



A-NPDC

ACCOMACK-NORTHAMPTON PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION
P.O. BOX 417 • 23372 FRONT STREET • ACCOMAC, VIRGINIA 23301
(757) 787-2936 • TOLL FREE (866) 787-3001 • FAX: (757) 787-4221
WEBSITE: www.a-npdc.org

Minutes of the October 19, 2021 Meeting Eastern Shore of Virginia Ground Water Committee

The meeting of the Eastern Shore of Virginia Ground Water Committee was held at 10:00 AM on Tuesday, October 19, 2021 in the conference room of the Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission, Accomac, VA.

<u>Members Present</u>	<u>Members Absent</u>	<u>Others Present</u>
Paul Muhly, Chairman	Charles Kolakowski	Anne Doyle, A-NPDC
John Coker, Vice Chairman*	Taylor Dukes	Britt McMillan, ARCADIS
Elaine Meil, Secretary	Michael Mason	Joe Grist, VDEQ*
Paul Grossman	Daniel Hershey	Sue Mastyl, Clean Water Council*
Grayson Chesser*	Roberta Kellam	Jason Pope, USGS*
	Jackie Phillips	Ben Young, Cons. Specialist

**signifies virtual participant*



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NOTE: NO QUORUM

Call to Order

Chair Paul Muhly called the meeting to order at 10:01 AM.

Public Participation

No members of the public participated in the meeting. (Ben Young joined the call later, but did not identify himself.)

Committee Update

Lawsuit Decision - Thomas Farms Poultry Groundwater Withdrawal Permit: Joe Grist reported that a verbal finding had been reached. Once the State Water Control Board issues a written decision, the lawsuit will become a matter of public record.

Support of Regulation 9VAC25-910: Paul Grossman commented on the State Water Control Board's proposed regulation 9VAC25-910, noting he and other members generally agreed with its content. To demonstrate support of the regulation, committee members asked Britt McMillan, GWC consultant, to draft a letter of support for release to the Accomack and Northampton County Boards of Supervisors. (See Attachment 1, draft letter dated 10/19/2021)

Priority Ground Water Project - Well Testing: Previously, the Ground Water Committee had reviewed its project matrix and assigned a priority ranking for each project where applicable. Paul Grossman discussed the highest priority project facing the committee is the comprehensive well testing program. Grayson Chesser agreed and added the need to test wells in economically disadvantaged areas. The firm SURTOP and Randolph- Macon College have both undertaken well testing projects in the past. Regarding locations, Elaine Meil will provide specific locations throughout Northampton and Accomack Counties that have been part of a recent housing study. Committee members can then rank the locations list she has provided. She noted that where housing redevelopment has been authorized, well and septic system testing and, if needed, proper system rehabilitation has been performed. The two federal programs sponsoring the housing redevelopment projects are the Indoor Plumbing Rehabilitation Program, and the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), a HUD program.

Northampton County, Eastern Shore Materials, LLC, Borrow Pit Decision: Jason Pope reported that the borrow pit is not in direct connection with the surficial aquifer nor the Yorktown East aquifer. He further noted the GIS shape files were useful in illustrating the differences in the depth, showing the pit's excavation at 30 feet and the aquifer's confining unit at 70 feet. Britt McMillan further noted that the pit, once developed and allowed to fill with water, would allow for a net re-charge of water supply.



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Review of the September 21, 2021 Minutes

As there was no quorum, the minutes of the previous month were not presented.

FY 2021 Financial Status Report

Elaine Meil noted there was an outstanding invoice, payable to the USGS, to be processed. Chair Muhly discussed the Ground Water Committee's desire to obtain a budget increase to the committee's annual appropriation from each county. The increased appropriation would enable the committee to fund its highest priority projects. Elaine Meil noted that a formal request would need to be made to each county prior to December, 2021 for the following fiscal year. Committee members discussed how the funding request would assist in further focusing the committee's project prioritization.

Staff Update

Elaine Meil reported that Jessica Steelman had given birth to a beautiful baby boy. In sad news, Chair Muhly reported that former committee member Gene Hampton had passed away. He suggested naming the annual Ground Water Committee appreciation award after Mr. Hampton, an idea that was supported by all meeting participants. Chair Muhly also expressed a desire to post a brief biography of Gene Hampton on the committee's webpage. Sue Mastyl offered to forward to committee members the funeral arrangements once they are known.

Ground Water Consultant Report

Britt McMillan reported he had collected Eastern Shore water quality data sets compiled by Virginia Tech (2014-2016) and plotted them to a "rounded" address on a map. While the map shows sufficient location detail; unfortunately, the well location points lack information on each well's depth. Jason Pope desires to cross-reference the Virginia Tech well data with the Virginia Department of Health water sampling data in order to identify the aquifer. The aquifer identity, whether Yorktown-Eastover or Columbia surficial, would provide an indication of well depth. In addition, Jason Pope discussed the desire to include permit information in the combined data set. Discussion ensued on the level of difficulty in obtaining information from the Virginia Health Department's various paper records of permit activity from as far back as 1982 when the permit system began. Elaine Meil agreed to check with the Virginia Department of Health and report back on their processes, whether a project of this scope would be feasible. She will update the GWC Committee during its next meeting in November.

Ground Water Project Priorities

The GWC reviewed project priorities and action items.

Other Matters

The matter of reimbursement for travel to meetings for GWC members requires a bylaw amendment. **Staff requested members send their starting location in order to calculate costs.**

GWC members requested information update on possibility of conducting business meetings



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virtually. **Staff to supply information as updates are given from the state.**

Schedule Next Meeting & Adjournment

It was decided that the Committee would host a public *Well and Septic Forum* in place of its November meeting. Therefore, the Well and Septic Forum will take the place of the Ground Water Committee meeting on November 16th at 10:00 AM. The Forum will be virtual and will be recorded for placement on the A-NPDC website.

NOTE: NO DECEMBER 2021 MEETING.

Chairman Muhly adjourned the meeting at shortly after 11:00 AM.

Copy test:

Paul Muhly, Chairman

Elaine K. N. Meil, Secretary