

**TOWNS AND COUNTY UTILITIES PROJECT
PROJECT MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING
JULY 21, 2010, 7 to 8:30 PM**

MEETING NOTES

1. INTRODUCTIONS & CORRECTIONS TO JULY 7TH MINUTES

Members present:

First Name	Last Name	Representing	Grant Role
Sandra	Benson	Northampton Co. Planning & Zoning	Planning Official
Dr. Art	Carter	Nassawadox	Community Rep.
James	Davis	Environmental Health Supervisor	Eastern Shore Health District
Rusty	Gowen	Citizen	PSA Member – County At Large
Carl	Harris	Citizen	PSA Member – County At Large
Henry	Heneghan	Cheriton	Community Rep.; PSA Member – Cheriton
J.T.	Holland	Citizen	PSA Member – County At Large
Eldon	James	EJ&A Inc	Consultant
Bif	Johnson	Hurt and Proffitt	Engineer
Artie	Miles	Exmore	Town Manager; PSA Member - Exmore
Estelle	Murphy	Nassawadox	Town Council, Mayor
John	Ordeman	Nassawadox	Community Rep.
Bob	Panek	Cape Charles	Town Projects Manager; PSA Member – Cape Charles
Sue	Rowland	SRC Inc	Consultant
Norma	Spencer	Cheriton	Town Council
Mike	Thornes	Northampton County	Director of Public Works
Scott	Walker, Jr.	Cape Charles	Community Rep.; PSA Member – County At Large
Joe	Turner	Hurt & Proffitt	Engineer

Sue Rowland opened the meeting, and Eldon James asked the group to please share any issues with the minutes or other PMT activities to allow amendments, discussion, and resolution. Sue asked the group for any amendments needed to the meeting notes from the last PMT meeting, held on July 7th. None were made.

2. "SINCE THE LAST MEETING ..."—Part One

About John: Bif Johnson began this portion of the meeting with a verbal review of the events surrounding John Warwick's recent sentencing, and distributed copies of the Hurt & Proffitt press release regarding the changes in the team assigned to Northampton project. In the only question, a member asked about where John would be housed.

DEQ Application and Southern Node PER (July 16th): Sue and Bif reviewed the activities undertaken to submit the application to DEQ by the July 16th deadline. Bif reviewed the reasons for the final decision to recommend "Alternate 1" for the Southern Node project (a copy of the map was distributed). In Alternate 1, the collection system for the Cheriton town service area would be pumped to the Cape Charles treatment system by way of a vacuum system. This alternative proved the most economical and efficient option of those considered.

Total construction is estimated at \$8.7 million, and includes legal fees, a healthy contingency reserve, connection fees, and other incidental costs. With 80% of the service area participating, and the grant-to-loan ratio of 50/50, the estimated monthly costs could be \$59/month. With other applications to be submitted and additional grants to support the costs, the monthly utility bill rate would be reduced. With 80% grant funds, the rate could drop to the low \$40's/ month. In answering questions, Bif noted that the future capacity is designed for 20 years into the future.

Report on the Northern Node Community Meeting (July 8th): Bif and Sue summarized the successful Community Meeting held at the Exmore Firehouse, at the request of the community. At the last PMT meeting, many Exmore members expressed concerns that enough information had not been disseminated in the area to support complete acceptance of the household surveys.

Sue reported that about 50 residents attended the meeting, and that healthy dialogue took place with presentations made by Bif and herself, using the two-page summary of the reasons for the project and the timeline for funding applications. In summarizing the information shared at the community meeting, Bif reviewed the same discussion of the Shore's unique sole source aquifer that supplies the Shore's drinking water.

NOTE: The following information is added to provide additional information on the aquifer discussion.

During the July 21st PMT meeting, a presentation was made on information found in the Draft Northampton County Water Supply Plan (WSP), dated April 19, 2010. Malcolm Pirnie, an independent consulting firm, was contracted by Northampton County in 2009 to prepare a WSP. WSP's are required by the Code of Virginia, 9 VAC 25-780.

As stated in the Draft WSP, 'The purpose of the code is to develop a comprehensive statewide water supply planning process that would 1) ensure that adequate and safe drinking water is available to all citizens of the Commonwealth, (2) encourage, promote, and protect all other beneficial uses of the Commonwealth's water resources, (3) encourage, promote, and develop incentives for alternative water sources.'

Two Figures from the Draft WSP were discussed at the PMT meeting. These were Figures 4-1, Conceptual Groundwater Flow System of the Virginia Eastern Shore, and Figure 4-4, Relative Recharge Rates in Northampton County. The figures were taken directly from the Draft WSP. Questions arose during the PMT meeting regarding elevations, aquifer thickness, and depths. Figure 4-1 was noted to not be to scale and does not depict accurately the elevation of the bottom of the Chesapeake Bay in relation to the depths or thicknesses of the aquifer and the associated confining layers. The thicknesses of the aquifers were discussed, but there was not concrete information available at the meeting.

