

**THE SUMMARY OF THE MEETING OF THE
REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE
June 2, 2016**

1. Summary of the May 5, 2016 Meeting of the Hampton Roads Regional Environmental Committee (REC).

There were no comments on the meeting summary.

2. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

3. USACE Multi-Hazard Tournament

Ms. Michelle Hamor, Chief, Floodplain Management Services Section, briefed the Committee on the proposal for the first Multi-Hazard Tournament. The Norfolk District, USACE, has been working as part of the Virginia Silver Jackets, a team of individuals from various agencies, including DCR, VDEM, FEMA, USGS, etc., to develop the proposal.

The Tournament will begin by giving each team a realistic storm scenario. The team will work together to use various management measures to solve problems. Sea level rise curves will be provided within the scenario. Management measures include floodwalls, levees, building removal and relocation, living shorelines, beach restoration, etc. HA, NN, and PQ are participating in the first Tournament, and they would like to include YK as well. Ideally, the peninsula Tournament will be held this year, and USACE hopes to hold another one next year. The materials from the first Tournament will be used to create a workbook of resources that can be used in other areas.

The goal for the Multi-Hazard Tournament is to develop a tool that can be used in other applications. The Tournament has the following benefits:

- Participants are challenged to think systematically (watershed v. political boundary)
- Local government teams can plan flexible and creative solutions in a safe environment
- Engage with a range of data models and issues

The planners are still in the scoping phase of the Tournament and will soon wrap up the Stakeholder Identification process. The next phases include Technical Development and Logistics, Testing and Implementation, and Documentation.

Ms. Katchmark asked if they would provide metrics to estimate costs of the management measures during the Tournament. Ms. Hamor replied that teams will be given a realistic capital budget and a gross estimate of the management measures. The estimates will be close enough to aid in decision making during the Tournament.

Ms. Roberts asked if federal stakeholders will be involved during the Tournament. She suggested including NASA, USFW, and the Navy. Ms. Hamor plans to reach out to them.

4. DoD Chesapeake Bay TMDL Progress

Mr. Dave Cotnoir presented an overview of the Chesapeake Bay TMDL Action Plan for Hampton Roads Installations. Navy Region Mid-Atlantic holds a Hampton Roads Regional MS4 permit. There are eight installations covered by the permit - Naval Station Norfolk, NSA Hampton Roads, JEB Little Creek, JEB Fort Story, Naval Air Station Oceana, Dam Neck Annex, and NSA Hampton Roads Portsmouth Annex, and Scott Center Annex. All but Dam Neck Annex are in the Bay watershed. The first step in preparing their Action Plan was to delineate the MS4 regulated area for the seven installations. Then they calculated their existing source loads for TP, TN, and TSS using the James River basin tables. The new source loads and required offsets were calculated using the aggregate method instead of on a project by project basis. They easily met their first permit cycle reduction requirements using credit from existing BMPs. To meet the second permit cycle reductions, they are looking at constructing approximately 200 BMPs by 2023 at an estimated cost of \$60-75M. To meet the third permit cycle reductions, it will require approximately 400 additional BMPs at an estimated cost of \$120-150M.

During 2010-2014, they conducted a stormwater BMP opportunity assessment to identify existing BMPs to be upgraded and locations for new BMPs to treat existing facilities. Over 800 opportunities were identified in south Hampton Roads using desktop analysis and site visits. A ranking system was used to prioritize the projects considering environmental impact, environmental benefits, constraints, and cost factors. So far, concept designs have been prepared for 47 BMPs, including land use conversions, shoreline restorations, bioswales, and bioretention.

Ms. Brumbaugh asked if the Navy has other MS4 permits in the Bay watershed. Mr. Cotnoir replied that they have two more – one in MD and one in DC. In MD, they are focused on a large shoreline restoration project and stream restoration.

Ms. Brumbaugh asked if they can do reductions across all seven sites in the Bay watershed. Mr. Cotnoir said that they do. He said that they can use the unregulated areas on the south side installations for more cost-effective BMPs. The Navy is not permitted to purchase credits outside of the DoD.

