

ATTACHMENT 1A
THE DRAFT SUMMARY OF THE MEETING OF THE
HAMPTON ROADS CHESAPEAKE BAY COMMITTEE, THE
REGIONAL STORMWATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND THE
CHESAPEAKE BAY IMPLEMENTATION SUBCOMMITTEE
November 3, 2011

1. Summary of the October 6, 2011 Meeting of the Hampton Roads Chesapeake Bay and Regional Stormwater Management Committees and Chesapeake Bay Implementation Subcommittee

The Summary of the October 6, 2011 Meeting of the Hampton Roads Chesapeake Bay and Regional Stormwater Management Committees and Chesapeake Bay Implementation Subcommittee was approved as distributed.

2. Great American Cleanup Presentation

Ms. Lisa Hardy, HRPDC, gave a presentation to the Committee on the Great American Cleanup, a nationwide program headed by Keep America Beautiful. Hampton Roads will be hosting one of fifteen kickoff events held around the country to start off the event. The local event is a partnership between HRGreen and Keep Virginia Beautiful. The partnership hopes to hold an event in each Hampton Roads locality, with a regional kickoff event set for a Friday or Saturday in the spring. Partners include Keep America Beautiful, HRPDC, HRGreen, Keep Virginia Beautiful, and others. Goals include holding 16 events across the region, having 1,000 volunteers, raising \$100,000 in donations, and building awareness of HRGreen's work. The HRPDC approved a recommendation that endorsed the Hampton Roads Great American Cleanup Kickoff Event and encouraged widespread participation throughout all the region's localities.

Questions about the event should be sent to Ms. Hardy (lhardy@hrpdcva.gov).

3. Regional Trails Update

Ms. Sara Kidd, HRPDC, updated the Committee on several regional trail projects.

Captain John Smith National Historic Trail (NHT): A comprehensive management plan and an environmental assessment have been completed. The trail's James River focus group met twice. The National Park Service (NPS) is preparing a final plan for the James River segment of the trail.

Star-Spangled Banner NHT: The NPS has asked for comments on three trail alternatives; only the third option includes sites in Virginia. No decision has been made yet.

Southeast Coast Paddling Trail: This trail includes sites in Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia. The Virginia section draft is completed. The group applied

for but did not receive funding for a website and maps. The group still needs to discuss how to move forward.

James River Heritage Trail: This trail is an off-road, multi-use trail, incorporating pathways, water trails, bike routes, etc. The draft conceptual plan is complete. Comments are due to DCR by December 1, 2011: http://dcr.state.va.us/recreational_planning/trailjrhdraft.shtml).

The South Hampton Roads Trail: This trail's different segments are in various stages of development. There have been some property ownership issues with railroad rights of way. Environmental studies are currently underway in Chesapeake and Portsmouth.

Dismal Swamp Canal Connector Trail: The Chesapeake City Council approved an application for Transportation Enhancement Funds for the interstate connection on October 25, 2011. This project has been amended to include the final 0.9 mile extension to North Carolina and has an estimated cost of \$4 million. The North Carolina segment has a completed 30% design and is estimated to cost \$2 million.

Several other trails have been added to the regional trails inventory. These include the Washington-Rochambeau NHT, the Chesapeake Bay Gateways, the TransAmerica Bike Route (US Route 76), the Virginia War of 1812 Heritage Trail, the Virginia Civil War Trail – Peninsula Campaign, and the Virginia Wildlife and Birding Trail.

Questions about regional trails and the inventory should be sent to Ms. Kidd (skidd@hrpdcva.gov).

4. Urban Tree Canopy Analysis Project Presentation

Ms. Barbara White, Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF), gave a presentation to the Committee about the benefits of urban tree canopy and some tools which can be used to analyze and improve canopy coverage in localities. VDOF provides an assessment tool that helps to increase awareness of urban forestry assets and benefits. The assessment is conducted at the locality level and by parcel; this produces two different sets of results which help to guide future planning. The analysis identifies areas that could be planted; these areas are then refined into areas that would be preferable and possible for tree planting. The benefits of urban tree canopy include areas for parks, water and air quality improvements, and relaxation and recreation. Once an assessment is completed, recommendations should be formalized and implemented through an ordinance or master plan.

