

Virginia Water Monitoring Council Steering Committee Meeting

October 27, 2010

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
University of Mary Washington – Michael Bass
Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) – Stuart Torbeck
Virginia Department of Health (VDH) – Dan Dietrich
Virginia Water Resources Research Center (VWRRC) – Jane Walker

Organizations without a representative at the meeting:

County of James City
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)/Friends of the Shenandoah
Virginia Department of Forestry (DOF)
Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF)
Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences (VIMS)

The Virginia Water Monitoring Council (VWMC) Steering Committee met at the DEQ Piedmont Office and by conference call on October 27, 2010 (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 August 11, 2010 meeting were reviewed, with corrections by Jane Walker and approved. Everyone agreed to proceed with the meeting even though a quorum was not met, since there were no major action items included on the agenda.

Financial Report:

Jane Walker reported that the VWMC has a financial balance of -\$6,573 as of October 27, 2010. Jane Walker's 25% salary is being covered by another grant. The pending project assets/expenses indicate the VWMC's work for this year is covered.

Announcements:

- The Water Center hosted its annual symposium last week. They will be posting on their website the power points and possibly audio from the day.
- The DEQ announced that Citizen Monitoring grants from DEQ are being processed.
- The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay has a partnership with Friends of the Rappahannock River to produce publications regarding the Rappahannock watershed.

- Steven Begg will be leaving VDOT to further pursue his career and will therefore be leaving the VWMC Steering Committee. Chris French suggested that Susan Alexander at VDOT be invited to join the Steering Committee.

Old Business:

2009 Altria Grant Obligations

All grant obligations have been completed and billed. We are still waiting on a check from SOS. The guide will be linked to our website shortly. Right now it is linked to Longwood University.

2010 Altria Grant Obligations:

Unspent funds have been sent to SOS from Altria. There are problems with SOS' 501c3 status. Altria to transfer remaining grant dollars to Longwood Univ Foundation instead of SOS. We must complete work by 12/31/10. Clean VA Waterways and ACB are promoting water quality activities in classrooms at several educational conferences/seminars.

2011 Altria Proposal

Altria submits an invitation to propose. At our last meeting, if invited we would submit for strategic planning. However, Altria announced they did not have monies to invite us to propose.

2011 DEQ Citizen Monitoring Grant Proposal

VWMC will ask for a grant for: Monitoring Kits; Intern support for fewer hours (only to send out announcements); and VT indirect costs of 10%.

Discussion ensued on whether the group still felt the need to do some strategic planning, a gaps analysis and/or to clean-up/renew the steering committee membership; recruit new steering committee members. A survey of the steering committee members should be the next action by the VWMC, offering an opportunity for steering committee members to come off of the committee or participate more.

New Business:

MS4 Compliance Workshop

This workshop will take place on December 8, 2010 at VIMS. The program is complete/nearly finalized. Sandra Erdle cannot handle registration, therefore Katie Register will handle it. VWMC will provide some funds for Katie's staff to use. Sponsorships for the workshop are hopeful. Chris has received a request for one. Sponsorship levels will be \$500 or \$1000. There is only room for three sponsors. The next planning meeting is November 10th, 12:30-2pm. Registration form and narrative of agenda need to be published early next week.

2011 Annual Conference

Last year registrations were \$30 in advance and \$40 after a certain date. Profits were made the last two years due to Altria's support. We have not received sponsorships in the past. Henrico's facility is limited in space (130 people). VIMS has offered and holds 230 people.

Action Items for the Conference:

- Set a date and secure free location
- Seek out sponsorships for the conference with a sponsorship package (by early Jan. 2011)
- Determine if registration rates need to be increased since we don't have Altria support this year.

A committee was formed to plan for this event. Those who volunteered were Katie Register, Weedon Cloe, and Stuart Torbeck.

2011 Officer Nominations:

New officers need to be installed by 2011. Offices needed include Chair, Vice-chair, and Secretary. Current officers were asked to write how much time it takes to do the job and time it took to learn the job. Those in attendance were encouraged to recruit new officers.

Future Meeting Date:

Jane will poll the steering committee members to determine the best date to have a mid-December, 2010 meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:52pm