

AGENDA NOTE – HRPDC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

ITEM #10: CONSULTANT SERVICES CONTRACT – UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY (USGS) – GROUNDWATER MONITORING

SUBJECT:

Authorize contracts for USGS to collect groundwater samples and measurements for the Chloride Monitoring Network and Water Level Network for the period of July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012.

BACKGROUND:

The Chloride Monitoring proposal is a continuation of the long-term program begun in 1995 by the HRPDC Directors of Utilities Committee. The objective during FY 2012 is to continue to develop a groundwater quality database capable of supporting an assessment of the potential for lateral intrusion or upconing of saltwater in the Virginia Coastal Plain. Continued monitoring will allow water utilities in the Hampton Roads region to detect changes in groundwater quality which might impact locality-owned wells or require homeowners using private wells to connect to public utilities. Costs for the Chloride Monitoring Network are shared between U.S. Geological Survey (\$45,750) and the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (\$47,240).

The Water Level Network proposal is a continuation of the long-term program to monitor groundwater level trends to support local utility and DEQ water management decisions. The HRPDC has supported this activity since the early 1990s. The Water Level Network is also used as a drought indicator and allows water utilities to track water levels in real-time. Costs for the Water Level Network are shared between U.S. Geological Survey (\$29,900) and the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (\$29,900).

Contract Amount: \$77,140

Period of Performance: July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012

General Scope of Work: Up to 15 ground-water quality samples will be collected during FY 2012 and analyzed for chloride, other major ions, and standard field water-quality parameters. Sample collection and analysis will include the controls and checks necessary to assure the quality of the data, which will be stored in USGS databases. Water level measurements will be collect at 30 wells. Nine of the thirty wells are equipped with sensors that provide real-time water level readings which are posted on the USGS website. Water levels in the other 21 wells will be measured quarterly.

Both projects are funded by the localities through the Regional Water Program.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Authorize the Executive Director to execute contracts with USGS to continue the Chloride Monitoring Program and maintenance of the water level network.