

**MEETING SUMMARY**  
**JOINT MEETING OF DIRECTORS OF UTILITIES COMMITTEE AND HEALTH DIRECTORS**  
**July 10, 2019**  
**Newport News**

**1. Summary of the December 5, 2018 joint meeting of the Directors of Utilities Committee and Health Directors**

There were no comments on, or revisions to the summary of the December 5, 2018 Committee meeting.

**ACTION:** The summary of the December 5, 2018 joint meeting of the Directors of Utilities Committee and Health Directors was approved.

**2. Summary of the June 5, 2019 meeting of the Directors of Utilities Committee**

There were no comments on, or revisions to the summary of the June 5, 2019 Committee meeting.

**ACTION:** The summary of the June 5, 2019 meeting of the Directors of Utilities Committee was approved.

**3. Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

**4. Fluoride – Information for Inquires**

Ms. Jeanette Bowman, VDH – Family Health Services, Community Water Fluoridation (CWF) Coordinator, spoke on how to effectively address the public in regards to concerns about water fluoridation. She explained the 3 key messages to convey when addressing uncertainty about fluoridation:

1. Fluoride is naturally found in all water sources.
2. Children and adults need fluoride for healthy teeth.
3. Studies on CWF over 70 years confirm that CWF is a safe and effective public health intervention.

Ms. Bowman additionally informed the attendees of the future goals/plans of the Community Water Fluoridation, including a potential requirement of a 90 day notice before localities stop fluoridating their water. Ms. Bowman provided folders of resources including a copy of her presentation, an American Dental Association sponsored Fluoride brochure, tips for talking about CWF, grant funding opportunities, and additional online resources.

Several Utility Directors noted that they occasionally receive questions from the public regarding fluoridation and found the resources to be helpful. Ms. Katchmark suggested that some of the resources be made available on the askHRgreen website.

**ACTION:** No action.

## 5. **VDH Office of Drinking Water Program Update**

Mr. Dan Horne, VDH-ODW Southeast Virginia Field Office Director, presented a regulatory update. He focused on the state and federal bills that have been introduced to address the testing of lead in drinking water in schools, the new lead service line replacement program, and new EPA regulations associated with America's Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA) 2018.

Though the issue has received more attention lately, testing the drinking water in schools is not a new topic. The Lead Contamination Control Act of 1988 focused on identification and resolution of lead problems in schools' drinking water. It was designed to repair or remove water coolers with lead-lined tanks. However, the program was voluntary and had no associated funding.

The ODW partnered with the Virginia School Plant Managers Association in 2017 to develop an approach for lead testing. They agreed to follow the "Three T's Program", which includes training school officials, testing drinking water, and taking action to communicate results and remediate issues. Some school districts in Hampton Roads have completed some sampling; others are still developing their plan. The WIIN Act Section 2107 offers funding to "assist local and tribal education agencies in voluntary testing for lead contamination in drinking water at schools and child care programs"

Mr. Horne detailed the WIIN Act sections 2104 and 2105 funding availability and timeline. This funding could be used to address infrastructure issues associated with lead in drinking water. The Virginia allotment for section 2104 was \$691,000. Section 2105 has no assured allotment and is based on competitive grant funding.

Mr. Horne explained the EPA requirements for the AWIA act including: more readable consumer confidence reports, consolidating intractables, new Risk and Resilience Assessments and Emergency Response Plans, notification requirements for spills that affect source waters, and funding sources for monitoring UCMR's. The EPA is offering 1 hour webinars (August 22 and September 5) and 1 day in person training sessions in Pittsburg, PA (October 16) and Annapolis, MD (November 1) to assist waterworks on EPA tools and the new requirements. Mr. Horne highly recommends waterworks send a representative to a one day training session.

Mr. Horne concluded his presentation with information on updates of waterworks regulations. Mr. Horne stressed the need for waterworks to have a complete and accurate inventory of service line materials, develop a corrosion control strategy and evaluate a strategy for lead service line replacements. Additionally, Mr. Horne also

reported on a new proposed primary maximum contaminant level (PCML) for Perchlorate of 0.056 mg/L. The new PMCL has an open comment period until August 26.

