



HRPDC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

March 31, 2011

ITEM #2: PUBLIC COMMENTS

SENATE OF VIRGINIA



COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:
AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND
NATURAL RESOURCES
EDUCATION AND HEALTH
PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS
REHABILITATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES

RALPH S. NORTHAM
6th SENATORIAL DISTRICT
ALL OF ACCOMACK, MATHEWS, AND
NORTHAMPTON COUNTIES, AND PART OF
THE CITIES OF NORFOLK AND VIRGINIA BEACH
P.O. BOX 9363, NORFOLK, VIRGINIA 23505
NORFOLK TELEPHONE 757-818-5172
FAX 757-668-9981
RICHMOND 804-698-7506
SENATORRALPHNORTHAM@GMAIL.COM

March 30, 2011

Stan D. Clark, Chair
Hampton Roads PDC
The Regional Building
723 Woodlake Drive
Chesapeake, VA 23320

Dear Stan,

As you are aware, Virginia authored and EPA approved the Commonwealth's watershed implementation plan, designed to improve water quality in the Chesapeake Bay. The state worked with stakeholders to make certain that the load allocations for localities were equitable and attainable, and combined that input with the best available science to create a reasonable and long overdue roadmap to a clean Bay.

The General Assembly took several steps to help ensure we follow this roadmap in the most cost-effective manner possible. I co-sponsored legislation to ban phosphorus from lawn maintenance fertilizer, which by conservative estimates will reduce the amount of phosphorus entering the Bay by 230,000 pounds - over 20% of Virginia's allocation. Homebuilders, realtors, agribusiness, retailers, and conservation groups worked diligently to pass this bipartisan bill, which serves as an example of what we can accomplish when local and state government work collaboratively with the private sector to achieve a common goal.

It is difficult to measure the intrinsic value of the Bay. However, it is clear that the quality of life the Bay affords Hampton Roads residents draws people and employers to the region. The Bay was once the most productive estuary in the world. Economically, it has not only sustained the livelihoods of generations of watermen and seafood processors, but has spawned countless small businesses that drive our economy.

Cleaning up the Bay will require all who live in the watershed to shoulder a portion of the burden. Hampton Roads communities have the most to gain from a clean Bay. I hope the HRPDC chooses to lead the effort to restore this national treasure. Not doing so now would be a failure of our elected officials to do the will of the people and would negatively impact our region for decades to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "R. Northam".

Ralph S. Northam
Senator, Virginia's 6th District

cc: Dwight L. Farmer, Executive Director
John Carlock, Deputy Executive Director
Hampton Roads Planning District Commission Executive Committee Members

Frances Hughey

From: Sharon/George Hart <hartline11@verizon.net>
Sent: Saturday, March 26, 2011 1:39 PM
To: John Carlock; Stan Clark; akrasnoff@cityofchesapeake.net; jfleming@franklinva.com; bgarton@gloucesterva.info; mward@hampton.gov; council@nngov.com; mayor@norfolk.gov; rwheeler@poquoson-va.gov; council@portsmouthva.gov; mikejohnson@co.southampton.state.va.us; council@suffolkva.us; wsessoms@VBgov.com; chaulman@williamsburgva.gov; ctyadm@yorkcounty.gov
Subject: Please Don't Vote to Sue EPA- - (HRPDC Member)

Dear HRPDC Member:

Even in its impaired state, the Chesapeake Bay contributes millions of dollars to the economy of our region. Imagine what the economic impact the Bay would be in a restored state. Please protect this national treasure and work to restore it to health. We believe the The Hampton Roads Planning District Commission has an important role to play and would like to see it take a leadership position towards protecting our local waters and restoring the Bay. Please do not vote to sue EPA.

A recent [Christopher Newport University/Richmond Times-Dispatch survey](#) reports that solid majorities of Virginians want the Bay cleaned up, including 61 percent of Hampton Roads residents who say they're willing to pay more in fees to ensure the job gets done. What is curious is that so few people are aware of this consequential decision and that so little public discussion or debate has occurred about it. With the exception of James City County, it appears none of the other 15 local city councils or boards of supervisors have held public discussions or hearings to debate the merits of a regional lawsuit to block the Bay cleanup. We do not understand how the HRPDC could make a decision that would possibly derail the culmination of more than 30 years of scientific research, public consensus, state and federal partnerships, congressional and state appropriations, and even a presidential executive order without consulting with the **1.7 million residents** of Hampton Roads.

