

**SUMMARY OF THE
MEETING OF THE
ELIZABETH RIVER STEERING COMMITTEE
November 1, 2013**

1. Meeting Summary:

The summary from the August meeting was accepted with edits from HRSD.

2. COE Project Status Report

The presentation that Mr. Pretlow prepared would not work, so he provided the committee with an update on current projects. The COE is ready to get started on the Woodstock project again and just needs a letter from Virginia Beach, so the project can be restarted next year. The COE will initiate conversations with the City of Norfolk concerning restoration at Grandy Village because only 1.5 acres of the original project is left. COE has FY14 funding for design of Carolanne Farms and Lancelot Drive. The Scuffletown remediation projects have been taken over as mitigation projects and likely won't be completed until FY16.

Mr. Pretlow explained that the COE financial department wanted more information on the expenditures of the last 15 year. Mr. Pretlow grouped together all in-kind services, so no one needs to offset or provide additional information. In the future, DEQ will act as the official sponsor rather than each locality.

Mr. Bernick requested that additional information on the Elizabeth River Feasibility Study be added to the COE website.

3. Discussion of Upcoming TMDLs and Implementation Plans

Mr. Mcleod, DEQ, provided the Committee with an update on TMDLs and Implementation Plans under development. DEQ is wrapping up the Back and Poquoson Rivers TMDLs, and is starting an Implementation Plan for Chuckatuck Creek in Suffolk. DEQ is not planning any TMDLs or IPs for the Elizabeth River in 2014. DEQ is working with VDH to upgrade the Lafayette from condemned to restricted for shellfishing. DEQ expects that the Lafayette will be delisted for swimming when the next 305b report is released. The schedule for completion of the PCB TMDLs for the James and Elizabeth Rivers is now 2015. It was noted that although DEQ does not have any IPs planned for the Elizabeth River, the Elizabeth River Project (ERP) has been working with HRSD in Paradise Creek and is interested in developing an IP for this subwatershed. ERP also noted that they plan to begin developing a watershed plan for the Eastern Branch of the Elizabeth River in January.

4. Committee Reports:

COE: The Corps is expecting funding to study the Southern Branch Navigation Channel. The COE is revamping their oyster program and is looking for partners. Projects require a 25% local match (can be in-kind), and interested localities should contact Susan Conner. The Virginia interagency meeting on oysters has been rescheduled for December 11, 2013. The COE has not given up on oysters as a Bay

TMDL BMP, but need to address the issue of variability. Federal funding for oysters as shoreline stabilization is available through the 704B program.

Norfolk: Construction has been delayed at the Myrtle Park restoration site, but construction will be beginning at the end of the year on the greenway project at Haven Creek. Norfolk is working on a section 22 study to survey existing reefs and determine the feasibility of using them as sills for shoreline protection.

Virginia Beach: The City is looking to improve water access in the Eastern Branch. They plan to begin work on the Eastern Branch Greenway Plan in 2015 that will mirror the work being done in the North Landing watershed. City Council will be voting on a new urban forestry plan that will increase tree canopy from 38% to 45% over the next 15 years. Virginia Beach is planning changes to its floodplain program including raising the freeboard requirements from 1 foot to 2 feet. The City is working with Lynnhaven River Now to develop an aquaculture center in Long Creek.

HRSD: The contract for the Lafayette River crossing pipeline project was awarded last month. Substantial completion is scheduled for July 2014 with the project ending in August.

ERP: Recently received grants focused on the Eastern Branch of the Elizabeth River. ERP is convening a stakeholder group in January to develop a subwatershed plan. ERP is also working on a neighbor to neighbor yard makeover program in Chesterfield Heights. The Paradise Creek Nature Park is open to the public.

VMRC: The Living Shoreline General Permit has hit a roadblock because of public notice requirements in wetlands and dunes ordinances. VMRC is consulting on how to make changes and plans to request General Assembly action.

CBF: CBF conducted a spat catcher roundup last Saturday. Chris will present results at the next meeting, but overall 2013 was not a good year for spat settling. CBF has received a NFWF grant to put more oysters in the Lafayette.

DEQ: Staff recently visited the Atlantic Wood Superfund site. The stormwater work and cutoff wall are complete. The upland remediation is in progress. The dewatering wall will be constructed next.

5. Next Meeting:

The next regularly scheduled meeting is February 7, 2014. Meeting materials will now be posted to the HRPDC website (www.hrpdcva.gov). Agendas, attachments, and presentations can be accessed through the calendar posting for the ER Steering Committee meeting.

ATTENDEES

HRPDC	Jenny Tribo
COE	Robert Pretlow, Susan Connor
Chesapeake	Jennifer White
Norfolk	Justin Shafer
Virginia Beach	Clay Bernick
DEQ	Roger Everton, John McLeod
HRSD	Jamie Mitchell
ERP	Marjorie Jackson
VMRC	Justine Woodward
CBF	Chris Moore
Other	Deva Borah