

# Regional Water Supply Planning Kickoff Meeting

## Eastern Shore

Eastern Shore of VA Regional Library & Heritage Center  
24313 Bennett St.,  
Parksley, VA 23421

March 13, 2025  
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

### MEETING SUMMARY

Regional Planning Unit (RPU) Members Present	
Jeremy Shifflett – Accomack County (Primary)	Stewart Hall – Accomack County (Primary)
Chris Thomas – Northampton County (Primary)	Tim Smith – Northampton County (Secondary)
Bob Bilicki – Town of Wachapreague (Secondary)	Rita Chandler – Accomack-Northampton PDC (Primary)
Anne Doyle – Accomack-Northampton PDC (Secondary)	Kelly Ryan – Virginia American Water (Primary)

*The following RPU members were absent from the meeting: Mark Kirby (Primary for Town of Accomac), Patricia Smith (Alternate for Town of Accomac), George Ludlow (Primary for Town of Belle Haven), Jeanette Eby (Primary for Town of Bloxom), Thomas Beasley (Alternate for Town of Bloxom), Katie Nunez (Primary for Town of Cape Charles), Libby Hume (Alternate for Town of Cape Charles), Larry LeMond (Primary for Town of Cheriton), Stacey Sparrow (Alternate for Town of Cheriton), Mike Tolbert (Primary for Town of Chincoteague), Wes Parks (Alternate for Town of Chincoteague), April Hooper (Alternate for Town of Chincoteague), Rob Stubbs (Primary for Town of Eastville), Johnny Stevenson (Alternate for Town of Eastville), Taylor Dukes (Primary for Town of Exmore), Ethel Parks (Alternate for Town of Exmore), Jackie Poulson (Primary for Town of Hallwood), Danny Shrieves (Alternate for Town of Hallwood), Beth Hart (Primary for Town of Keller), Teresa Guy (Alternate for Town of Keller), Charles Wilbur (Primary for Town of Melfa), Teresa Rudiger (Alternate for Town of Melfa), Patricia Stith (Primary for Town of Nassawadox), Fletcher Fosque (Primary for Town of Onancock), Matt Spuck (Alternate for Town of Onancock), Ned Finney (Primary for Town of Onley), Susan Rillo (Alternate for Town of Onley), Connie Campbell (Primary for Town of Painter), Kerri Atkinson (Alternate for Town of Painter), Frank Russell (Primary for Town of Parksley), Lauren Lewis (Alternate for Town of Parksley), Denise Drewier (Primary for Town of Saxis), Mariann Miller (Alternate for Town of Saxis), James Eskridge (Primary for Town of Tangier), Laurie Thomas (Alternate for Town of Tangier), Chase Elliott (Primary for Town of Wachapreague), Jamie Mitchell (Primary for Hampton Roads Sanitation District), & Kevin Parker (Alternate for Hampton Roads Sanitation District).*

VA Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Staff Present	
Hannah Somers	Andrew Noyes

Members of the Public (optional to include)	
Matt Hickman – Dublin Farms	David Hickman – Dublin Farms
Paul Bernard – Commonwealth Chesapeake	Durwood Moore – Commonwealth Chesapeake
Ursula Deitch – Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	Kyle Sturgis – Virginia Farm Bureau
Steve Sturgis	Bryan Elliot – Virginia American Water
Scottie Neville – Virginia American Water	

## Meeting Notes

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### Welcome and Introductions:

Andrew Noyes (DEQ) convened the meeting at approximately 1:00 PM. He welcomed members to the Regional Water Supply Planning Kickoff Meeting for the Eastern Shore Regional Planning Area.

**Presentation Summary:** A summary of presentation topics is included below. A generic copy of the presentation is available on the DEQ Water Supply Planning [Resources webpage](#).

