

Hampton Roads Planning District Commission

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

June 18, 2008

The Executive Committee Meeting of the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission was called to order at 11:43 a.m. at the Regional Boardroom, 723 Woodlake Drive, Chesapeake, Virginia, with the following in attendance:

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Paul D. Fraim, Chairman (NO)	Douglas L. Smith (PO)
Bruce Goodson, Vice Chairman (JC)	Selena Cuffee-Glenn (SU)
Clifton E. Hayes, Jr. (CH)*	Tyrone W. Franklin (SY)
Stan D. Clark (IW)	Jackson C. Tuttle II (WM)
Joe S. Frank (NN)	James K. Spore (VB)

*Late arrival or early departure.

COMMISSIONERS:

Rebecca C.W. Adams (CH)	Randy W. Hildebrandt (NN)
Amar Dwarkanath (CH)	Kenneth L. Chandler (PO)
Ella P. Ward (CH)	Harry E. Diezel (VB)
W. Douglas Caskey (IW)	

OTHERS RECORDED ATTENDING:

Ivan Rucker - FHWA; Jeffrey A. Florin - Virginia Port Authority; Pierce Homer - Secretary of Transportation; Earl Sorey - Chesapeake; Keith Cannady, Elizabeth Kersey - Hampton; Steven W. Hicks - James City County; Jeff Raliski, Stanley Stein, Ron Williams - Norfolk; Sherri Neil, John Rowe, George Brisbin - Portsmouth; Patrick Roberts, Eric Nielsen - Suffolk; Harry Diezel - Virginia Beach; Marty Moynihan - Port of Richmond; John Hekman - Port of Richmond Commission; Ray Taylor, Vince Thomas - FHR; Chris Bonney, Roger Richman - HRCCE; Chuck Cayton - HNTB; Tom Ballou - VDEQ; Chris Voigt, Irene Shuman - VDOT; Jay Bernas - HRSD; Chris Woodfin - Tidewater Builders Association; Peter Huber - Willcox & Savage; Ellis W. James - Sierra Club Observer; Kimball L. Payne - Daily Press; Germaine Fleet - Biggs & Fleet; Staff: Jessica Banks, Shernita Bethea, John Carlock, Rick Case, Robert Case, James Clary, Nancy Collins, Rich Flannery, Marla Frye, Kathlene Grauberger, Greg Grootendorst, Jim Hummer, Rob Jacobs, Whitney Katchmark, Jenny Tribo, Brett Kerns, Robert Lawrence, Mike Long, Brian Miller, Kelli Peterson, Camelia Ravanbakht, Dale Stith, Laura Wheeling and Eric Walberg.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda contained the following items:

Approve Minutes of May 21, 2008

Treasurer's Report

Regional Reviews

A. PNRS Items (Initial Review)

Anadromous Fish Restoration - State of Virginia Fish Passage Coordination and Monitoring (ENV:44)

Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries

Virginia's Coastal Zone Management Program - 23rd Year Implementation Grant (CZM:2009)

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality

Virginia Naturally Mini-Grants to Support Chesapeake Bay B-Wet Program (ENV:45)

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality

B. Environmental Impact Assessment/Statement Review

Renovations and Additions to utilities for the New School of Business; College of William and Mary, Williamsburg

Phase II Improvements, Deerfield Correctional Center; Virginia Department of Corrections, Southampton County

Freeman Center Addition; Christopher Newport University, Newport News

Integrated Swimmer Defense User Operational Evaluation System Training at NAB, Little Creek; DOD/Navy, Virginia Beach

Fire Suppression System, Chesapeake Regional Airport; FAA, Chesapeake

Cooperative Ground Water Program – USGS Contracts

Coastal and Estuarine Conservation Lands Program – Application

Marking of Sewer Laterals

Comr. Clark Moved to approve the Consent Agenda; seconded by Vice Chairman Goodson. The Motion Carried.

2008 HAMPTON ROADS DATA BOOK

Mr. Farmer introduced Greg Grootendorst, Deputy Executive Director of Economics, to present the 2008 Data Book information.

Mr. Grootendorst stated that the HRPDC has been publishing the Data Book annually for over 20 years. He reviewed that the Data Book is subdivided into 13 subject areas and the data sources include national and state institutions as well as information collected from the member jurisdictions. The true value and most unique attribute of the Data Book is in the time series data. Many of the data sets go back as far as 1969, some of which are not available anywhere else. One common use of the Data Book by staff and the jurisdictions is to compare a specific jurisdiction to the region. It also contains information that allows for comparisons to be made between the Hampton Roads metro area and other metro areas throughout the Commonwealth.

