

July 30, 2020

Memorandum #2020-87

TO: Regional Environmental Committee Members

BY: Whitney Katchmark, HRPDC Principal Water Resources Engineer

RE: Regional Environmental Committee Meeting – August 6, 2020

The next meeting of the **HRPDC Regional Environmental Committee** will be held at **10:00 a.m. on Thursday, August 6, 2020**. The agenda and related materials are attached.

Pursuant to the declared state of emergency in the Commonwealth of Virginia in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and to protect the public health and safety of the committee members, staff, and the general public, the Regional Environmental Committee meeting will be held electronically via Webex. Participants can join using the following information:

Join by computer: <https://pdc-tpo-staff.my.webex.com/pdc-tpo-staff.my/j.php?MTID=m44027555c08301584d36131b876981d7>

-or-

Join by phone: 408-418-9388

Meeting Number / Access Code: 126 722 1033

Password: JAcMxA3mn69 (52269236 from phones)

If you have any questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

JCS/cm

Attachments

**AGENDA
MEETING OF THE
HAMPTON ROADS REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE
AUGUST 6, 2020
10:00 A.M.**

1. Summary of the July 2, 2020 Meeting of the Hampton Roads Regional Environmental Committee (REC).

The summary and attendance sheets of the above meeting are attached.

Attachments: 1A – July REC Meeting Summary
1B – July REC Meeting Attendance

ACTION: Accept the Meeting Summary

2. Public Comments

3. ConserveVirginia 2.0

The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) released [ConserveVirginia 2.0](#) on June 12, 2020. This updated version now includes a water quality component. Mr. Joe Weber (DCR) will provide an overview of the mapping application, how the new categories can add value to future land conservation efforts, and specifically how the water quality component fits in to help conserve lands in the region. Mr. James Martin (DEQ) will also be available to speak to how this component relates to Virginia's non-point source water quality program and how it can be used for Chesapeake Bay TMDL efforts in the region.

ACTION: None required

4. What's in your Flood Plain?

HRPDC staff will provide an introduction on research being conducted to evaluate the potential risks associated with hazardous waste and/or chemicals and flood-related events that could lead to contamination of our waterways. This project will seek to: 1) identify hazard sites, 2) assess the risk as it is related to sea level rise, flooding, and climate change impacts, 3) evaluate who is affected if contamination occurs, and 4) determine how the region can reduce these risks through policies and regulations and develop mitigation strategies. Feedback on next steps is appreciated.

ACTION: None required

5. Overview of Regional Solid Waste Management Planning

All Virginia localities or regions designated as solid waste planning units are required to prepare solid waste management plans. The HRPDC is the agency responsible for regional solid waste management planning for south Hampton Roads localities. Mr. Matt Smith, HRPDC Senior Regional Planner, will discuss the structure and purpose of solid

waste management plans and how the region can use the plan to further some of its environmental goals.

ACTION: None required

6. Other Matters

Regional Environmental Committee – Voting:

Chesapeake
Barbara Brumbaugh

James City
Toni Small
Michael Woolson

Smithfield
Tammie Clary

Windsor
Vacant
Vacant

Franklin/Southampton
Donald E. Goodwin
Beth Lewis

Newport News
Angela Hopkins
Allison Watts

Suffolk
Erin Rountree

York
Anna Drake

Gloucester
Mike Hudgins
Kevin Landry

Norfolk
Justin Shafer
June Whitehurst

Surry
William Saunders

Hampton
David Imburgia
Greta Hawkins

Poquoson
Dannan O’Connell
Ellen Roberts

Virginia Beach
Melanie Coffey
Diana St. John

Isle of Wight
Kim Hummel
Melissa Lindgren

Portsmouth
Meg Pittenger
Thomas Quattlebaum

Williamsburg
Heather Markle
Aaron Small

Regional Environmental Committee – Non-Voting:

HRSD
Jamie Mitchell
Kevin M. Parker
Jennifer Reitz

NAVY
Tara Fisher
Brian Powell
Phillip S. Winslow, Jr.

SWCD
Stacey Bradshaw
Tara Outland-Williams
Jim Wallace

VDEQ
Noah Hill
John Kennedy

VDOT
Jennifer Dail
Andrew B. Scott

VDOF
Bryant Bays
Meghan Mulroy-Goldman

USGS
Mark Bennett

NOAA
Andrew Larkin

James City
Trevor Long

Virginia Beach
Shawn Fluharty

**SUMMARY OF THE MEETING OF THE
HRPDC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE
July 2, 2020**

Pursuant to Governor Northam's Executive Order 53 issued on March 23, 2020 and Executive Order 61 issued on May 8, 2020, the Regional Environmental Committee meeting was held electronically via WebEx. The meeting was held on July 2, 2020 at 10:00 AM.