While its INDIVIDUAL MEMBER REPRESENTATIVES HAVE BEEN BRIEFED PRIVATELY ABOUT LITIGATION OPTIONS BY ATTORNEYS, we agree with the suggestion of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation that the commission should pause and do more basic homework. "Talk to other cities, to EPA, to state officials, to nonprofits and explore all options and considerations. Share that information with member localities. Those localities should in turn share that information with their residents. City councils and boards of supervisors should announce and hold public meetings to discuss and debate the issues." Perhaps then, the citizens could believe that the HRPDC has done more research, and made an informed decision. Thank you.

George and Sharon Hart
15219 Newbill Lane
Carollton, VA 23314

Frances Hughey

From: Joe Turner
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 8:10 AM
To: John Carlock; Julia Hillegass
Subject: FW: HRPDC Contact Form

The first comment I've received via the website.

Joe

-----Original Message-----

From: bkillebrew@sprintmail.com [mailto:bkillebrew@sprintmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 27, 2011 4:45 PM
To: Joe Turner
Subject: HRPDC Contact Form

Name = Bob Killebrew

street_Address = 13 Hilton Terrace

City = Newport News

State = VA

Zip_code = 23601

Phone = 757 870 2559

Email_Address = bkillebrew@sprintmail.com Comments = I am absolutely dismayed that you think it necessary to challenge the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Plan. What a short-sighted and harmful thing to do. I'll be contacting my local legislators about your priorities. Meanwhile, I suggest you rethink your proposal to waste my tax money on a legal challenge that would be wasteful, at best, and harmful, at worst, to this area.

Bob Killebrew

Frances Hughey

From: Joe Turner
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 9:46 AM
To: John Carlock; Julia Hillegass
Subject: FW: HRPDC Contact Form

-----Original Message-----

From: walterzadan@cox.net [mailto:walterzadan@cox.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 9:41 AM
To: Joe Turner
Subject: HRPDC Contact Form

Name = walter zadan
street_Address = 221wingate dr
City = williamsburg
State = Virginia
Zip_code = 23185
Phone = 757 564 6805
Email_Address = walterzadan@cox.net

Comments = May I suggest you read my Letter To The Editor of the Daily Press that will be printed on the 30th or 31st. I oppose the suggestion the HRPDC oppose implementationof the Chesapeake Bay Restortion plan. that the HRPDC
BLCI IMPLEMENTATION

Frances Hughey

From: Joe Turner
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 5:10 PM
To: Julia Hillegass; John Carlock
Subject: FW: HRPDC Contact Form

-----Original Message-----

From: ayersa1@cox.net [mailto:ayersa1@cox.net]
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 2:47 PM
To: Joe Turner
Subject: HRPDC Contact Form

Name = Allen Ayers
street_Address = 109 Barn Elm Road
City = Williamsburg
State = Virginia
Zip_code = 23188
Phone = 757-566-1439
Email_Address = ayersa1@cox.net

Comments = Yesterday's edition of The Daily Press newspaper states "...HRPDC is scheduled to discuss pursuing legal challenges in order to resist or delay implementing the state-federal Chesapeake Bay restoration plan...." May I have some detail as to why you oppose cleaning up the Bay? I assume it has to do with costs.

Thank you so much,

Allen Ayers

Frances Hughey

From: Joe Turner
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 5:11 PM
To: Julia Hillegass; John Carlock
Subject: FW: HRPDC Contact Form

-----Original Message-----

From: inges@cox.net [mailto:inges@cox.net]
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 3:12 PM
To: Joe Turner
Subject: HRPDC Contact Form

Name = Deborah Inge
street_Address = 2253 Maple Street
City = Virginia Beach
State = VA
Zip_code = 23451
Phone = 757-481-9526
Email_Address = inges@cox.net

Comments = I am writing concerning the suit being considered to delay or halt the Bay clean-up process. The bay has come a long way over the past years and I would hate to see it go back to the way it was. My children swim in these waters, people from all over come to vacation by it. Please find a way for the HR Planning District Commission to work with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and continue the clean-up. Pleas vote NO on the lawsuit to block Bay cleanup.

Thank you for your time,

Deborah Inge

2253 Maple Street