

# Regional Water Supply Planning Kickoff Meeting

## Middle James River 2

Train Station  
414 Washington Street  
Altavista, VA 24517

March 24, 2025  
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

### MEETING SUMMARY

Regional Planning Unit (RPU) Members Present	
Candy McGarry - Primary - Nelson County	Robert Fowler - Primary - Town of Appomattox
Clif Tweedy, P.E. - Primary - Campbell County	Sara McGuffin - Primary - Town of Amherst
Gary Shanaberger - Primary - Town of Altavista	Timothy Mitchell - Primary - City of Lynchburg
Gary Williams - Alternate - Town of Amherst	Timothy E. Castillo - Primary - Amherst County Service Authority
Greg Poff - Alternate - City of Lynchburg	Timothy R. Wagner, P.E. - Primary - Campbell County Utilities and Service Authority
Johnnie Roark - Primary - Appomattox County	Tom Fore - Alternate - Town of Altavista
Paul Harvey - Alternate - Campbell County	

*The following RPU members were absent from the meeting: Amanda Spivey - Alternate - Nelson County, Christine Jacobs - Primary - Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission, Craig Hughes - Alternate - Town of Brookneal, George T. Miller - Primary - Nelson County Service Authority, Isabella O'Brien - Alternate - Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission, J. Michael Crews - Primary - Town of Brookneal, Jeffery S. Wells, P.E. - Alternate - Campbell County Utilities and Service Authority, Jennifer T. Fitzgerald - Alternate - Nelson County Service Authority, Rebecca McFadden - Primary - Town of Pamplin City, Richard Hall - Alternate - Amherst County Service Authority, Rodney Shelton - Alternate - Town of Pamplin City, Ruth Emerick - Alternate - Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission, & Sarah Hamlett Blackwell - Alternate - Town of Pamplin City.*

VA Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Staff Present	
Gouri Mahadwar	Kati McCall (Burton)

Members of the Public	
Chris Hoskins - Virginia Farm Bureau	Logan Ende - Thomas Jefferson PDC
Erin Hawkins - City of Lynchburg	Paul Hill - Town of Altavista
Ernie Reed - County of Nelson	Rob Campbell - James River Association
Gerald Minix - no affiliation provided	Robert McSwain - Nelson County Service Authority
Kelly Hitchcock - Central VA PDC	Tom Asselborn - Campbell County Utilities and Sewer Authority

## Meeting Notes

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### Welcome and Introductions:

Gouri Mahadwar (DEQ) convened the meeting at approximately 10:05 AM. She welcomed members to the Regional Water Supply Planning Kickoff Meeting for the Middle James River 2 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 Meetings 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 the 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 have been sent to grantees. 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 regulatory requirements and deadlines, general background and process, 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:**

Gouri Mahadwar thanked all of the members of the Middle James River 2 RPU and the interested public and closed the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:45 AM.

For questions regarding this meeting, please contact Hannah Somers, Water Supply Planning & Analysis Manager, [hannah.somers@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:hannah.somers@deq.virginia.gov).