5. Chesapeake Bay Phase II Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) Update

HRPDC staff updated the Committee on the status of the Chesapeake Bay TMDL Phase II Watershed Implementation Plan. Virginia sent a letter to EPA stating that the Chesapeake Bay model was not appropriate for setting local pollutant allocations or targets. EPA responded with a letter that stated that they do not expect to have local

targets (in terms of pounds of nutrients) in the Phase II WIP, but they do expect local program strategies. HRPDC sent a letter to the EPA requesting the removal of individual waste load allocations from the TMDL. HRPDC also sent a letter to Virginia's Secretary of Natural Resources requesting the same and also requesting that new permits not be issued until the TMDL situation is resolved.

Mr. Noah Hill, DCR, stated that DCR is working with localities on BMP implementation based on the Phase I WIP. A letter from Director Johnson should be sent within the next week to localities with expectations for the WIP. In addition, VAST has a WIP I grouping that localities can use in their reporting. Virginia has not yet submitted a draft Phase II WIP to EPA. The December submittal to EPA will be an outline of what will be submitted in March.

Localities should continue working on groundtruthing their BMPs.

Ms. Jenny Tribo, HRPDC, reported that the Virginia LID Competition is looking for development sites to use in the competition. Potential sites should be in one of three categories (residential, redevelopment, or roadway), have a site survey or draft plan of development completed, and cannot currently be under a service agreement for site development planning or engineering or any phase of construction. The deadline for submittal is November 11, 2011. Interested localities should contact Chip Rice (540-373-3448 x112).

6. **Status Reports**

A. Hampton Roads Sanitation District

HRSD representatives had nothing to report.

B. Hampton Roads Planning District

HRPDC representatives had nothing to report.

C. Soil and Water Conservation Districts

SWCD representatives had nothing to report.

D. Department of Conservation and Recreation

Mr. Noah Hill, DCR, reported that the Suffolk District office has had some staff leave, so some things may take more time.

E. Department of Environmental Quality

In the absence of a DEQ representative, there was no report.

F. U.S. Geological Survey

In the absence of a USGS representative, there was no report.

G. Department of Transportation

VDOT representatives had nothing to report.

H. U.S. Navy

Navy staff is training on CWSP (a point of compliance tool for new regulations based on voluntary stormwater controls). Navy staff is also working on a program for residential BMPs for some standardization to do accounting for the WIP (such as master gardeners, garden clubs, etc.). They are looking at other models (such as Maryland) to get credits for BMPs in hard urban areas and will try to bring money to the table to help with implementation. Currently, \$100,000 is being spent on this effort.

I. Local Programs

Virginia Beach staff reported that the City is still trying to figure out what they are required to do under the Chesapeake Bay TMDL. The City is going through the budget process and is working with the Army Corps of Engineers on a restoration project in the Lynnhaven River. The floating wetlands study is ongoing. DCR is evaluating the City's E&S program. The City also is starting the public engagement process for its Sustainability Plan.

York County staff reported that the County is being audited by DCR and is undergoing a program review.

Suffolk staff reported that the City is preparing its legislative package. They are also concerned about the direction of the TMDL process.

James City County staff reported that the draft report of the state's Nutrient Credit Exchange Study should be out for public review by November 9, 2011. More information can be found on the DEQ website:

<http://www.deq.virginia.gov/vpdes/NutCrdExStudy.html>.

Norfolk staff reported that EPA program reviews for Phase II localities are underway in the form of table top reviews that compare plans to annual reports.

7. **Other Matters**

The next meeting of the Joint Environmental Committee is scheduled for December 1, 2011 at the HRPDC office in Chesapeake, Virginia. Materials will be sent in advance for review.