

## **AGENDA NOTE – HRPDC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

### **ITEM #5 GROUNDWATER ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS**

#### **SUBJECT:**

The HRPDC staff will provide an overview of recent developments related to proposed cuts to groundwater withdrawal permits and the Report [\*An Investigation of the Economic Impacts of Coastal Plain Aquifer Depletion and Actions That May Be Needed to Maintain Long-Term Availability and Productivity\*](#) prepared by Virginia Tech and Abt Associates Inc. for the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) .

#### **BACKGROUND:**

The DEQ has proposed cutting the permitted groundwater withdrawals of the largest fourteen users. Eight of the fourteen permits are held by localities in Hampton Roads. DEQ has held meetings with each user that has a permit up for renewal and suggested a specific reduction to the permit. DEQ would like all eight permits to be issued by September 2015 and include steps to reach the reductions within the ten year permit term.

Since the HRPDC meeting on October 16, 2014, DEQ has released the study of the economic impacts of permit reductions. One of the conclusions was that “the cost of alternate water supply development could be postponed with increased regional coordination and water sharing among utilities”. Mr. David Paylor, Director of DEQ, met with “Mission H2O”, the stakeholder group focused on water supply, including the fourteen largest users on November 5, 2014.

HRPDC staff will review the analysis and conclusions in the economic impact report and discuss the key points of the recent meeting with DEQ.

**NOTE: This item is for informational purposes only.**