1. Attendance

The following members attended electronically:

Regional Environmental Committee Voting Members:

Barbara Brumbaugh, CH	Heather Markle, WM
Melanie Coffey, VB	Erin Rountree, SU
Anna Drake, YK	Diana St. John, VB
Angela Hopkins, NN	Allison Watts, NN
Beth Lewis, FR/SH	June Whitehurst, NO
Melissa Lindgren, IW	

Regional Environmental Committee Non-Voting Members:

Trevor Long, JC

2. Summary of the June 4, 2020 Meeting of the Hampton Roads Regional Environmental Committee.

There were no comments on the June meeting summary.

3. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

4. Bow Creek Stormwater Park

Mr. Mike Mundy, Virginia Beach Stormwater Engineering Program Manager, briefed the Committee on a project to convert the Bow Creek Golf Course to a park featuring water storage and flood mitigation aspects. This is an 8-15 year project that will begin Phase 1 in 2 years. It encompasses 2,600 acres and will improve drainage and flooding concerns in Windsor Woods, Princess Anne Plaza, and The Lakes. Engineers worked with Parks

and Recreation Department staff and landscape architects to design a park that is walkable, bikeable, and functional for storing and removing water. Engineering features will include pump stations and flood gates while the golf course itself will be designed to retain water during flood events.

Mr. Mundy emphasized the importance of reaching out to the communities that would be most affected by the design and construction of the park. He emphasized that reaching out to a younger demographic via social media was key to getting input they needed for the design. It also helped to provide buy-in and support for the project. While some were upset that the golf course would go away, most were enthusiastic and supportive of the project.

A question was asked about what happens when the water is pumped out during an event, will it just flood elsewhere? Mr. Mundy stated that the channel will divert it to a lower elevation but it will act just like a tide and fall accordingly without detriment to other areas. He said it's a hard concept to convey and many residents are concerned about that issue. Mr. Mundy also commented on cost/benefit analyses they performed and that their team did look at the potential cost of future flooding of houses and roadways to allow them to prioritize parts of the project. This helped them convey the importance of each part to City Council.

It was also asked whether or not the pump station and flood gates will be operated manually or automated. Mr. Mundy said they are in new territory with this, they will install sensors up and down stream to monitor water levels. Likely, they will have to build dorm-like facilities for operators to stay in during large storm events to manually monitor and operate flood control features. This is something they are still researching and investigating for future phases of the project.

Mr. Mundy closed by commenting on the longevity of this project and if it will withstand future projections of sea level rise and flooding. The City has an overall plan for flood control and this is just one project. While this project will withstand some future projections, they are also relying on city-wide flood control measures to protect these neighborhoods farther into the future. He also noted that they are trying to be transparent throughout this process. This is a very innovative project for the region and they want others to use lessons learned in their localities.

5. Living River Trust

Mr. John Harbin, Living River Trust (LRT) Executive Director, briefed the Committee on how the Trust came into existence, what past and recent projects they are working on, and future projects. The Trust was developed as a result of mitigation funds for clean-up of contaminated sites on the Elizabeth River. Since its inception in 2003, the Trust has restored contaminated river bottom sites and conserved 1,100 acres in the Elizabeth River Watershed by providing compensatory mitigation for subaqueous impacts through an In-Lieu Fee (ILF) program.

The land trust component of the LRT was established in 2010. To date, they purchased 9 acres in VA Beach (Ferry Point Park) in 2017 and 494 acres in the Great Dismal Swamp in 2020. The LRT is currently working with the National Fish and Wildlife Federation to evaluate and prioritize 29 properties along the Eastern and Southern Branch of the Elizabeth River for long-term conservation.

LRT is currently partnering with the Cities of Norfolk and Chesapeake and Wetlands Watch to figure out how to convert frequently flooded residential parcels to conserved open space, restore natural features & mitigate flooding through adaptive land management strategies.

A question was asked about how the Trust uses Conserve Virginia for identifying and prioritizing potential projects. Mr. Harbin noted that it's important to use Conserve VA for funding opportunities, as some funding considerations are tied to this application. However, it does have its challenges. It doesn't provide the most detail, but his hope is that Conserve VA 2.0 will provide more helpful information. It's necessary that the Trust try to bring money to the table and most of the time those funds need to come from the state. Land values in this region are high and people aren't readily willing to donate land, so funding is key.

