

**MEETING SUMMARY**  
**H2O – Help to Others – Program Board of Directors**  
**September 2, 2020**  
**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 H2O – Help to Others – Program Annual Board of Directors’ meeting was held electronically 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:**

Bo Clayton, NN	Yann A. Le Gouellec, NN
J. Chris Dawson, GL	Jason Mitchell, HA
Wayne Griffin, SM	Bob Montague, VB
Edward G. Henifin, HRSD	Doug Powell, JCSA
Frank James, NN	Erin Trimyer, PO
Donald Jennings, IW	
David Jurgens, CH	
Chad Krejcarek, PQ	

**Directors of Utilities Copy:**

Kate Bernatitus, NN	Paul Retel, SU
Bud Curtis, NN	Chad Edwards, FR
Robert Carteris, NO	James J. Young, NN

**HRPDC Staff:**

Katie Cullipher	Whitney Katchmark
	Katie Krueger

**1. Officers**

The Board decided to continue the terms of current officers. The officers do not have specified terms. The bylaws state that the officers serve at the pleasure of the Board. Current officers are listed below:

President:	Doug Powell, JCSA
Vice President:	David Jurgens, Chesapeake Public Utilities
Secretary/Treasurer:	Ted Henifin, HRSD
Director:	Al Moor, Suffolk Public Utilities
Director:	Kristen Lentz, Norfolk Utilities

**ACTION:** Continue the term of current officers.

**Votes:** David Jurgens, CH; J. Chris Dawson, GL; Jason Mitchell, HA; Don Jennings, IOW; Doug Powell, JCSA; Yann A. Le Gouellec, NN; Robert Carteris, NO; Edward G. Henifin, HRSD; Chad Krejcarek, PQ; Wayne Griffin, SM; Bob Montague, VB; Paul Retel, SU

## **2. Program Status**

The HRPDC staff reviewed FY2020 program activities, fundraising and distribution results, including a new promotional video. FY20 saw a total of \$78,665 in donations, online donations through HRSD increased from \$2,020 (FY19) to \$40,875 (FY20). Financial assistance was down about 31% from FY19, likely due to CARES Acts funds availability and the lack of service cutoffs during the pandemic. HRPDC staff provided an overview of the FY21 budget which keeps locality contributions flat for the program.

**ACTION:** No action

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**MEETING SUMMARY  
DIRECTORS OF UTILITIES COMMITTEE  
September 2, 2020  
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 September 2, 2020 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:**

Bo Clayton, NN	Yann A. Le Gouellec, NN
J. Chris Dawson, GL	Jason Mitchell, HA
Wayne Griffin, SM	Bob Montague, VB
Edward G. Henifin, HRSD	Doug Powell, JCSA
Frank James, NN	Erin Trimyer, PO
Donald Jennings, IW	
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**Directors of Utilities Copy:**

Kate Bernatitus, NN	Paul Retel, SU
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Robert Carteris, NO	James J. Young, NN

**HRPDC Staff:**

Katie Cullipher	Whitney Katchmark
	Katie Krueger

**1. Summary of the August 5, 2020 Meeting of the Directors of Utilities Committee**

There were no comments on or revisions to the summary of the August 5, 2020 Committee meeting.

**ACTION:** The summary of the August 5, 2020 meeting of the Directors of Utilities Committee was approved by consensus

**2. Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

**3. Affordability**

Ms. Whitney Katchmark, HRPDC, gave a quick update on SB1158 that focuses on (EDRP). The changes in the substitute are going to be discussed Thursday (9/3/20). The substitute senate bill now limits all the requirements to utilities regulated by the state corporation commission. For municipal utilities, the substitute is asking for reporting on their repayment programs (i.e. number of accounts, customers enrolled, and amount of money).

Additionally, Ms. Katchmark, discussed the usefulness of collecting information about the local affordability programs including: 1) Number of applications received, 2) Number of applications rejected and why, 3) Amount of utility assistance requested and amount received, 4) How did the applicant find out about the program. Chesapeake and Newport News felt that this would be useful information to track, but some of the information might be more difficult to track.

