

Attachment 1A
MEETING SUMMARY
DIRECTORS OF UTILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING
November 1, 2017
Newport News

1. Summary of the September 6, 2017 Meeting of the Directors of Utilities Committee

There were no comments on, or revisions to the summary of the September 6, 2017 Committee meeting (the October 4, 2017 meeting was canceled).

ACTION: The summary of the September 6, 2017 meeting of the Directors of Utilities Committee was approved.

2. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

3. Roanoke River Basin Association

Roanoke River Basin Association (RRBA) Executive Director Scott Van Der Hyde briefed the Committee on the status of the RRBA's programs, funding, and legislative issues. A copy of Mr. Van Der Hyde's written update is included as Attachment 1C. The update was provided in accordance with the [Memorandum of Agreement](#) between the HRPDC and the RRBA, which stipulates twice a year written updates to the HRPDC or an HRPDC advisory committee.

Mr. Van Der Hyde noted the RRBA's past advocacy work and described the organization's new focus on developing a more visible presence in the community. He thanked the HRPDC member localities for their support, and provided a summary of the current RRBA programs, funding, and legislative positions. He described the RRBA's current programmatic focus areas as follows:

- Continuing advocacy work to enforce federal laws for the cleanup and relocation of coal ash storage ponds to eliminate the potential contamination of drinking water sources;
- Continue monitoring both state- and federal-level legal challenges to Virginia's moratorium on uranium mining; and
- Develop a strategy, building on the success of the RRBA's [Upper Reach program](#), to achieve a more visible, permanent, and positive presence in the watershed by educating the public and localities about the importance of water quality, demonstrating the value of water resources, and by identifying emerging opportunities to enhance value and mitigate threats.

The RRBA's funding strategy is to continue the annual population-based dues requests to each of the counties in the Roanoke River Basin, encourage more individual contributions through more frequent newsletters and fundraising efforts, and pursue grant opportunities that will allow RRBA to increase its capacity and presence. At this time, the RRBA has not taken any formal legislative positions. Mr. Van Der Hyde will be attending the Virginia Conservation Network's General Assembly Preview in December and will continue to monitor legislative issues that may affect the watershed.

During the discussion, Virginia Beach Public Utilities Director Bob Montague, noted Deputy City Manager Tom Leahy's desire to see the RRBA progress and grow as an organization, and that Virginia Beach is supportive of the RRBA's message of the importance of resource protection. Chesapeake Public Utilities Director David Jurgens noted the City's concerns with unlined coal ash ponds. HRPDC Principal Water Resources Engineer Whitney Katchmark stated that HRPDC staff had met with Mr. Van Der Hyde and discussed the potential for involving other PDCs and pursuing a funding from the [Healthy Watersheds Consortium Grant Program](#).

ACTION: No action.

4. Regional Source Water Protection Plan

The Directors of Utilities Committee, which serves as the Local Advisory Committee for the Hampton Roads Regional Source Water Protection Plan, conducted its annual discussion of the plan and its implementation. Ms. Katchmark noted that the HRPDC-VDH joint presentation on the regional plan at the October 2017 Association of State Drinking Water Administrators Conference was well received and that VDH appreciated the improved data afforded through the collaborative development of the plan.

Ms. Katchmark reviewed the plan components and the source water protection efforts that are being continued through the HRPDC regional water programs (see Attachment 1D). She also described new source water protection activities for FY18 as follows:

- askHRgreen.org "Bay Star Businesses" Program (FY18): This program, to be administered by the HRPDC with funding from a Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund competitive grant, will expand the askHRgreen.org "Bay Star Homes" education program to recognize businesses that voluntarily implement environmentally responsible practices to reduce and prevent water pollution and enhance watershed protection.
- Roanoke River Basin Association (FY18-FY20): As discussed earlier in the meeting, the HRPDC localities are providing a \$50K annual contribution for 3 years to support an Executive Director to further the RRBA's watershed protection activities. An MOU provides for HRPDC input regarding budget, work program, legislative priorities, and staff salary and performance.

During the discussion, the Committee agreed with continuing the strategies identified for FY18 and directed staff to: 1) update the regional geospatial dataset with the latest proposed route for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline, and 2) establish contacts for road, rail, and pipeline operators with facilities downstream of the Northwest River intake where tidal action could potentially bring contamination upstream. The Committee also had a brief discussion of local watershed protection and management policies. In response to a question from the group, the HRPDC staff will distribute the model watershed ordinance and groundwater protection handbook developed by the HRPDC several years ago, along with the latest source water protection guidance from VDH.

ACTION: No action.

