

Attachment 1A
Meeting Summary
JOINT MEETING OF
DIRECTORS OF UTILITIES COMMITTEE
DIRECTORS OF HEALTH
May 4, 2016
Chesapeake

1. Summary of the April 13, 2016 Meeting of the Directors of Utilities Committee

There were no comments on, or revisions to the summary of the April 16, 2016 meeting of the Directors of Utilities Committee.

ACTION: The April 16, 2016 meeting summary was approved.

2. Summary of the December 2, 2015 Joint Meeting of the Directors of Utilities Committee and Health Directors

There were no comments on, or revisions to the summary of the December 2, 2015 joint meeting of the Directors of Utilities Committee and Health Directors.

ACTION: The December 2, 2015 meeting summary was approved.

3. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

4. Managing Coastal Plain Groundwater: An Innovative Solution to Understand Unregulated Water Use

Mr. Curt Thomas, Program Coordinator for the DEQ Office of Water Supply, briefed the group on the [private water well registration regulation](#) and the new online well registration tool developed by DEQ, VDH, and the well drilling community for use by DPOR-licensed well drillers statewide. A copy of the presentation is included as Attachment 1C.

Mr. Thomas described the significant stakeholder involvement in the development of the web application, and how the tool is serving as a resource to DEQ, VDH, and well drillers. In terms of resource management, it will support a better understanding of unregulated water withdrawals in the Coastal Plain and allow for improved characterization of aquifer systems. The well registration data will inform estimates of the population served by private wells. The tool benefits well drillers by streamlining and unifying the submittal of data to DEQ and VDH and by providing a database to track and map wells at no cost to the drillers.

The pilot phase of the web application was launched in October 2015; over 1,200 wells have been registered in the system to date. An upgrade is planned for July 2016 to include additional data fields requested by well drillers. The DEQ and the VDH will continue outreach activities and trainings to encourage use of the system beyond the designated groundwater management area. The online well reporting tool is one module in a larger data management system, VA Hydro, which will also include information for DEQ's groundwater and surface water permitting, groundwater characterization, and water supply planning programs. Eventually, the legacy VDH private well databases and the online well reporting module will be integrated with VA Hydro.

In response to questions during the group discussion, the following points were noted:

- Currently, access to VA Hydro is limited to licensed well drillers, but the intent is to provide access to local and regional government users by the end of 2016. Pilot projects using VA Hydro for updating water supply planning information are anticipated this year, and the well construction information will be accessible during those pilots.
- Of the 1,200 wells registered over the past 6 months, it is estimated that 70% have been entered into the system by well drillers and 30% have been entered by VDH staff. Higher well registration numbers are expected as program awareness and buy-in increases and the housing market rebounds. Well drillers have indicated that the current level of drilling activity is low, reflecting the state of the housing market.
- DEQ expressed interest in incorporating private well survey data and premise account maps offered by the public utilities.
- There are approximately 70,000 to 100,000 wells in VA Hydro, but this is likely to be a small percentage of the total number of wells in existence. Additionally, it is not known how many of these wells are active, inactive, or permanently abandoned.
- DEQ anticipates migrating legacy well data from VDH's VENIS database, which implemented a private well module in 2003. Currently, private well program staff at VDH are doing double data entry; the goal is to enable regular data synchs between VA Hydro and VENIS.
- The 2016 upgrade to the online registration tool will include several improvements to help meet DEQ's information needs and well drillers' business needs. In the future, it will also be possible to supplement registered well data with well modification data.
- Well depth and screen information is captured in an interval table. Static water level is also recorded. Staff can execute queries, such as the number of wells screened in each aquifer in each locality. The software package has the capability to develop well diagrams; DEQ staff may utilize this component in the future.

- Initially, well registration activities will be captured in the annual report to the General Assembly, “Status of Virginia Water Resources,” but it could eventually be published in a stand-alone document. DEQ also anticipates publishing annual water use reports and potentiometric surface maps.

ACTION: No action.

5. DEQ Office of Water Update

Mr. Scott Kudlas, Director of the DEQ Office of Water Supply, provided an update to the group on the following items:

Eastern Virginia Groundwater Management Advisory Committee (EVGMAC)

Workgroup Activities:

- Work Group 1 - Alternative Sources of Supply: Participants in this work group recognized that different opportunities are available in different parts of the Groundwater Management Area. The work group is developing “regional alternatives matrixes” to identify likely alternatives and incentives to pursue alternatives. The work product is anticipated to be provided to the EVGMAC in June 2016.
- Work Group 2A - Alternative Management Structures: The work group is focusing on ways to promote resource optimization, including a non-profit forum to discuss resource sharing. The work group is systematically reviewing examples of programs from other states and is developing a whitepaper on using portions of the surface water regulations as a model for amending the groundwater management act to provide for voluntary agreements. The whitepaper is anticipated to be provided to the EVGMAC in June 2016.
- Work Group 2B - Trading: The work group looked at other states and the unique concerns associated with trading. The group is focusing on banking or incentivizing water inputs into the system and is working on a whitepaper to provide to the EVGMAC in June.
- Other Work Groups: Two more work groups will be convened after the GWMAC has the opportunity to provide input on each roster. These work groups will look at funding options and permitting criteria.

