

Attachment 1A
MEETING SUMMARY
MEETING OF
Directors of Utilities Committee
April 13, 2016
Newport News

1. Summary of the March 2, 2016 Meeting of the Directors of Utilities Committee

There were no comments on, or revisions to the summary of the March 2, 2016 meeting of the Directors of Utilities Committee.

ACTION: The summary of the March 2, 2016 meeting was approved.

2. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

3. Give Local 757!

The Help 2 Others (H2O) Program will participate in the [Give Local 757!](#) fundraising event on May 3, 2016, which coincides with Drinking Water Week. Ms. Julia Hillegass, HRPDC Public Information and Community Affairs Administrator, provided an update on efforts to promote the fundraiser. A copy of the presentation is provided as Attachment 1C.

Local radio stations will help encourage donations to H2O and provide clues to where listeners can find the “magic faucet” educational display and receive a free Drinking Water Week goodie bag. The magic faucet promotion raises awareness that “it’s not magic...it takes a lot of people and infrastructure to provide tap water 24-hours a day.” One display will be located on the Southside and one will be on the Peninsula. The HRPDC staff is providing Drinking Water Week outreach materials, content, and graphics for localities to use for social media posts, municipal TV slides, newsletters, and websites. Utilities are asked to add the link to the H2O program on department homepages (shareh2o.org) and promote donations. This is the first time H2O will participate in the 24-hour fundraising event.

The Committee discussed the rotation for hosting the askHRgreen.org trailer. Portsmouth is the current host. Norfolk will be the next locality to host the trailer.

ACTION: No action.

4. HRPDC FY 2017 Water and Wastewater Programs

The Committee discussed the monthly meeting format and priorities for the FY17 Regional Water and Wastewater Programs. The Committee agreed to maintain the current meeting schedule, and would like to continue meeting with the Health Directors twice annually. The Committee also agreed to have regular presentations from different utilities on operational and management topics of regional interest. Suggestions for such topics include: budget billing; automatic meter reading; management/staffing structure and sharing of organizational charts; leak adjustment policies; and civil penalties for water meter tampering.

The HRPDC staff reviewed annual recurring program activities and technical assistance provided during the past year. A copy of the presentation is included as Attachment 1D.

The Committee considered staff's suggested list of priority projects for FY17. The Committee did not have any additions or objections to the list; specific comments noted during the discussion to guide the work efforts are shown in *italics*:

1. **Groundwater Management:** Continue membership in Mission H2O Groundwater Subgroup and continue participation in regulatory process, including DEQ's development of short- and long-term policy options.
2. **SSORS Enhancements:** Consider implementation of suggested enhancements resulting from the April 11, 2016 SSORS user group meeting.
 - *The Committee supports the implementation of minor improvements that can be accomplished with existing funding.*
 - *The benefit of incorporating GIS map viewing capabilities, as suggested by at the user group meeting, is unclear and overlaps existing tools outside of SSORS. HRPDC staff will contact localities, including those not represented at the April 11, 2016 user group meeting, to assess support for this suggested enhancement.*
3. **Regional Water Supply Plan Compliance Conditions:** Address the two items identified by DEQ for action by 11-8-18:
 - A. Provide all of the data requested by 9 VAC 25-780-70 for all community water systems and self-supplied users in all localities.
 - B. Provide all of the data requested by Section 9 VAC 25-780-80 of the Regulation, including for privately-owned community water systems.
 - *HRPDC staff will work with DEQ staff to review the information submitted for each system and confirm the data required for compliance. HRPDC staff will provide a status update and recommended follow-up activities for the Committee's consideration.*
4. **Update Groundwater Mitigation Program:** Revisit the MOA and technical guidelines for evaluating mitigation claims.

- *The previous Groundwater Mitigation Program MOA expired on December 31, 2015. HRPDC staff will draft a new MOA for the Committee's consideration. The technical guidance will be updated to include a simple overview of the new Coastal Plain groundwater model.*

ACTION: HRPDC staff will pursue the FY17 priority projects as described above.

5. Roundtable Discussion

Items addressed during the Committee's roundtable discussion are summarized below:

- Public web viewer access to geospatial data: Chesapeake Public Utilities has been approached to allow web access to water and sewer system geospatial data. The group discussed the existing practices in place in different jurisdictions. HRSD and Isle of Wight Public Utilities provide public access to a web viewer where some system location information is available; scale and details are limited. Suffolk does not provide public access via a web viewer, however, contractors are provided access to a copy of a database with specific project information.
- Status of HRSD's Sustainable Water Recycling Initiative: A test well at the Nansemond Treatment Plant is being planned to incorporate an extensometer. A test well at the York River Treatment Plant is being planned to assess the depth and thickness of deposits associated with the Chesapeake Bay Impact Crater in that area. HRSD continues to coordinate with the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Justice on the development of a proposal for integrated planning.
- Eastern Virginia Groundwater Management Advisory Committee: The advisory committee's report is due in December 2017. DEQ is negotiating draft permits with a few localities.
- The Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) study, *Virginia's Water Resource Planning and Management*: The study's conclusions will be presented to the JLARC in October 2016. The JLARC staff is continuing research efforts to assess whether DEQ's technical tools are accurate enough and whether the tools support the conclusions of the State Water Resources Plan.
- Regional Legislative Agenda: The HRPDC will be discussing issues of interest for the 2017 General Assembly session in anticipation of an opportunity to coordinate with the Hampton Roads Caucus during the summer of 2016.

- [H.R.4542](#). Low Income Sewer and Water Assistance Program Act of 2016 (Rep. Marcia L. Fudge (D-OH)), would amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to establish a low-income sewer and water assistance pilot program where grants would be awarded to at least 10 public systems under consent decrees to assist low-income households in maintaining access to sanitation services. The bill has been referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment.
- [HB 919](#) (approved March 11, 2016), amended §15.2-2119 of the Code of Virginia relating to delinquent water and sewer charges. It was noted that the Committee should review §15.2-2119 and develop a regional position on the impacts of the amendments.

ACTION: No action.

6. Other Business

There was no discussion of other business.