

**Attachment 1A  
Meeting Summary  
MEETING OF  
DIRECTORS OF UTILITIES COMMITTEE  
September 2, 2015  
Newport News**

**1. Summary of the August 5, 2015 Meeting of the Directors of Utilities Committee**

There were no comments on, or revisions to the summary of the August 5, 2015 meeting of the Directors of Utilities Committee.

**ACTION:** The August 5, 2015 meeting summary was approved.

**2. Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

**3. askHRgreen.org Annual Report**

The HRPDC staff briefed the Committee on the [askHRgreen.org FY 2015 Annual Report](#) and recapped program activities for HR WET and HR FOG, including media outreach, events and promotions, partnerships and research. A copy of the presentation is provided as Attachment 1C.

The askHRgreen.org FY15 combined media efforts generated a total of 16.1 million impressions. The \$248,312 FY15 budget yielded an exposure value of \$646,893, for a 2.6 to 1 return on investment. Search engine optimization efforts resulted in a 39% increase in website traffic compared to FY14.

FY2015 media highlights included the production of the “What Do You Know...Series: Water” ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6WznU7\\_JmFY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6WznU7_JmFY)), water awareness and FOG messaging on sustainability and infrastructure, a FOG/What-not-to-flush movie theater ad, holiday FOG and garbage disposal messaging, fix a leak and outdoor watering messaging, the Green Magazine partnership with Coastal Virginia Magazine, and completion of the third wave of campaign research that included data on willingness to accept price increases for system upgrades.

**ACTION:** No action.

**4. FY2017 Wastewater and Water Program Budgets**

The Committee members present at the meeting endorsed the FY 2017 budgets for the Regional Water Program and the Regional Wastewater Program. For localities not represented at the meeting, the HRPDC staff will contact Committee members to confirm that the locality is aware of and supports the program budgets.

**ACTION:** The Committee endorsed the FY 2017 Regional Wastewater and Regional Water Program budgets.

## 5. Investigating Aquifer Recharge

The HRSD briefed the Committee on the results of Phase 1 of the Sustainable Water Recycling (Aquifer Replenishment System) – Concept Feasibility Evaluation. The study evaluates the feasibility of using clean water for aquifer replenishment to protect groundwater supplies, reduce nutrients discharged to the Chesapeake Bay, mitigate land subsidence and saltwater intrusion, and provide multiple other benefits. A copy of the presentation is provided as Attachment 1D.

The Phase 1 Feasibility Study found that injecting clean water into the aquifer is technically feasible and provides significant benefits. An executive summary is being developed to summarize the findings. The HRSD Commission was briefed on the Phase 1 study at the [August 25, 2015 meeting](#) and approved additional funding for Phase 2, which will include additional groundwater modeling to quantify the impacts to saltwater intrusion and land subsidence; stakeholder engagement; additional water treatment technology analyses; and planning level cost estimates for seven sites.

The discussion and Committee comments are summarized below:

- More water quality information will be collected. The additional modeling work and analyses of water treatment technology, hydrology, and geochemistry will provide critical information to support stakeholder engagement and address questions from the public and regulators.
- HRSD has done some evaluation of siting and land available at the treatment plants. Most plants can accommodate the required improvements. HRSD is exploring options for those with space constraints.
- Although adding a subsidence module to the groundwater model will be helpful, more subsidence measurements are needed in the region. The USGS is developing a subsidence monitoring plan for the HRPDC that will identify the best options for subsidence monitoring and provide cost estimates for implementation.
- Stakeholders across multiple sectors would benefit from the groundwater replenishment, reduced nutrient discharges to surface water, and mitigation of land subsidence. The consequences of subsidence and sea level rise in the region are tremendous. Eliminating half or even a third of these impacts through aquifer recharge would be very beneficial.

**ACTION:** No action.

## 6. Groundwater Management

Mr. Al Moor, Suffolk Public Utilities Director, led a discussion about a Groundwater Withdrawal Reduction Incentive Program concept to address long-term aquifer protection while allowing utilities appropriate time to get value out of existing facilities and transition to alternative sources. A copy of the presentation is provided as Attachment 1E.

The voluntary program would provide incentives to eligible permittees to reduce reliance on groundwater sources and a transition period to develop alternative sources and infrastructure. It would require amending § 62.1-66 of the Virginia Code and adding a new section describing the groundwater withdrawal incentive program. Draft language was presented to illustrate the concept. The Western Tidewater Water Authority will continue to develop the concept and will update the Committee as new information becomes available.

The Committee discussed the August 18, 2015 initial meeting of the Eastern Virginia Groundwater Management Advisory Committee ([link to meeting information](#)). HRPDC staff noted that the subcommittee rosters and dates have not been finalized. The meetings for the subcommittees on alternative sources and alternative management and trading will meet first.

**ACTION:** No action.

## 7. Staff Reports

Staff reports included the following:

- **SSORS and FOG Online Certification:** The HRPDC staff will provide a status update on the transition plan for maintenance contracts. SSORS and FOG FY16 maintenance will be conducted by CH2M Hill after September 30, 2015.
- **FY 2016 Water and Sewer Rates Data Call:** The deadline for responses to the annual water and wastewater rate data call is September 18, 2015.

**ACTION:** No action.

## 8. Other Business

There was no discussion of other business.

**ACTION:** No action.