

AGENDA NOTE – HRPDC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING

ITEM #6: CHESAPEAKE BAY TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD (TMDL) – STATE BRIEFING

SUBJECT:

Messrs. Anthony Moore, Assistant Secretary for Chesapeake Bay Restoration, David A. Johnson, Director of the Department of Conservation and Recreation, and Russ Baxter, Department of Environmental Quality, will brief the HRPDC Executive Committee on the process for preparing the Virginia Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) – Phase II.

BACKGROUND:

Upon completion of the Chesapeake Bay TMDL and the Phase I Virginia Watershed Implementation Plan, the state is required to develop a Phase II Watershed Implementation Plan. The Phase II WIP involves increasing the specificity of Virginia’s approach to implementing the Chesapeake Bay TMDL at the locality and subwatershed level.

Virginia Secretary of Natural Resources Douglas Domenech has requested the opportunity for state agency representatives to brief the HRPDC on the Phase II WIP process and the state’s expectations on the role of PDCs/local governments in developing the plan.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Commission discussion.

Attachment 6: Letter, Secretary of Natural Resources Douglas Domenech, to Dwight L. Farmer, March 2, 2011



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Governor

Doug Domenech
Secretary of Natural Resources

March 2, 2011

Dwight Farmer, Executive Director
Hampton Roads Planning District
723 Woodlake Drive
Chesapeake, Virginia 23320

Dear Mr. Farmer:

As you may know, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently approved Virginia's Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) for the cleanup of the Chesapeake Bay. Our plan was developed to meet EPA requirements for the reduction and capping of nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment loads into the Bay and its tidal tributaries. The WIP was accepted by EPA on December 29, 2010, and it was included in EPA's Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) with minor modifications. A full copy of the Virginia plan can be found at: <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/tmdl/chesapeakebay.html>. A copy of the TMDL documents released by EPA can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/chesapeakebaytmdl/>.

This WIP, which was developed as part of a broad stakeholder process, gives Virginia the flexibility to implement cost effective practices in each watershed and emphasizes actions in the wastewater, urban/stormwater, agriculture, and on-site sectors with appropriate timeframes to achieve reductions. All levels of government and private interests will need to work together to meet these ambitious goals and to share information and approaches that fairly distribute costs and responsibilities.

The next step in the TMDL is the development of a Phase II WIP which will extend the reduction goals established for large watersheds to more local levels, and further refine plans for state and local action. It will be imperative to work closely with local stakeholders in this process so that they can provide guidance for the local actions that will reduce pollution loads into the Bay and maintain those reductions over time. In order to explain the details of the Phase I WIP and possible approaches for the Phase II WIP, I would like to offer a briefing to your Commission at your earliest convenience. This will be an opportunity to give a detailed overview of the plan to your members and begin the process of charting out our next steps together.

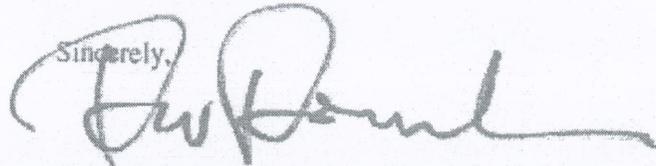
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HRPDC

A Department of Conservation and Recreation staff person will be contacting your Commission within the next week to determine the most convenient method and time to meet and discuss the WIP.

In the meantime, if you have questions regarding this process, please don't hesitate to contact Anthony Moore in my office at 804-786-0044.

Sincerely,

Douglas W. Domenech

cc: Stan D. Clark, Chairman