

Regional Water Supply Planning Kickoff Meeting Middle James River 3

Springs Recreation Center
302 Lee Avenue
Henrico, Virginia 23075

April 2, 2025
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

MEETING SUMMARY

Regional Planning Unit (RPU) Members Present	
Adam Guay (attended in place of Christian Volk - Alternate - City of Hopewell)	Laura Bauer (attended in place of Kelly Ryan - Primary - Virginia American Water)
Andrew Franzyshe - Primary - Crater Planning District Commission	Marchelle Sossong, PE - Alternate - Henrico County
Bentley Chan, PE - Primary - Henrico County	Martha Shickle - Primary - Goochland County
Bret Schardein - Primary - Powhatan County	Martha Shickle - Primary - PlanRVA
Daryl L. Gough - Primary - Amelia County	Matt Longshore - Alternate - Hanover County
Emily Messer - Alternate - City of Richmond	Matthew J. Rembold, P.E. - Alternate - Chesterfield County
F.Edward Pearson, II - Primary - Dinwiddie County Water Authority	Mike Jennings - Primary - Town of Ashland
F.Edward Pearson, II - Primary - Dinwiddie County	Pete Eggers - Alternate - City of Petersburg
Frank Haltom, PE - Primary - Prince George County	Rachael Lumpkin, PE - Alternate - Prince George County
George B. Hayes, P.E. - Primary - Chesterfield County	Robert B. Wilson, P.E. - Primary - Appomattox River Water Authority
James C. Gordon - Alternate - Appomattox River Water Authority	Scott Morris, DBA, P.E. - Primary - City of Richmond
Jamie Sherry - Alternate - Goochland County	Todd Flippen - Primary - City of Colonial Heights
Jerry Williams - Alternate - Amelia County	

The following RPU members were absent from the meeting: Brian Copple - Primary - City of Petersburg, Charles Piekanski - Primary - City of Hopewell, Christin Jackson - Primary - Commonwealth Regional Council, David Sirois - Alternate - Chesterfield County, Jay Ellington - Alternate - Crater Planning District Commission, Jeffrey C. Stiff - Alternate - Dinwiddie County Water Authority, Jeffrey C. Stiff - Alternate - Dinwiddie County, Matt Ellinghaus - Primary - Hanover County, Matt Ryan - Alternate - City of Colonial Heights, Michael Larson, P.E. - Alternate - Chesterfield County, Nathan Ruppert - Primary - Town of McKenney, Nora Amos - Alternate - Town of Ashland, Roy Dale Mailtland - Alternate - Town of McKenney, & Will Hagy - Alternate - Powhatan County.

VA Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Staff Present	
Gouri Mahadwar	Kati McCall (Burton)
Brendan Brogan	Connor Brogan
Allison Major	Weedon Cloe

Members of the Public	
Alvin Christian - Henrico	Mark Brittner - PlanRVA
Andrew Parker - AdvanSix	Ralph Clayton - Henrico

Changlong Wu - Nexpera/Veolia	Sarah Vogelsong - The Richmonder
Gracie Anderson - VA Farm Bureau	Shana Moore - AdvanSix
John Fidler - City of Hopewell	Steve Yob - Henrico
Keith Burgess - Monacan SWCD	Thomas Blackwell - Hanover County
Lee Crowell - City of Richmond	Tim Glidewell - Powhatan
Leigh Pembeaton - VA Farm Bureau	

Meeting Notes

Welcome and Introductions:

Gouri Mahadwar (DEQ) convened the meeting at approximately 1:06 PM. She welcomed members to the Regional Water Supply Planning Kickoff Meeting for the Middle James River 3 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 general background and process, roles and responsibilities, DEQ resources, 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 3 RPU and the interested public and closed the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:23 PM.

For questions regarding this meeting, please contact Hannah Somers, Water Supply Planning & Analysis Manager, hannah.somers@deq.virginia.gov.