Once publications are approved for distribution by the Commission, they are made available online in Acrobat PDF format. However, this does not allow users to copy and paste the information into their databases. In response to users' requests, this year's Data Book will be available online in Excel format.

The Data Book has been purposely limited to well-established historic time series data. For a list of more recent data sets from a wide range of categories including graphs and short narratives, look to the benchmarking study that is released annually near the end of the calendar year. He concluded by offering to answer questions.

Comr. Clark Moved to approve the Data Book for distribution; seconded by Comr. Hayes. The Motion Carried.

REGIONAL GROUND WATER MITIGATION PROGRAM

Mr. John Carlock, Deputy Executive Director of Physical Planning, was available to present the Ground Water Mitigation Program information.

Mr. Carlock stated that staff has recently completed seven or eight analyses for the local governments and wanted to provide examples of the kind of work that is performed through this program.

The State Ground Water Act requires that anybody who withdraws more than 300,000 gallons of ground water per month get a permit. Most of the localities in the region as well as many industries have permits from the state to do this. One condition of a permit is that a mitigation program must be in place to assist in compensating people whose wells are adversely impacted, they either run dry or fail to produce the amount of water they are supposed to. In 1994, through the Directors of Utilities Committee, the communities determined that a regional program should be in place to assist in the mitigation. The program was established with the PDC staffing it and an executed Memorandum of Understanding to guide it.

An individual well owner who believes there is a problem files a claim with his residence community. The claim is sent to the PDC staff where analysis is performed to determine the impact each individual locality has had on that individual's well. A model developed by

USGS is used for this analysis. Once the model is run, the share of responsibility is allocated based on the amount of ground water being withdrawn and its impact on the individual well. Depending on the impact from each jurisdiction, a bill is sent from the resident locality to the other localities involved. One check from the resident locality is submitted to the individual to compensate for the amount of impact imposed by the localities. Unfortunately, the balance of the impact comes from industry, commercial and agricultural activities who at the present time do not participate in the regional program. The individual must then approach each of the other permittees for compensation. Industry has expressed interest in participating in the program.

Mr. Carlock stated that this program provides a service to the individual well user who has a problem and is a much more convenient way for him and the localities to address the issues. This same program can be used by localities to provide an independent analysis of the impact of their permit on ground water withdrawal. The program has worked well with seven or eight claims submitted over the last few months. More claims are expected through the summer if rainfall is low. He offered to answer questions.

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS POLL

Mr. Richard Flannery, Regional Emergency Management Planner, was present to review the findings of the hurricane preparedness poll.

Mr. Flannery reviewed a new Mason-Dixon poll commissioned by the American Initiatives, an organization that launched the 2008 National Hurricane Survival Initiative, a public education and safety outreach partnership that includes the National Hurricane Center, The National Emergency Management Association and The Salvation Army and various corporate sponsors. As part of the initiative, a TV program will be broadcast throughout hurricane season on more than 50 television network-affiliate stations and secondary broadcasts on cable and government access channels from Texas to Maine to inform residents on preparedness strategies.

The poll shows that many of the residents who live within 30 miles of the coast fail to take proper precautions. NOAA predicts the 2008 hurricane season will be near normal or above normal in the Atlantic hurricane season. They anticipate 12-16 named storms with 6-9 becoming hurricanes, and 2-5 of those potentially becoming major hurricanes of category 3 or higher.

Homeowners and businesses often times are not properly covered by insurance. Many residents would evacuate too late, go too far or return too soon to their homes. Officials say residents should only evacuate as far as necessary to get to a secure structure outside the evacuation zone. About 17 percent of residents would leave only 12-24 hours before landfall of a major storm and increase chances of evacuation gridlock and the likelihood of riding out the storm in one of the most vulnerable areas – on the road. Besides being responsible for themselves, 12 percent say they are responsible for an elderly or disabled person. One-fourth of these have no plan for that person in the event of a hurricane.

Over half of the people polled would return to their homes before officials declared it safe to do so, and 29 percent said they would return as soon as the storm passed. More deaths occur after a hurricane due to downed power lines, unstable trees and flooding. A large

number also believe it is the government's responsibility to provide food, water, medicine and shelter in the first few days after a hurricane. Many indicated they are not sure whose responsibility it is. Preparedness officials recommend at least three days' supply of water, food and medicine on hand.