5. Integrated Plan/Regional Wet Weather Management Plan Update

HRPDC Principal Water Resources Engineer Whitney Katchmark provided a status update on HRSD's Integrated Plan (Sustainable Water Initiative for Tomorrow (SWIFT) and the Regional Wet Weather Management Plan (RWWMP)). The [Integrated Plan](#) was submitted to the EPA on September 29, 2017. Work continues on the 1 million gallon per day SWIFT Research Center at HRSD's Nansemond Treatment Plant. The project is on schedule to be operating in March/April of 2018. The Underground Injection Control (UIC) permit required for this facility is administered by EPA Region 3. HRSD anticipates submitting the permit application in early December 2017, after final review by the National Water Research Institute expert panel and university professors from across the state.

As follow-up to the July 20, 2017 SWIFT monitoring and oversight workshop, the final comments on the workshop report are being incorporated by the facilitator. The report will be used to develop a legislative proposal to create an Aquifer Monitoring Lab to be housed at Old Dominion University (ODU) and co-directed by ODU and Virginia Tech. The legislation will provide for a long-term oversight and monitoring structure to complement the EPA's permitting of the project. Ms. Katchmark commented that the funding to support the Aquifer Monitoring Lab should come from the state, and that legislation for such funding will probably be added to the list of HRPDC regional legislative priorities.

HRSD anticipates providing draft modifications for the 2014 MOA between HRSD and the localities at the December 6, 2017 Committee meeting. The MOA will be modified to define capacity-related sanitary sewer overflows and to shift responsibility for capacity-related overflows to HRSD upon the EPA's acceptance of the Integrated Plan. During the Committee discussion, it was noted that at the June 23, 2017 meeting of HRSD and locality wastewater divisions about design flows for new development/growth basins and HRSD policies, the Capacity Team subcommittee was tasked with developing these design flows. This effort has not yet been initiated.

ACTION: No action

6. Groundwater Update

The Committee discussed the October 17, 2017 DEQ Aquifer Science and Modeling Workshop and the State Water Commission's October 24, 2017 discussion of the final Report of the Eastern Virginia Groundwater Management Advisory Committee (EVGMAC). The Committee was provided copies of the [HRPDC newsletter article](#) about the presentation of the EVGMAC final report to the State Water Commission, which highlights issues raised by the Commission.

The Committee discussed several issues highlighted by the October 17, 2017 workshop and the October 24, 2017 State Water Commission meeting, including the need for SWIFT to support future growth in the absence of adequate surface water resources, the numerous areas where model simulations predict critical water levels despite the reduced permit allocations, the need for legislation to provide 15-year permit terms, the DEQ program funding needs, the need for state incentives to connect to existing systems rather than issue permits to new users, the uncertainty in the subsidence component of the model, and the potential to use the model as a tool to illustrate where banking and trading is most likely to work and at what scale.

ACTION: No action.

7. Emergency Response and Coordination

Ms. Katchmark summarized the October 4, 2017 Chief Administrative Officers Committee meeting with the region's Emergency Management Coordinators to enhance regional coordination and messaging for extreme weather events ([summary minutes](#)). The CAOs agreed on the need for a regional conference call in advance of events. The conference call process/protocol will be prepared for the CAO Committee by the emergency managers, and the call will be coordinated by the chairs of the All Hazards Advisory Committee and the CAO Committee.

The Committee then discussed the use of the Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (WARN) and the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). There was general agreement in the value of these programs and, should the region be affected by an extreme weather event, Hampton Roads utilities would need to seek assistance from outside the region, and utility contacts beyond Hampton Roads are not robust. It was agreed that Ms. Katchmark will contact the WARN committee to check on program status.

Ms. Katchmark asked the Committee about the potential impacts from controlled releases from reservoirs as part of research related to the news coverage of Hurricane Harvey. Committee members that operate reservoirs participated in a roundtable discussion of the emergency plans required by dam permits and dam operational procedures that are implemented in advance of wet weather.

ACTION: No action.

8. Staff Reports

- **FY18 Water and Sewer Rates:** The results of the FY18 rate data call was distributed to the Committee on October 30, 2017. The HRPDC staff provided a summary of rates from FY05 through FY18.
- **Water Supply Plan Update:** The draft data call for updating projected water demands will be revised according to Committee input.
- **2018 Meeting Schedule:** The Directors of Utilities Committee 2018 meeting schedule was distributed with the November 1, 2017 meeting agenda.

ACTION: No action.

9. Other Business

Ms. Katchmark noted that the Senate passed S.692, the Water Infrastructure Flexibility Act, which codifies how the EPA calculates affordability.