Suffolk expressed concern over the feasibility of an accurate service line inventory that wouldn't require utilities to dig up the service lines. Mr. Horne suggested attempting to find archived documentation for older service lines instead of digging them up.

**ACTION:** No action.

## 6. VDH Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs)

Dr. Todd Egerton VDH, Division of Shellfish Safety, presented a summary presentation of HABs in Virginia and the potential impacts to human health. The HAB Taskforce was established in late 1990's to address blooms affecting both coastal and freshwater. Currently, the HAB taskforce focuses on routine and response based monitoring. The results of this monitoring can be found on [www.swimhealthyva.com](http://www.swimhealthyva.com), where citizens can learn more about HABs, report a fish kill or HAB, and view where in Virginia there is a current HAB.

Dr. Egerton identified potentially toxic algae that are common to Chesapeake Bay and historical HABs in the Chesapeake Bay. He did note that to date, there has been no HAB related human illnesses from Virginia shellfish. Dr. Egerton also explained potentially toxic blue-green algae found in Virginia freshwaters and shared information on historical HABs in Virginia freshwater.

Mr. Aaron Moses presented on VDH Algal Bloom Response Plan that was developed in order to ensure public health. The Algal Bloom Response Plan is composed of 4 steps of monitoring both raw and finished water that will help utilities decide whether to issue a "Do Not Drink" notice. The first step is preparing a source water protection plan or treatment plan for harmful algal blooms in addition to monitoring and reporting any blooms. When a bloom is potentially detected, utilities are recommended to analyze raw water for cyanotoxins, if present, utilities should continue to monitor raw and finished water for cyanotoxins. VDH – ODW may assist with sampling and analysis during these two steps. Finally if cyanotoxins are above the child health advisory for 10 days, ODW recommends issuing a "Do Not Drink" notice.

Norfolk asked how a "Do Not Drink" notice is different than a "Boil Water" advisory in the case of an algal bloom. Mr. Moses stated that boiling the water will not remove the cyanotoxins, and has the potential for releasing more toxins into the drinking water. Mr. Moses finished his presentation by explaining Source Water Protection technical assistance provided through VDH-ODW and contractors, in addition to wellhead protection grants offered through VDH – ODW.

Dr. Todd Egerton presented on how the VDH was using SSO data to estimate the potential impact on shellfish growing areas. VDH uses SSO data to assess the need to

issue recalls or establish emergency condemnations on local shellfish. Dr. Egerton expressed the continued need to include the volume of SSOs to inform protective beach closure decisions.

**ACTION:** No action

## 7. Bacteria Source Tracking Program

Before Dr. Raul Gonzalez began, Suffolk expressed how useful the Bacteria Source Tracking program has been in the past 4-5 years for finding sources of leaks in Suffolk.

Dr. Raul Gonzalez, HRSD gave an update on the microbial source tracking program, beginning with the shortcomings of using fecal indicators as an indicator for a potential problem. Instead he suggests using the HF 183 marker which indicates recent sewage contamination as it is only measurable for 3 days. Dr. Gonzalez gave examples of how the Bacteria Source Tracking Program has worked in the past, including at Haven Creek. Additionally he presented on recent improvements to the methods of Bacteria Source Tracking including using next generation sequencing techniques. The Bacteria Source Tracking Program is being expanded to look at watershed level contamination and has the capacity to help more localities in the area.

**ACTION:** No action.

## 8. Utility Directors and Health Directors Roundtable Discussion

There were no updates.

## 9. Staff Reports

- **Fats, Oils and Grease MOA** - Ms. Katchmark asked which localities were planning on signing the MOA and at what level (i.e. utility director or city manager) they would be signing it. Norfolk stated that it would wait to sign the MOA until the other localities have signed it. Poquoson, Chesapeake, and Virginia Beach were not sure whether or not they would sign the MOA. Newport News was not sure what level would sign the MOA. Suffolk would sign the MOA at the city manager level. Gloucester and Isle of Wight would sign at the county administrator level
- **HRSD Integrated Plan – First Amendment to 2014 MOA:** Gloucester noted they were still waiting on document from HRSD.

## 10. Other Business

There was no additional business, and the meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting of the Directors of Utilities will be on Wednesday, August 7, 2019 in Chesapeake.