

**MEETING SUMMARY
DIRECTORS OF UTILITIES COMMITTEE
February 3, 2021
WebEx**

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 general public, the meeting was held on February 3, 2021 at 1:30 pm 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. The following attended electronically:

Directors of Utilities Committee:

David Jurgens, CH	Robert Carteris, NO
Edward G. Henifin, HRSD	Chad Krejcarek, PQ
Donald Jennings, IW	Paul Retel, SU
Doug Powell, JCSA	Bob Montague, VB
Yann A. Le Gouellec, NN	

Directors of Utilities Copy:

Erin Trimyer, CH
Kate Bernatitus, NN
James J. Young, NN

HRPDC Staff:

Whitney Katchmark	John Harbin
Katie Krueger	Rebekah Eastep

1. Summary of the January 6, 2020 Meeting of the Directors of Utilities and Health Directors Committee

There were no comments on or revisions to the summary of the January 6, 2020 Committee meeting.

ACTION: The summary of the January 6, 2020 meeting of the Directors of Utilities Committee was approved by consensus

2. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

3. SSORS Update

Based on the January discussion with DEQ and VDH, the Committee considered how to improve the regional Sanitary Sewer Overflow Reporting System (SSORS). Overall, the Committee is pleased with how SSORS is set up. In order to better provide DEQ and VDH initial overflow estimates, HRSD suggested to incorporate checkbox ranges of overflow volume to estimate max overflow. Virginia Beach, Suffolk, and Chesapeake

voiced support for this idea. Suffolk offered to suggest the idea to VDH and DEQ to get feedback. HRSD is planning to discuss the language surrounding the checkbox with AquaLaw.

HRPDC announced they plan to host a SSORS user group workshop to invite feedback from users on the system.

ACTION: Paul will talk to VDH and DEQ about using checkbox ranges to communicate initial overflow estimates. HRSD will talk to Aqua Law about the language that will accompany the checkbox.

4. Water Supply Plan Updates

HRPDC staff gave an update on the Water Supply Plan summary. Additionally, they discussed how to handle drought augmentation wells. The Committee suggested that HRPDC staff count the full capacity withdrawals during qualifying drought events in the supply projections.

ACTION: HRPDC staff will distribute the draft Water Supply Plan to the Committee for comments.

5. HRSD Ransomware Attack

Ted Henifin, HRSD, gave an overview of the ransomware attack that HRSD suffered in the fall of 2020.

ACTION: None.

6. Utility Directors Roundtable Discussion

Chesapeake received a unanimous vote from council to be released from the moratorium on disconnects and now the authority to start disconnects lies with the City of Chesapeake. There has not been any discussion on when they will restart the disconnects but will likely begin the process within the next couple of months. So far no one else has taken the vote to their council, but Suffolk will likely follow in Chesapeake's footsteps in April. James City Service Authority believes the discussion about ending the moratorium will occur during their budget work session (which occurs in a couple of months).

The Committee members are still accepting applications for CARES Act funding assistance:

- Newport News has committed \$600,000 across 1,400 accounts. They are working on approving an additional 300 accounts worth about \$140,000. They are receiving 200-250 applicants per week on average

- Chesapeake has had 1,7000 applicants with 882 applicants approved (worth \$545,000) with an additional 700 accounts currently being processed. In addition to those accounts, HRSD has reimbursed 221 Chesapeake accounts (worth \$940,000)
- Suffolk has distributed over \$500,000, with an additional \$800,000 from HRSD
- Norfolk has approved approximately 800 accounts (worth \$200,000) in addition to 3,200 accounts reimbursed through HRSD. They are receiving about 30 applicants per day
- Virginia Beach has distributed \$1.8 million to applicants
- HRSD has distributed \$6.5 million across 17,500 accounts (which are a mixture of locality and HRSD accounts). They are no longer seeking applicants as they want to hold the money for when they start shutting people off.

Chesapeake asked if anyone has enacted a cap on reimbursement as they have received requests for \$60,000 and \$14,000. No one has enacted a cap on reimbursement but they are not sure if they have received that large of a request yet.

Chesapeake also asked if anyone was paying claims from closed out accounts. Newport News is waiting to approve closed accounts until December. They are only planning to reimburse closed accounts if there is money left over. Suffolk is paying the claims when they are transferring to a new address. HRSD is not paying closed accounts.

The Committee also discussed bills that are currently being considered in the 2021 General Assembly, including:

- [HB 1849](#): Procurement requirements
- [HB 2257](#): Allowing HRSD to set rates based on income (for accounts below the 200% poverty line)
- Requiring people to have formal training before getting their CDL license

ACTION: None

7. Staff Reports

- **HRSD Integrated Plan – First Amendment to 2014 MOA:** Staff reviewed status of locality approvals of the MOA.
- **FOG MOA –** Staff reviewed status of locality approvals of the regional MOA
- **Groundwater MOA –** Staff reviewed status of locality approvals of the MOA

8. Other Business

There was no other business