability of Henrico facility: Nov. 17/18, Dec. 1,2,8, or 9.
Topics:
1. Tools for MS4 Compliance Water Quality Monitoring:
   a. e-coli assessments, Easygel/Col-alert.
   b. Optical brighteners (presence/absence)
   c. Beach monitoring (VDH may want to sponsor)
   d. Litter Prevention/Litter Monitoring
2. Remediation
   a. End of Pipe Studies
   b. Chemical Spills
3. Stream Restoration Monitoring

Sales People/Private Sector Displays and Demonstrations will be encouraged.
YSI, etc., Hydrologic Data Collections, Idex

Possible Speakers include: Laura Grape, Northern Va. Regional Commission, MS4 Compliance; Eric Echol, Water Words that Work, changing citizen behavior by communicating in a different way.

Think about potential speakers and potential sponsors.

USGS – Va. Office has several topics regarding their monitoring programs in VA such as the Urban Monitoring occurring in NOVA.

New Business:

Status of VWMC Strategic Planning:
Will come out of the Steering Committee Survey results.
Chris met with Darryl Glover, DEQ, regarding other state’s monitoring councils that are successful – the State’s Natural Resource Departments take on a more supportive role. Due to budget constraints - that will not happen in the near future for the VWMC. We may want to possibly pursue VA Extension Service to forge a partnership. We must talk to Jane about best way to pursue.

**Marine Debris Conference:**
Katie described this proposed conference. All agree the VWMC should partner. Details to be determined. MARCO – Mid Atlantic Regional Committee on the Ocean.

**Email Alert Formats:**
James Beckley suggested a new format for VWMC’s email alerts. Write a short article regarding a current event or upcoming events. Kind of like White Papers - to be posted on the VWMC’s website. 12 blurbs appropriate for certain seasons of the year – Jan. – Dec.

**Future Meeting Date:**
Wednesday, July 27, 2011, 1pm-3pm

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50pm