

**SUMMARY OF THE MEETING OF THE
HRPDC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE
September 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.

1. 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:

Barbara Brumbaugh, CH	Justin Shafer, NO
Tammie Clary, SM	Aaron Small, WG
Anna Drake, YK	Diana St. John, VB
Greta Hawkins, HA	Allison Watts, NN
David Imburgia, HA	Mike Woolson, JCC
Heather Markle, WG	

2. Summary of the August 6, 2020 Meeting of the Regional Environmental Committee

There were no comments on the August meeting summary.

3. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

4. Chesapeake Bay Preservation Outreach and Map Application

Dr. KC Filippino and Ms. Sara Kidd (HRPDC) provided an overview of new Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act (CBPA) educational outreach materials and a web mapping application being developed by HRPDC staff. These new educational resources will help provide background on the CBPA, describe the connection to the water, and provide links to local contacts and resources. The content will be featured on a new CBPA webpage on askHRgreen.org with Good to Know and Good to Do sections. The draft content has been reviewed by the HRPDC CBPA workgroup and askHRgreen Stormwater committee.

In addition to the askHRgreen.org webpage content, HRPDC staff has developed a web application that allows residents to search by address to determine if a location is within

or outside of the Chesapeake Bay buffer. This web application incorporates the regional CBPA layer and regional parcels layer, both available on the regional GIS portal, HRGEO.org. The web application will also be hosted on HRGEO.org, and the draft version is now available at <https://arcg.is/1T5r0C>.

Meeting participants asked several questions following the presentation, including if the educational materials will be optimized for social media formats. HRPDC staff will coordinate with askHRgreen to develop the outreach materials and consider converting the brochure content into a social media file.

5. Regional Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) MS4 Update

Mr. David Taylor, Regional MS4 Coordinator at the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Tidewater Regional Office, introduced himself to the Committee, reviewed recent DEQ tidewater regional staff changes, and provided several updates and reminders regarding Annual Reports and the MS4 program. Phase I and Phase II FY2020 annual reports are due October 1, 2020 and electronic versions are preferred. The DEQ Central Office will be sending out detailed Phase 1 reapplication letter packages to affected permittees. Phase II local TMDL action plans are due May 1, 2021 and require a public comment period prior to submission. MS4 Permit Maintenance Fees are due October 1, 2020, and a recorded webinar of recent BMP Warehouse changes is available from August 27, 2020. Mr. Taylor noted discussions continue with Arlington County on their Phase 1 permit reissuance and draft Chesapeake Bay TMDL Guidance is still under internal review and will be released for public comment in the near future.

The Committee members asked if there was additional information on the timeline for new permit issuance to Phase 1 localities and the schedule for MS4 audits. Mr. Taylor did not know of any specific details but will notify the Committee when more information is available.

6. Elizabeth River Project's (ERP) Resiliency Lab on Colley Ave

Mr. Joe Rieger (Elizabeth River Project) and Sam Bowling (Work Program Architects) provided an overview of plans for ERP's new headquarter building that will feature sea level rise adaptation practices. The new ERP headquarters is designed to be a teaching tool to showcase resilient practices while supporting ERP's core mission of connecting people with the river and demonstrating how to protect the river. The property is located at 4610 Colley Ave, Norfolk. The project is aiming to earn a high score under the Norfolk Zoning Ordinance Resiliency Quotient and serve as an example project for developers.

Using input from a design charrette with Hampton University, Work Program Architects (WPA) has been developing the project design. The property will include a new Resiliency Lab building, demonstration sheds that illustrate flood mitigation practices, a floating dock and kayak launch, an observation deck, a living shoreline, and other innovative stormwater features. The current building design follows the EarthCraft Light Commercial Certification Program and includes a rain garden plaza, green roof, green screen, permeable paving, and a public art installation. The surrounding Learning Park will include living shorelines demonstrating different material use and providing

outreach to businesses and homeowners on how to implement these practices. Collaboration with the City of Norfolk, RISE, Lafayette Wetlands Partnership, Old Dominion University, and Norfolk State University will support displays of art and research. Mr. Rieger noted that they are also planning to implement a rolling easement on the property in collaboration with Wetlands Watch and the Living River Trust. The specific thresholds for implementing the easement will be decided at a later date following final site plan approval.

7. Legislative and Budget Update from Special General Assembly Session

Ms. Whitney Katchmark (HRPDC) briefed the Committee on new developments from the General Assembly special session in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. HB5117 (Aird)/SB5118 (McClellan) proposes an emergency debt repayment plan for utilities, including electric, gas, water, and wastewater utilities, but excluding stormwater. Both the Senate and House bills have very prescriptive requirements, which have been faced with opposition since some localities have existing repayment programs. Senate bill revisions to address this concern have included regulating only utilities under the State Corporation Commission, and house bill revisions are still pending.

Ms. Katchmark noted there have been several budget changes, including removing funding for several DEQ staff positions and the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) Coastal Resiliency Manager position. Item 383#1h (Bulova) also requests removing broad compensatory mitigation language from the Governor's budget.

8. Regional Stormwater FY22 Budget

Ms. Whitney Katchmark (HRPDC) provided an overview of the Regional Stormwater FY22 Budget. No changes have occurred to the budget since it was reviewed with the stormwater managers. The budget will be distributed via email to collect votes. Unanimous agreement by the Committee is required as part of the budget planning process. Several Committee members indicated their support of the current budget.

9. Other Matters

- a. Ms. Katie Cullipher (HRPDC) announced that the askHRgreen.org Annual Report has been finalized and will be distributed to the stormwater managers for review. Ms. Cullipher also provided information on the upcoming Team Up 2 Clean Up Hampton Roads event on September 18th and 19th. Individuals can register their own cleanups or join an existing cleanup at askhrgreen.org/great-american-cleanup.
- b. Mr. Ben McFarlane (HRPDC) noted that VMRC is hosting a workshop series on the development of new guidelines to address sea level rise and living shorelines. The next workshop will be on September 9, 2020 from 10am-12pm. If interested in receiving a calendar invitation with workshop details, please notify Mr. McFarlane.
- c. Ms. Meghan Mulroy-Goldman (VDOP) announced that the Emerald Ash Borer treatment cost-share program application period is open until September 18,

2020, and the Virginia Trees for Clean Water Grant Program fall grant cycle is open until October 2, 2020.

- d. Dr. KC Filippino (HRPDC) announced that the Water Quality Technical Workgroup virtual meeting focused on Manufactured Treatment Devices (MTDs) will start at 1:00pm.

The next meeting of the Regional Environmental Committee will be held on Thursday, October 1, 2020 and it will be held virtually via WebEx.