

**SUMMARY OF THE MEETING OF THE
HRPDC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE
December 3, 2020**

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 was held electronically via WebEx. These electronic meetings are required to complete essential business on behalf of the region. A recording of the meeting is available on the website.

Attendance

A complete attendance list is available. In addition to several non-voting committee members and other interested parties, the following members participated electronically:

Regional Environmental Committee Voting Members:

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|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Barbara Brumbaugh, CH | Beth Lewis, SH |
| Tammie Clary, SM | Heather Markle, WG |
| Melanie Coffey, VB | Meg Pittenger, PO |
| Anna Drake, YK | Thomas Quattlebaum, PO |
| Greta Hawkins, HA | Justin Shafer, NO |
| Angela Hopkins, NN | Diana St. John, VB |
| David Imburgia, HA | Allison Watts, NN |
| David Kuzma, IW | June Whitehurst, NO |
| Kevin Landry, GL | Michael Woolson, JC |

1. Summary of the November 5, 2020 Meeting of the Regional Environmental Committee

There were no comments on the November meeting summary.

2. Public Comments

David Taylor, from DEQ's Tidewater Regional Office, informed the Committee that the draft Chesapeake Bay TMDL Action Plan for MS4 permittees will be released to the Virginia Regulatory Town Hall on December 7, 2020 for public comment.

3. Virginia Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) Tidewater Air Monitoring Evaluation Project

Mr. Charles "Chuck" Turner, DEQ Manager of Air Quality Monitoring, briefed the Committee on DEQ's Tidewater Air Monitoring Evaluation project. Recently on October 30, 2020, DEQ received the initial installment of funding for a Community Scale Air Toxics

Monitoring grant, awarded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The project will characterize the ambient concentrations of air toxic metals that may be related to coal dust in two Tidewater communities: (1) southeast community of Newport News, and (2) Lambert's Point community of Norfolk. Environmental justice was considered in the project and the study communities have a relatively high percentage of minority and low-income populations,

Within each community, up to 5 air monitoring sites will be installed to measure the following particulate categories: (1) total suspended particulates (TSP), (2) particulate matter less than 10 microns (PM10), and (3) particulate matter less than 2.5 microns (PM2.5). The metals analyzed will include arsenic, beryllium, cadmium, total chromium, lead, manganese, and nickel. These metals are also included in the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and the results for PM10 and PM2.5 data will be compared to these standards. This will help determine if permanent particulate monitoring sites are needed. An interim data quality report will be produced that includes an evaluation of the metals results relative to similar areas across the Commonwealth and EPA Region 3. The final report submitted to EPA will include a health risk assessment developed in coordination with the Virginia Department of Health. The project includes a significant community involvement component to assist with selecting monitoring sites, understanding air quality issues, and reviewing the final report. A public engagement plan that includes COVID-19 considerations is currently under development. To receive updates related to the project, visit <http://bit.do/TAMEproject>.

Discussion following Mr. Turner's presentation included the potential for additional industry air quality regulations, consideration of ambient air quality control sites, and the material handling process by which metals becoming airborne. Ms. June Whitehurst, City of Norfolk, noted that there is a lot of interest across the city in the study and city staff could assist with community engagement and monitor siting. Mr. Turner noted that EPA restricted the length of monitoring to one year, and DEQ is interested in expanding the monitoring length.

4. Virginia Coastal Resilience Master Plan Framework

Mr. Ben McFarlane, HRPDC, provided an overview of the Virginia Coastal Resilience Master Planning Framework. The framework divides coastal Virginia into 4 sub-regions, with Hampton Roads designated as an individual planning region. Chapter 6 of the framework includes several initial actions and recommendations, including establishing a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). The first TAC meeting will be held virtually on December 14th at 12:30pm. The framework also recommends developing a Strategic Coastal Relocation Handbook within the next year. Chapter 7 of the framework focuses on financing and funding strategies, and there is one proposed source of new funding. Mr. McFarlane noted several concerns related to the framework, including the emphasis on strategic relocation and preservation of natural resources as the preferred adaptation options, the limited resources for long-term capacity building, the limited stakeholder engagement in the planning process, and the relatively quick timeline for implementation.

