

askHRgreen.org | FOG Education Committee Meeting Summary
Tuesday, January 16, 2018
Newport News Public Works

Katie Cullipher, HRPDC
Rebekah Eastep, HRPDC
Jerry Hoddinott, CH
Brent Werlein, VB

Kate Bernatitus, NN
Michael Coy, YK
Ron Johnson, HRSD
Regina Duncan, HA

The summary for the meeting is as follows:

1. Meeting Summary

The December meeting summary was reviewed and approved.

ACTION: Meeting summary approved.

2. Events, Promotions & Media

January 15-18 – Home Gardener Day & Mid-Atlantic Horticulture Short Course, Virginia Beach*

January 26-28 – Virginia Flower and Garden Show – Virginia Beach*

March 3-4 – Hampton Roads Home Show, Hampton*

March 24-25 – Daffodil Festival, Gloucester

April 14-15 – Mid-Atlantic Home & Outdoor Living Show, Virginia Beach*

April 21 – Virginia Living Museum Earth Day Festival, Newport News

September 29 – James River Fest

*Need volunteers for this event.

Regina Duncan would like to reserve the trivia wheel for April 14

Action: HRPDC staff will send out a request for volunteers.

3. Media & Promotions

The Committee discussed plans for the “man on the street” video which will be part of a paid media campaign in June 2018:

- The Water Awareness Committee did a series of “What Do You Know About Water” videos testing the knowledge of Earth Day at Mt. Trashmore attendees on a variety of water-related questions.
- The Committee discussed priorities for their video and decided to focus on What Not to Flush with FOG and “where does your dirty water go” as secondary focuses. Although only one video is being produced, we can ask several questions and have extra video to produce small social media videos or full scale videos in future budget years.
- HRPDC staff is working to identify the filming location. The goal is to get a venue with more regular people v. those who would attend an Earth Day event and may already be more knowledgeable. The Hampton Roads Home Show was discussed as a possibility.

Action: HRPDC staff will work with RCS to develop messages for Write as Rain and man on the street video.

4. HRFOG.com Development Initiatives

CH2M has provided test scripts and HRPDC staff will be testing enhancements before they are pushed to the production site.

- Brent has provided comments about Access queries
- Full user list and registration error have continued and are still being researched by CH2M
- Brian Wilson is able to produce Full User List and HRPDC staff has updated copies. Committee members were encouraged to request a copy as needed.

Action: HRPDC will work with developer to complete testing of new enhancements and troubleshooting of current errors.

5. Multiple Occupancy Buildings

The Committee discussed plans to address sewer impacts from multiple occupancy buildings (MOB)

- HRSD is no longer doing full-time, location specific sampling for the surcharge program. Instead, averages by NAICS codes and establishment types will be used to apply an average to each business. Since MOB is commercial, they could be regulated, however, the first step is to conduct some sampling to identify what discharges from these areas looks like. A next step would be to sample about 10 percent of MOBs in Hampton Roads to establish averages that can be applied to various MOBs based on number of units, economic levels, etc.
- Newport News is moving forward with MOB plans. Locations are being identified by matching MOBs with grease preventive maintenance areas. The current plan is to sample 22 MOBs in the city and possibly some residential areas. Sampling parameters need to be established (timing, duration, etc.).
- Regionally, the Committee discussed creating a welcome packet for MOBs and real estate agents.

Action: HRSD and Newport News will be sampling discharges to gather more information about wastewater discharges from MOBs.

6. Roundtable Discussion

- Chesapeake – draft ordinance is currently with city attorney for review. Unsure how long the legal review will take. Two employees dedicated to the FOG program have been included in future budget years.
- Newport News – back up to full staffing with the hiring of a new Wastewater Inspector.
- Hampton – recovering from snow operations
- Virginia Beach – recently had four day recurring SSO caused by uncleaned grease interceptors at nearby restaurants. Any septic company that is pumping an interceptor is only vacuuming not power washing the sides because the trucks are only set up to vacuum.
- York County – sent some updates for HRFOG business listings for York County.

Action: None.

7. Staff Reports

Budget – The Committee reviewed the budget.

askHRgreen.org Redesign Project – The website is currently live but Committee members are asked to continue checking links, contacts, etc. to ensure everything is correct or working properly.

- There is a new FOG link for the York County program
- HRPDC staff can provide newsletter article for use in promoting the new website.

Action: HRPDC staff will send out newsletter article for use in promoting the new website.

Next Meeting – Tuesday, February 20, 2018 at 9:30 a.m. in Chesapeake.