It has been nearly five years since Hampton Roads has seen a significant event and apathy may be prevalent in the region. Residents should have a disaster plan for themselves and families and prepare a survival kit. He concluded by offering to answer questions.

(Comr. Hayes departed.)

PROJECT STATUS REPORT

No questions or comments were noted.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

No questions or comments were noted.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

The Chairman noted that John Carlock would provide a quick summary of the release of the water quality report.

Mr. Carlock stated that DEQ released its Biennial Water Quality Assessment Report at the beginning of the week and PDC staff is wading through it. One volume contains 2,500 pages. The information provides an indication of how the region is doing with respect to meeting water quality standards, the number of water bodies impaired and how that has changed over the last two years.

Mr. Carlock noted that the media has focused on the fact there has been a substantial increase in the number of impaired waters in the Commonwealth. That is only partially true since a better job of sampling and improved technology as well as an increase in the number of waterways being sampled has had an impact on the number of impaired waters.

Four beaches were classified as impaired in 2006, but because of better sampling data and the work done by localities in addressing issues, all four of those public beaches are classified as clean and suitable for recreation. Virginia Beach has performed a substantial amount of work to meet bacteria standards to get the Lynnhaven River reopened for shellfish.

Mr. Carlock referred to a slide depicting the waters that were impaired in 2006. Staff is working to provide a 2008 comparison which should be available at the next meeting.

Once a water body is classified as impaired and does not meet water quality standards, it is shown on the impaired waters list. A requirement goes into place to prepare a total maximum daily load (TMDL) study and an implementation plan under state and federal law.

PDC staff is performing an outreach function to insure that the localities have the opportunity to participate in the program. Under the new stormwater permit requirements,

there are substantial new requirements individual localities must address for those water bodies that are classified as impaired within their community.

Mr. Carlock concluded that the state public comment period started on June 16 to run until July 25, 2008. A new approach in the age of high gas prices is the public comment teleconference. The public hearing itself will be held in Richmond, but each DEQ regional office will have a teleconference capability for the public to participate in the discussion of the new report.

He stated that staff is in the process of reviewing the document with DEQ being present at the Joint Environmental Meeting in July to provide a more detailed briefing. It is expected that by the July HRPDC meeting, further information will be available regarding the implications to Hampton Roads after the entire document has been sorted through and comments have been noted.

Mr. Farmer asked Mr. Carlock to display the physical report to provide the Commissioners an idea what staff is up against when reviewing the report.

Mayor Frank asked if anybody is doing an analysis of the relationship between the money being spent to the changes in water quality conditions.

Mr. Carlock replied that none has been performed locally but the experience in Virginia Beach with the Lynnhaven River over the past year is instructive that if there is a focused effort to deal with things like failing septic tanks, stormwater management, better management of wildlife and pets, that there is an opportunity for improvement of water quality. He added that he believes the City of Virginia Beach spent somewhere in the range of seven digits.

He added that the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act and the programs associated with it are not designed to improve or restore water quality. They are designed to prevent things from getting worse. Those regulations will get tighter and what has been seen from the stormwater program and how the technical criteria are being developed, it is going to be a substantial load on local government to put in new practices, but over the next 5-20 years they must maintain those practices.

Mayor Frank added that there ought to be some test as to whether the current programs are successful and cost effective or not.

Comr. Clark asked if there is a program that is successful in increasing water quality while a jurisdiction's population is increasing. The degradation of the water quality is just being slowed down.

Mayor Frank replied that at some point the degradation of that water quality gets to the point where it is a public health issue. If it is just being slowed down to put off the inevitable, a solution will not be reached. If the current programs are not getting to a solution, let the jurisdictions know so alternatives can be worked on.

Chairman Fraim presented two other items under new business. He added that the PDC Bylaws require that the meeting begin at 10:30 a.m. Action must be taken to move it to 11:00 a.m.

Mayor Frank Moved to start the July 16, 2008, PDC meeting at 11:00 a.m.; seconded by Comr. Clark. The Motion Carried.

Chairman Fraim then announced that Councilwoman Rebecca Adams from Chesapeake is attending her last meeting. He thanked her for her service and participation and added that a resolution of appreciation will be prepared for presentation to her at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission, the meeting adjourned at 12:16 p.m.

Dwight L. Farmer
Executive Director/Secretary

Paul D. Fraim
Chairman