Mr. McFarlane also noted several new documents that have been recently released. The Virginia Department of Natural Resources and Conservation guidelines for the new Community Flood Preparedness Fund have been posted to Virginia Town Hall. The Coastal Master Plan Request for Proposals has been released. Proposals are due December 30th and the final master plan will be due October 27th, 2021. The proposed Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act (CBPA) amendments were also released as part of the State Water Control Board (SWCB) agenda for December 9, 2020. The Hampton Roads Chief Administrative Officers have sent a letter to the SWCB requesting a delay in the CBPA amendment process and suggesting a process that includes more stakeholder engagement, such as the development of a regulatory advisory panel. Ms. Whitney Katchmark will also be making a public comment on behalf of the CAOs at the upcoming SWCB meeting. Local staff are encouraged to share their input with HRPDC staff and share these documents with their colleagues for review.

Questions following Mr. McFarlane's presentation included the process for public comment for the CBPA amendments. If the proposed CBPA amendments are published in the state register, there will be a 60-day comment period and HRPDC staff would discuss this with the Regional Environmental Committee. Discussion focused on both the Coastal Resilience Master Planning Framework and proposed CBPA amendments. Mr. Brian Swets, City of Portsmouth, recommended focusing on how the new Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) funding could be applied and working within the identified framework rather than changing the process. Mr. David Imburgia, City of Hampton, stated the City planning and zoning staff have significant concerns regarding the clarity of the proposed CBPA amendment language. Mr. McFarlane noted that the CBPA amendments will likely be discussed in more detail at the January Regional Environmental Committee meeting.

5. Current Events from the York River and Small Coastal Basins Roundtable (YRSCBR)

Ms. Cirse Gonzalez, Coastal Training Program Coordinator for Chesapeake Bay NERR – Virginia, provided an overview of the York River and Small Coastal Basins Roundtable (YRSCBR) current efforts. YRSCBR is one of 13 watershed roundtables across Virginia and focuses on coordination and collaboration around watershed issues to support water quality improvement goals. YRSCBR has 82 members from various public and private entities. The YRSCBR has four cornerstones, including community, environmental literacy, capacity building, and holistic resilience.

The YRSCBR strategic plan is implemented by four steering committees: (1) science, (2) education and outreach, (3) habitat restoration, and (4) business. Ms. Gonzalez highlighted recent initiatives of these committees, including featuring businesses that follow best practices for watershed resilience, efforts to update the State of the York Report, and site selection for habitat restoration in the middle peninsula. Nominations are currently being accepted for an award for educators that demonstrate excellence in environmental literacy and watershed awareness in the face of COVID. Contact Ms. Gonzalez (cagonzalez@vims.edu) if interested in making a nomination. Dr. KC Filippino

and Mr. Ben McFarlane, HRPDC, also participate in the YRSCBR and the Habitat Steering Committee if meeting participants have questions regarding these efforts.

6. Virginia Bay Enhancement Working Group (VA BEWG) and Beneficial Use of Dredge Material

Dr. KC Filippino and Mr. Ben McFarlane are participating in a Virginia Bay Enhancement Working Group (VA BEWG) established in 2020. Last year Secretary Strickler requested a re-evaluation of dredge placement and opportunities for the beneficial use of dredge materials. The focal area is the Baltimore channel that spans Maryland and Virginia. Maryland has been authorized to overboard dredge materials in Virginia waters since 1981, and recent research has shown this dredge material threatens crab and fishery habitats in Virginia. The possible extent of dredge material dispersal spans from Tangier to Hampton Roads. The Maryland Port Administration (MPA) is leading the working group, and the Coordinating Committee also includes the Maryland Department of Transportation, the Maryland Environmental Service, the Virginia Marine Resources Commission, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Baltimore District.

The first VA BEWG was held in October and covered the history of the Maryland dredging program, an overview of dredging, a current situation assessment, and a review of successful beneficial use stories. For the upcoming December meeting, topics include potential options for the beneficial use of dredge material and different dredge material placement sites. The working group process will last one year and includes many partners, including federal, state, non-profit and private entities.

Discussion following the presentation focused on the frequency of dredging and the level of pollution in dredge materials, which is variable based on location.

7. Other Matters

The Water Quality Technical meeting will be held at 1pm today and focus on street sweeping and an urban tree best management practice in Delaware.

Ms. Liz Scheessele, Timmons Group, announced that the Virginia Lakes and Watershed conference will be held virtually in March. The conference will span over 3 mornings and early-bird registration is open.

Mr. McFarlane noted that the State Water Control Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 9th at 10am and pre-registration is required to attend.

The next meeting of the Regional Environmental Committee will be held on Thursday, January 7, 2021 virtually via WebEx.