The draft EVGMAC report is expected in August 2017, followed by the final report in November 2017.

Coastal Plain Groundwater Model:

- Subsidence module: This module is complete and a draft report is available. It is important for resource management and does not have a regulatory objective. The module will aid localities in answering subsidence questions and can help assess the benefits of groundwater augmentation through artificial recharge.

- Salt water interface module: This module assesses the impacts of groundwater withdrawals on the chloride concentrations in different areas (model grid cells). DEQ anticipates that the module will facilitate implementation of USGS reports on Coastal Plan groundwater quality and a salt water monitoring. DEQ would like to meet with the Directors of Utilities Committee on a strategy to work with Hampton Roads.
- Model maintenance: The DEQ is working on improvements to integrate the model into a system that allows the model to gather and pre-process data. DEQ is developing a model maintenance schedule. Annual updates of pumping and aquifer pick corrections are planned, as well as 5-year recalibrations and a full model rebuild every 10 years. The JLARC study, "Virginia Water Resource Planning and Management," is examining DEQ's program resources and needs for targeted funding.

Mr. Kudlas also discussed the five-year update requirements for water supply planning. Discussion points are summarized below:

- The five-year update is not a full re-submittal of the plan. The intent of the exercise is to fill in gaps in the data submitted in 2011, update data, and encourage the institutionalization of a continuous data gathering process. Updated demand projections are not required, but the intent is for localities/regions to evaluate what was previously projected and whether adequate supply is available.
- Recognized data gaps include private system water use, well construction and design capacity; domestic well withdrawals; and irrigation well withdrawals. Regions/localities should develop a process to research this information, begin data collection, and submit information collected for the five-year update. Approximately 10 well drillers construct 80% to 90% of wells in Virginia; regions/localities should contact these drillers as information resources.
- It is anticipated that local governments will build relationships with the private sector to improve demand projections for industrial users with groundwater withdrawal permits. The largest source of error in projected demand is associated with industrial water use. Better communication will involve more permittees in the planning process and reduce uncertainties in projections.

ACTION: No action.

6. Roundtable Discussion

The group participated in a roundtable discussion to share items of mutual interest. With regard to microbial source tracking efforts, the HRPDC staff noted that VDH has been invited to present the results of the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) predictive modeling study at the November 2, 2016 Joint Meeting of the Directors of Utilities Committee and Health Directors (see Attachment 1D). Based on comments

from the group, the agenda will also incorporate presentations on source tracking projects in the Nansemond River in Suffolk, Elizabeth River in Chesapeake, and at Hilton Beach in Newport News.

Mr. John Aulbach, Director, VDH Office of Drinking Water (ODW), provided an update on regulatory issues, including the pending incorporation of the federal Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR) into the Virginia Waterworks Regulations. The direct incorporation of the RTCR is being accomplished through the “APA exempt” process; publication of the proposed regulations in the Virginia Register will follow the approval from EPA, which is expected soon. Once the RTCR is incorporated, VDH will commence with the full APA process for the general revisions to the Waterworks Regulations.

Mr. Aulbach summarized the VDH ODW activities to support [EPA's efforts](#) to address critical drinking water challenges and strengthen protections against lead in drinking water. The VDH ODW has responded to EPA’s request for near term implementation plans to demonstrate the proper implementation of the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) and assure the public that lead risks are being addressed (see [sample EPA letters to states](#)). All state responses are expected to be posted to the EPA’s website soon. The VDH ODW will be sending correspondence to waterworks with LCR sampling guidance and other information. Emerging issues include privacy concerns for LCR sampling results from residences, the replacement of lead service lines, implementing the LCR in environmental justice communities, and the potential for a household lead action level. Mr. Aulbach also noted that a change is anticipated to the [2009 provisional health advisory for PFOA](#).

ACTION: No action.

BREAK (5 minutes)

The joint meeting of the Directors of Utilities Committee and Health Directors concluded at the break. Upon reconvening, business pertaining to the Directors of Utilities Committee was discussed.

7. Regional Groundwater Mitigation Program Memorandum of Agreement

The Directors of Utilities Committee discussed the draft Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the Regional Groundwater Mitigation Program. The HRPDC staff reviewed background information (see Attachment 1E). The MOA provides for a technical assistance program to evaluate mitigation claims and the allocation of program costs. It was emphasized that each groundwater permittee is still responsible for establishing mitigation panels and making financial decisions for reimbursements; state-approved Groundwater Mitigation Plans are separate and distinct from the MOA. Comments submitted to HRPDC staff through May 23, 2016 will be incorporated in a revised draft for review at the June 1, 2016 Committee meeting.

ACTION: No action.

8. Other Business

The Committee briefly discussed participation in the Virginia Water and Wastewater Agency Response Network (VA WARN), a mutual aid network to provide rapid, short term deployment of emergency services to restore the critical operations of utilities that have been impacted by emergencies.

ACTION: No action.