There was interest in the incentive and credit programs being offered in Norfolk. One attendee noted that it's really important to find better ways to develop and live with water. Norfolk's resilience quotient is important for that. Wetlands Watch has several subcommittees working on rolling easements, a FEMA acquisition program, adaptive land management strategies, and tax and valuation issues. They welcome additional members to their subcommittees and more information can be found [here](#). The process for acquisition of property through FEMA has proven to be challenging and they are learning and refining the process for that.

6. Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act (CBPA) Comprehensive Plan Requirements

Mr. Matt Smith, HRPDC Senior Regional Planner, discussed how the HRPDC and Surry County updated the environmental section of Surry County's Comprehensive Plan to meet CBPA comprehensive planning requirements. There is a requirement in Virginia's Administrative Code that local governments have to periodically update their comprehensive plans to comply with the CBPA. The key elements of the update include gathering an information base of data and developing maps.

The information base consists of assessing physical constraints to development, information about commercial and recreational fisheries, shoreline and streambank erosion, existing and potential water pollution sources, public and private waterfront access areas, the location of Chesapeake Bay Preservation Areas, and existing and proposed land uses. There are a variety of places to obtain some of these data sets including [HR Geo](#), various state agencies and partners (VGIN, DEQ, DCR, VIMS, etc.), and the [Hampton Roads Regional Water Supply Plan](#).

Key takeaways are that a locality should contact the DEQ Local Government Assistance Liaison (Amber Foster) early in the planning process, ask for the comprehensive planning requirement checklist, use maps to convey information and as a basis for discussion and analysis, break the project into manageable components, review other local plans, and contact HRPDC subject matter experts. Amber Foster (DEQ) was present at the meeting and reiterated that her job was to help localities through this process.

Other Matters

- The City of Chesapeake announced that their Public Works Director has retired, the Assistant Director, Earl Sorey, will start July 7 as the new Public Works Director.
- Matt Smith shared some photos from a trip to view Dominion Energy's Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind Pilot Project, which consists of two wind turbines 27 miles off Virginia's coast. 180 more turbines are planned. This will generate enough energy to power 650,000 homes.

The next meeting of the Regional Environmental Committee will be held on Thursday, August 6, 2020 and it will be held virtually via WebEx.

Attachment 1B
Committee Meeting Sign-In Sheet

Locality/Agency	Representative	Representative	Representative	Representative	Representative	Representative	Representative	Representative	Representative	Representative
Chesapeake	Barbara Brumbaugh									
Franklin/Southampton	Beth Lewis									
Gloucester										
Hampton										
Isle of Wight	Melissa Lindgren									
James City	Trevor Long									
Newport News	Allison Watts	Angela Hopkins	Kim Moshier							
Norfolk	June Whitehurst	Esi Langston								
Poquoson										
Portsmouth	Brian Swets									
Smithfield	Tammy Clary									
Suffolk	Erin Rountree	Matt Fanghella								
Surry										
Virginia Beach	Diana St. John	Amanda Medley	Sue Kriebel	Mike Bumbaco						
Williamsburg	Heather Markle									
Windsor										
York	Anna Drake									
HRPDC	Ashley Gordon	KC Filippino	Ben McFarlane	Whitney Katchmark	Jill Sunderland	Matt Smith				
HRSD										
HRTPO										
DCR										
DEQ	Amber Foster									
DGIF										
DHCD										
SWCD										
VDEM										
VDOF										
VDH										
VDOT										
VMRC										
Port of Virginia										
Jefferson Lab										
NASA										
Navy										
NRCS										
USACE										
USGS										
USFWS										
ODU										
VIMS										
W&M										
Virginia Sea Grant										
CBF	Tanner Council									
Elizabeth River Project										
James River Association										
Living River Trust	John Harbin									
Lynnhaven River Now										
Wetlands Watch	Ross Weaver									
AECOM	Amelia Dacruz									
AMT Engineering										
Arcadis										
Bay Environmental										
Brown & Caldwell										
Cardno										
CH2M										
Clark Nexsen										
Contech ES										
Dewberry										
F&R										
Geosyntec										
GKY										
Hazen & Sawyer										
Jacobs										
Kerr Environmental										
Kimley-Horn										
Louis Berger										
Michael Baker										
Opti RTC										
Parsons Brinckerhoff										
RK&K										
Timmons Group	Liz Scheesele									
Stantech										
Whitman Requardt	Mike Barbachem									
Woolpert										
Guests										
Public										