

Regional Water Supply Planning Kickoff Meeting Upper James River 1 & Shenandoah River 1

BRITE Transit Facility
51 Ivy Ridge Ln
Fishersville, VA 22939

April 1, 2025
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

MEETING SUMMARY

Regional Planning Unit (RPU) Members Present - Upper James River 1	
Ann Cundy - Primary - Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission	Sherry Ryder - Primary - Bath County
Mike Isles - Primary - Town of Monterey	Spencer Suter - Primary - Rockbridge County
Patrick Madigan - Primary - City of Lexington	Zach Beard - Alternate - Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission
Sheila Simpson - Alternate - Town of Goshen	
Regional Planning Unit (RPU) Members Present - Shenandoah River 1	
Ann Cundy - Primary - Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission	Lukas Cooper - Alternate - Town of Dayton
Anna King (attended in place of Alex Wilmer - Primary - Town of Bridgewater)	Mike Collins - Primary - City of Harrisonburg
Chad Rambo - Alternate - City of Waynesboro	Rachel Cannon - Alternate - Augusta County Service Authority / Augusta Water
Dave Irvin - Alternate - City of Staunton	Ross Morland - Alternate - Rockingham County
David Gray - Alternate - City of Harrisonburg	Seth Hoilman - Primary - City of Staunton
Doug Wolfe - Primary - Augusta County	William Monroe - Alternate - Augusta County Service Authority / Augusta Water
Jennifer Reppe - Primary - Town of Dayton	Zach Beard - Alternate - Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission
Kimberly Armentrout - Primary - Augusta County Service Authority / Augusta Water	

The following Upper James River 1 RPU members were absent from the meeting: Alex Lindsay - Alternate - Bath County Service Authority, Allyson Finchum - Primary - Town of Glasgow, Bart Perdue - Primary - Bath County Service Authority, Jason Tyree - Primary - City of Buena Vista, Jay Garber - Alternate - Town of Monterey, Jeff Rankin - Alternate - Town of Glasgow, Jerri Botkin - Primary - Highland County, Jordan Combs - Primary - Rockbridge County Public Service Authority, Melissa Alexander - Primary - Maury Service Authority, Mike Bender - Alternate - Bath County, & Thomas McCraw - Primary - Town of Goshen.

The following Shenandoah River 1 RPU members were absent from the meeting: Austin Garber - Primary - Town of Timberville, Brian Bourne - Alternate - Town of Dayton, Casey Armstrong - Alternate - Rockingham County, Dwayne Schwartz - Primary - City of Waynesboro, Gaither Hurt - Primary - Town of Elkton, Greg Lunsford - Alternate - Town of Elkton, Joe Paxton - Primary - Town of Grottoes, Libby Clark - Primary - Town of Mount Crawford, Megan Byler - Alternate - Town of Bridgewater, Philip Rhodes - Primary - Rockingham County, Rachel Salatin - Alternate - Rockingham County, Richard Fox - Primary - Town of Craigsville, Stefanie McAllister - Primary - Town of Broadway, & Tara Morris - Alternate - Town of Grottoes.

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

Sherrie Souder	James Shiflet
Douglas Hughes	Kathy Dobbie

Members of the Public	
Bruce Dorries - Friends of Middle River	Kim Woodwell - Alliance for the Shenandoah Valley
Donna Lawson - Virginia Rural Water Association	Mark Campbell - VA Farm Bureau
Jeff Oswald - City of Waynesboro	Mark Frondorf - Shenandoah Riverkeeper

Meeting Notes

Welcome and Introductions:

Gouri Mahadwar (DEQ) convened the meeting at approximately 10:08 AM. She welcomed members to the Regional Water Supply Planning Kickoff Meeting for the Upper James River 1 & Shenandoah River 1 Regional Planning Areas.

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, data and analysis, and DEQ resources. 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 Upper James River 1 & Shenandoah River 1 RPUs and the interested public and closed the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:40 AM.

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