

Attachment 1A
MEETING SUMMARY
MEETING OF
Directors of Utilities Committee
February 5, 2014
Chesapeake

1. Summary of the January 08, 2014 Meeting of the Directors of Utilities Committee.

There were no comments on or revisions to the summary of the December 4, 2013 Committee meeting.

ACTION: The summary of the January 08, 2014 Directors of Utilities Committee meeting was approved.

2. Groundwater Regulatory Update

Scott Kudlas, DEQ, presented an update on initiatives that DEQ is developing to address groundwater sustainability in Virginia. DEQ is preparing a briefing for the State Water Commission for Fall 2014. DEQ is soliciting comments from stakeholders ahead of this briefing and will be meeting regularly with Secretary Ward to keep her updated on the progress. Mr. Kudlas highlighted that sustainable use is around 90-100 MGD (including 30 MGD unpermitted residential use); total permitted use is 120 MGD; and current use is 65 MGD (permitted) and 30 MGD (estimated unpermitted withdrawals). A copy of Mr. Kudlas' presentation is attached.

In response to a question about where the unpumped water was, Mr. Kudlas responded that most of it was held by municipal permittees. Another committee member asked why we are seeing declining water levels if current use is within the range of sustainable use. Mr. Kudlas responded that these numbers reflect recent decreases by some permitted uses (IP) and that it can take decades to see water level recovery after a decrease in use. Mr. Kudlas also noted that the level of sustainable use is defined as having no depleted cells in the model, but decreasing water levels do not stabilize even at sustainable use without accounting for the location of the withdrawals. Mr. Kudlas added that water supply plans indicate that unpermitted residential use is likely to increase significantly in the future, and the model simulation for sustainable use held these figures constant. The model simulation also did not include irrigation wells within municipal service areas. There was a brief discussion among members on how to discourage or prohibit groundwater use within the municipal system by industry as well as by homeowners. Committee members encourage DEQ to take the lead on funding solutions to this problem by charging for groundwater. DEQ noted that if a solution cannot be reached, then DEQ will have to start denying permits. Committee members urged DEQ to deal with unpermitted users before cracking down on permits. One committee member noted that if DEQ can determine the sustainable use that will stop subsidence, then they could attract attention and funding.

ACTION: No action.

3. Regional Sanitary Sewer System Asset Consolidation

Whitney Katchmark, HRDPC staff, reviewed which localities have approved the hybrid MOA and presented a slide with the dates for the Board meetings where the MOA will be presented (attached). HRPDC has sent weekly updates to the Committee since the meeting to keep everyone apprised of who has approved the MOA.

ACTION: No action.

4. Monthly Meter Reading

At the request of Newport News, the Committee discussed the merits and difficulties of monthly billing and meter reading.

ACTION: Newport News will develop a matrix to collect data from other localities about meter reading and billing practices.

5. Staff Reports

- **Mission H2O:** Whitney Katchmark, HRPDC, reminded the Committee that Mission H2O will be meeting on February 11, 2014 to develop final recommendations for DEQ on groundwater sustainability initiatives. The Committee requested that efforts to maximize the use of surface water be added to the recommendations.
- **Legislative Update:** At the request of the Committee, Mr. Kudlas also provided a brief update on the legislation related to fracking. In short, fracking is not prohibited except in areas where it is already prohibited. DEQ must develop regulations and guidance. Anyone who wants to drill within the Eastern Virginia Groundwater Management area will have to develop an EIS with data collection requirements and baseline monitoring. USGS estimates there is up to 1 billion cubic meters of gas in the Taylorsville basin. Attached are slides from the PDC brief that shows a map of this area.
- **Newport News:** Newport News is concerned that the majority of localities have not adopted a FOG ordinance. He requested this be added to the March agenda for discussion. The APWA Mid-Atlantic Chapter will be having its annual conference in Newport News May 7-9.
- **Virginia Beach:** Tom Leahy announced that 50,000 – 80,000 tons of coal ash was spilled into the Dan River over the weekend. As a precaution, the Lake Gaston pumps have been turned off.

ACTION: No action.