Attached to these minutes is a copy of Figure 4-1 that has depth, typical thicknesses, and typical transmissivity rates of each aquifer superimposed on it. This information is taken from the Draft WSP and notes are provided on the superimposed figure that provide some data that was extracted from the report. The purpose of Figure 4-1 is to show how the aquifers are recharged and how groundwater moves through vertical flow. Since the aquifers beneath Northampton County are sole source, the recharge occurs by water movement vertically from one aquifer to another. The Draft WSP, on page 4-2 states, 'The confining units separating the aquifers are leaky, and there is significant groundwater flow through these layers. Flow through the confining units is the sole source of recharge for the Yorktown aquifer in the Eastern Shore of Virginia.'

Figure 4-4 is intended to correlate with Figure 4-1 and explain, partially, why the recharge lines between the aquifers are depicted as such. To quote the Draft WSP, page 4-6, 'Surficial recharge to the upper Yorktown aquifer occurs along a northeast striking belt, call the "recharge spine", approximately 1.5 to 4 miles wide.' It was stated in the PMT meeting that there is a potential for higher degrees of connectivity from higher to lower aquifers directly beneath Exmore. The Draft WSP, page 4-5, states, 'Sediments deposited in channel fills which incised into the Yorktown Formation have also been identified as (in) the upper Yorktown aquifer, even though it is not clear if there is a good hydraulic connection between the channel fill sediments and the Yorktown Formation sediments. These channel fill deposits have been identified in the Eastern Shore near Exmore and Eastville.'

The point made in the PMT meeting, and that directly relates to the importance of the project at hand, is the fact that there is a higher concentration of septic effluent being put back into the ground in the area of Exmore simply because of the density of population in that area. As groundwater is pulled from the Upper Yorktown aquifer for potable water usage in that area, the potential for migration of the septic effluent from the Columbia Aquifer down to the upper Yorktown Aquifer is present. The project that is the subject of the second Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) will help mitigate that potential migration of septic effluent. This will be accomplished by eliminating individual septic systems, collecting the wastewater, conveying it to a pre-treatment system that will treat the effluent to much higher levels than septic effluent, and then disposing of it in the Columbia Aquifer. The PER is not intended nor tasked to recreate previous work that has been done in the Draft WSP; it is only to use the information provided in the Draft WSP to formulate and describe the current conditions and identify potential solutions to the problems.

3. COMMUNITY SURVEY COLLECTIONS – UPDATES & PLANS

With additional comment and confirmation by the PMT members involved with collecting household surveys, Sue summarized that to date 74 surveys had been received by the consultants, primarily from Cape Charles and Cheriton. Of these surveys, surveys have reached about 2 low-to-moderate income households for every one non-LMI household. Fifty-four of the surveys are for residential buildings. Most responses to the question, "Would you consider hooking up to the public system?" most responses are either "yes" or "not sure", with a much smaller number answering "no."

Sue asked the PMT members to identify survey collection activity since the last PMT meeting; of those present, no significant activities had occurred. To get a handle on the impact of the survey collection upon the grant applications, Sue suggested that the PMT set a target deadline of August 18th (4 weeks) to secure the majority of surveys. No one objected to that target.

4. STATUS OF P.E.R. FOR NORTHERN NODE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION

Bif reported that in the Northern Node research for the PER, soil samples at potential dispersal sites were being taken this week. He also explained the current service areas (as discussed at previous PMT meetings) and asked the group to review the areas again. He distributed a map (entitled "Project "A" (Northern Node) 7/20/10"), and shared observations gained from windshield surveys accomplished by Bif and Joe Turner.

Following discussion, the group recommended that the area between Brickhouse Road and the southern border of Exmore be eliminated from the service area. While this recommendation effectively creates two distinct service areas, Bif reported that alternatives examined in the Northern Node will include both single and multiple facility options.

5. "SINCE THE LAST MEETING..." - Part Two

PSA Members Met After the (last) PMT (meeting): In Katie's absence (vacation), Eldon shared with the group that after the last PMT meeting, the County Administrator (Katie Nunez) held an informal meeting of the nominated PSA members to brief them on the process of re-establishing the PSA, where those activities stood, and what next steps would be undertaken. At that point, some of the paperwork confirming one town council's actions on the PSA was outstanding. Eldon's understanding was that the paperwork had been completed and all material had been transmitted to the attorney hired to put the package together for submission to the SCC. Eldon noted that he did not know whether the submission had yet been accomplished. The PSA members present heard that once the SCC approved the new charter, then the organizational meeting could be called. The PSA will need to elect officers and make some other organizational decisions before it would be fully operational. None of the members present added any additional comments.

Review of Questions Posed by Granville Hogg (Attached): Since the last meeting, Granville submitted a series of questions to the PMT (submitted to the PMT by email earlier, and

attached to the evening's Agenda). Bif distributed a brief handout with responses and invited other questions, as the time was quickly approaching the time for adjournment.

6. NEXT MEETING - PURPOSE AND DATE

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 4th, at 5 PM.

The purpose will include a review of the household survey collection, and to further review the status of the Northern Node P.E.R. development and RD grant application. Sue also announced that the draft first PMT Newsletter would be distributed to the PMT for review.

Minutes drafted by Eldon James and Sue Rowland