**ACTION:** HRPDC Staff will send out the questions about tracking the affordability programs. HRPDC Staff will also send out a data call for more information on affordability programs in January. Finally, HRPDC staff will send out a data call requesting rate projections within the next few months.

#### **4. Project Introduction: What is in Your Floodplain?**

Ms. Katie Krueger, HRPDC, provided an overview of ongoing research to evaluate the potential risks in Hampton Roads associated with storing hazardous materials in facilities located in flood prone areas. The objectives of the project are as follows: 1) identify the location of the hazardous materials, 2) assess the risk related to sea level rise, climate change, and flooding, 3) evaluate social vulnerabilities, and 4) offer policy suggestions for risk minimization. HRPDC staff asked for input from the Committee members, including whether their localities are already looking into these concerns. The next steps will be to develop a report of preliminary findings, then coordinate a group of regional partners, and then seek funding for a more robust analysis.

**ACTION:** No Action

#### **5. Fats, Oils and Grease MOA**

Ms. Whitney Katchmark, HRPDC, discussed the Fats, Oils, and Grease MOA, originally presented in June 2019. Ms. Katchmark requested that localities let her know if they are planning to not sign the MOA. Portsmouth is not going to sign the MOA. Portsmouth is not going to send in a signature

**ACTION:** HRPDC staff will send out a reminder email with a copy of the FOG MOA for signature.

#### **6. Source Water Protection Plan Next Steps**

Ms. Katie Krueger, HRPDC, updated the Committee on status of updating the Source Water Protection Program (SWPP) inventory and risk assessment. The subcommittee of

utility directors assigned risk to potential sources of contamination (PSC) based on 1) the potential for the PSC to affect drinking water sources within the next 10 years and 2) the impact level if the PSC does affect the drinking water source. HRPDC staff presented the new SWPP inventory and risk assessment to the Virginia Department of Health and received positive feedback. HRPDC staff is finalizing the map packages and will distribute them to the utility directors for their respective drinking water sources.

**ACTION:** HRPDC staff will update the regional inventory every 2 years.

## 7. Utility Directors Roundtable Discussion

- HRSD asked for the Committee members to remember to send updates to regional hydraulic model to HRSD.
- HRSD asked the Committee if anyone is suspending the collection of social security taxes. The general consensus was that no one was planning to suspend the collection of social security taxes.
- HRPDC asked if anyone had seen any changes in water consumption trends. HRSD and Norfolk saw a significant drop in water use in August.
- Norfolk asked about how other localities were handling hazard pay for utility workers. Newport News has expanded hazard pay but, is still not giving hazard pay for the utility folks. Chesapeake is working on a one-time payment based on risk tier. Suffolk is considering giving hazard pay to utility workers.

## 8. Staff Reports

- **HRSD Integrated Plan – First Amendment to 2014 MOA** - Ms. Katchmark requested that localities send the signed MOA to Ms. Katie Krueger, HRPDC.
- **Lead and Copper Rule, Testing Subcommittee** – Ms. Katchmark presented the four goals for the Lead and Copper Rule Testing Subcommittee and encouraged the Committee members to consider who they would want to be a representative on the subcommittee. Virginia Beach plans to participate and encouraged other members of the Committee to work with schools on this type of data collection. Chesapeake suggested trying to include the plumbing community in this process in addition to the schools in the region. Gloucester is planning on sending their water resources manager. Portsmouth suggested that the subcommittee also looks at supporting the daycares in addition to the schools.
- **Groundwater MOA** – Ms. Katchmark requested that localities send the signed MOA to Ms. Katie Krueger, HRPDC.
- **FY 22 Water and Wastewater Budgets** – Ms. Katchmark is working to collect a few more votes on the budget

## 9. Other Business

No other Business

The next meeting of the Directors of Utilities will be on Wednesday, October 7, 2020 via Webex.