

**MEETING SUMMARY  
DIRECTORS OF UTILITIES COMMITTEE  
March 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 March 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
Jason Mitchell, HA	Chad Krejcarek, PQ
Edward G. Henifin, HRSD	Jack Reed, SM
Donald Jennings, IW	Paul Retel, SU
Doug Powell, JCSA	Brian K. Woodward, YK
Yann A. Le Gouellec, NN	

**Directors of Utilities Copy:**

Erin Trimyer, CH	Rob Martz, HRSD
Kate Bernatitus, NN	
Bud Curtis, NN	
James J. Young, NN	

**HRPDC Staff:**

Whitney Katchmark	Katie Krueger
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**1. Summary of the February 3, 2020 Meeting of the Directors of Utilities and Health Directors Committee**

There were no comments on or revisions to the summary of the February 3, 2020 Committee meeting.

**ACTION:** The summary of the February 3, 2020 meeting of the Directors of Utilities Committee was approved by consensus

**2. Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

**3. HRSD Resiliency Discussion**

Mr Rob Martz, HRSD, gave an update on the HRSD Climate Change Study that began in 2019. HRSD is working to complete a treatment plant flood risk assessment and a

climate change tool for risk and cost over time. The study is still in progress and HRSD plans to do identify how much it will cost to protect each of their pump stations.

**ACTION:** None

#### **4. SSORS Changes Discussion**

At the February Committee meeting, the Committee suggested incorporating checkbox ranges of overflow volume to estimate max overflow. However, based on recent talks between Mr. Paul Retel (SU), DEQ, and VDH, DEQ did not approve of the suggestion. VDH suggested that instead, localities add a description of the overflow in the text box of an opened SSORS report so that they can make a decision about closing shellfish harvesting areas. Then include the final overflow estimate when they are ready to close the report. Additionally, DEQ asked that the utilities develop a reporting system for microbial source tracking projects that identify chronic sewer leaks. Ms. Whitney Katchmark, HRPDC, suggested that the utility directors meet with the MS4's to coordinate since many of them ave a bacteria action plan as part of their permit.

**ACTION:** None.

#### **5. Annual Water and Wastewater Rate Datacall**

Ms. Katie Krueger, HRPDC, gave an overview of the recent FY2021 Rate Datacall. She sent the report and data sheet to Committee once the meeting ended and encourages Committee members to provide feedback.

**ACTION:** None.

#### **6. Legislative Updates**

Ms. Whitney Katchmark, HRPDC, gave an overview of recent state and federal legislative updates. Including water audit plan requirements, apprenticeship programs study, and federal low income assistance programs.

**ACTION:** None.

#### **7. Utility Directors Roundtable Discussion**

Ms. Katchmark updated the Committee on discussions with the CAO's about assistance programs. The CAO's were concerned that not enough customers were applying for the money, but were still hesitant about starting shutoffs. Isle of Wight stated that they have not met the criteria to begin shutoffs. Newport News stated that they have not received much interest from city management to start the shutoffs because they want to get the vaccinations behind them.

HRSD updated the Committee on their shutoff plans. They are developing a mobile application that will set up customers on a payment plan online. If the customers still won't pay their bill, they are planning to start shutting off customers sometime this summer. HRSD is not ready to commit to postponing shutoffs for individual localities yet but they are willing to apply their assistance funds to locality accounts.

Chesapeake asked if there was any locality in addition to them that is working to get their city council to approve the end of the moratorium on shutoffs. Suffolks is slowly moving in the direction of getting that approved.

Chesapeake has two large claims (over \$10,000) for assistance but is planning to sit on the claims until the end of the year. Norfolk said that they have received a large claim as well and they are planning to do the same thing as Chesapeake. Norfolk is thinking about putting a \$10,000 limit on claims in order to assist small businesses.

HRSD also gave an update that the new budget bill allows them to apply assistance to an account more than once. Additionally, HRSD is working on the tax implications of assistance that exceeded \$600 (which requires a 1099 tax form). They are currently working with their attorneys to get the special ruling from the IRS since there is an exception for general welfare support.

**ACTION:** None

#### **8. 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

#### **9. Other Business**

There was no other business