Mr. Heide asked if they still have to account for the baseline when using BMPs in unregulated areas for credit, and they do. Because of that, the Navy may not end up installing many of those.

Mr. Hare asked if the Navy holds industrial NPDES permits. The industrial facilities are covered under the MS4. However, the Yorktown/Cheatham Annex does have an industrial permit. Their monitoring results were below the threshold, so they do not have to do any additional monitoring. Mr. Cotnoir said that the Shipyard doesn't have a MS4 permit, but they do have an industrial permit. If they exceed monitoring limits, they will have to prepare an Action Plan for reducing TP, TN, and TSS.

Ms. Sunderland asked how the Navy will manage the maintenance of the bioswales and bioretention facilities. Mr. Cotnoir indicated they have made maintenance a priority because of the cost savings in maintaining BMPs instead of repairing them. They are developing a maintenance manual for Base Public Works staff.

5. Working Waterfronts

HRPDC staff has been working with three other coastal PDCs, the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, and the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program to develop a working waterfronts plan for coastal Virginia. As part of this effort HRPDC staff has completed an inventory and summary of the current status of working waterfronts in Hampton Roads communities. Mr. McFarlane updated the Committee on the progress.

Mr. McFarlane thanked the Committee for submitting comments on the draft Chapter he is preparing for the plan. He also received additions to the working waterfronts inventory from SU, IW, and CH. He is working to complete the Chapter. There is a meeting with the other coastal PDCs on June 7, 2016 to discuss the schedule for finalizing the plan. The goal is to work with Delegate Hodges to develop recommendations for using legislative solutions to protect working waterfronts.

Ms. Hicks asked if they intended to seek federal dollars for residential working waterfronts. She has found that federal dollars cannot be used for dredging in those cases. Mr. McFarlane replied that they may consider seeking federal dollars, and he will follow up directly with her.

A working waterfronts summit will be held later this year at VIMS to get the stakeholders together. More information will be available soon. Mr. McFarlane requested that Committee members send him comments on the chapter if they have not already done so. He also made note that the inventory is a living dataset and all updates are welcome.

6. Chesapeake Bay Program – Climate Resiliency

Mr. McFarlane serves on the CBP Climate Resiliency Workgroup, which met on May 23, 2016. Mr. McFarlane briefed the Committee on the meeting. The Workgroup is focused on the impact climate change will have on the water quality in the Bay and how to incorporate climate change into the Bay TMDL. They are considering how sea level rise will impact the Bay and how to model those changes. The 3 primary concerns are thermal expansion, ocean dynamics, and ice melting. The Workgroup discussed whether the SLAMM model is beneficial. Ms. Roberts said that in addition to losing marshes, sea level rise also results in lost uplands. She supports using the SLAMM model, as it takes into account how wetlands change over time. Another Committee member asked if shoreline restoration areas below a certain elevation could be at risk for losing pollutant reduction credit since the land could be impacted by sea level rise. Mr. McFarlane replied that the issue had not been discussed at the meeting. The Workgroup did agree that urbanization in the watershed has a much larger impact on declining dissolved oxygen than sea level rise.

Mr. McFarlane will continue to keep the Committee apprised. The Workgroup has monthly meetings scheduled.

7. Status Reports

HRPDC – Ms. Sunderland announced that the legislatures of MD, PA and VA have designated the second week in June as Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week. askHRgreen is promoting the week with a photo blog on their Facebook page.

NO – Ms. Whitehurst announced that the HR Phase I MS4 localities received their final permits from DEQ that morning.

HA – Ms. Hicks said that FEMA approved their flooding ordinance, and they recently adopted a new floodplain map. She also reminded the Committee that they are still looking to fill Ms. Angela Rivas' position.

The next meeting of the Regional Environmental Committee will be held on July 7, 2016 in the Regional Boardroom at the HRPDC in Chesapeake, VA.