- 1) **Program Background:** The [Water Supply Planning program](#) was created after the 2001-2002 drought. Its goal is to ensure adequate and safe drinking water is available to all Virginians, while encouraging, promoting, and protecting aquatic life, recreation, and other beneficial uses.
- 2) **Water Supply Planning History:** The original Local & Regional Water Supply Planning Regulation (9VAC25-780) was made effective in 2005, followed by the submission of 48 local and regional water supply plans by local governments in Virginia. The final compliance date of these original plans was 2013. The water supply planning process is a long-term collaborative effort involving a variety of state and local stakeholders.
- 3) **Amendments to Regulation:** The [amended WSP Regulation](#) was made effective on October 9, 2024, and required water supply plans be developed regionally (HB452), with increased encouragement of stakeholder involvement, and an added look at risks relevant to each region's water supply. Amendments also allowed for a local government to request to be reassigned to a neighboring regional planning area.
- 4) **Navigating the Regulation:** To utilize the [WSP Regulation](#) in development of a regional water supply plan consider the following highlights: Section 50 includes a listing of all submission requirements for a regional water supply plan; Section 55 is a new section describing required public participation; Section 90 requires description of existing water resources information; Sections 70, 80, and 100 include data accounting and analysis on water sources, uses, and projected demands; Section 125 is a new section requiring identification of water supply risks and proposed strategies to address risks.
- 5) **Roles and Responsibilities:** To aid in regional plan development, DEQ has clarified intended roles for Regional Planning Units (RPUs), local governments, Planning District Commissions (where relevant), and DEQ staff. The roles and responsibilities table can be found at the end of the presentation on our webpage. Roles will be further clarified in the associated Guidance document that will be available once approved.
- 6) **Resources:**
  - a) [DEQ Water Supply Planning Resources webpage](#) – This webpage includes a series of resources associated with each section of the regulation as well as an updated Regional Planning Area map and a list of all Regional Planning Unit representatives.
  - b) **DEQ Water Supply Planning Meetings webpage** – This webpage is the landing page for regional water supply planning kickoff meetings. It includes a copy of the kickoff meeting presentation as well as a list of all Regional Planning Unit representatives.
  - c) **Guidance document** – The Guidance document is currently under review and will be posted on Virginia Town Hall for a formal public comment period as soon as possible.

Updates will be provided on DEQ's webpage and communicated directly to Regional Planning Unit representatives.

- d) **70-80-100 Excel Workbook** – This Excel workbook will be provided to Regional Planning Unit representatives in June of 2025 (estimated). The workbook will be partially pre-populated with 2024 data to be reviewed, updated, and submitted by Regional Planning Unit representatives alongside regional water supply plans by October 9, 2029 deadline.
- e) **Local & Regional Water Supply Planning Summaries** – This resource is under development, planned for Summer 2025 delivery to Regional Planning Unit representatives, and will include figures and tables to assist in regional plan development.
- f) **Funding for Regional Plan Development** – The Virginia General Assembly appropriated \$462,000 in grant funds to be allocated over two years for eligible activities proposed by the 26 Regional Planning Units designated by 9VAC25-780-45. Out of the amount appropriated, \$231,000 is available for FY2025 and \$231,000 is available for FY2026. Applications for FY2025 have closed and contracts are under development. FY2026 funding applications are expected to be available in the Fall of 2025. Updates will be provided on DEQ's webpage and communicated directly to Regional Planning Unit representatives.

### Questions:

DEQ staff fielded a series of questions on topics including DEQ resources, stakeholder engagement, Planning District Commission (PDC) responsibilities and coordination, water withdrawal reporting, and funding. A Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document is under development and will be posted on the [Water Supply Planning Resources webpage](#) when finalized.

### Adjournment:

Andrew Noyes thanked all of the members of the RPU and the interested public and closed the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:00pm.

For questions regarding this meeting, please contact Andrew Noyes, Water Supply Planner, [Andrew.R.Noyes@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:Andrew.R.Noyes@deq.virginia.gov).