



**Virginia Citizens for Water Quality
Board of Directors Meeting Agenda
November 7, 2007
10:00 am – 12:00 pm**

**Meeting Location – Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay
530 East Main Street, Richmond, VA
2nd Floor Conference Room**

Minutes

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Review and Approve minutes from September 28, 2007
 - a) Board reviewed the minutes from last meeting and accepted without changes.
- 3) Old Business
 - a) Brochure and Logo
 - i) We need to put this in the work plan as a to do item
 - b) EPA Region III Volunteer Monitoring Conference
 - i) GIS Workshop was good – suggestion for future trainings of this nature is to have an introductory session as well as an advanced session
 - ii) Stacey Brown had issue with the presentation from Mike Haire from EPA Region III that showed the Virginia monitors all it's waters. This statement really should be qualified. Virginia's probabilistic monitoring network allows the DEQ to infer through statistics and interpolation what percentage of the streams in Virginia are impaired and what streams are not impaired. It is really a statistical model and the statement that all of Virginia streams are monitored is incorrect. The statement that all the streams are assessed is correct (although it is also misleading – this should be qualified that they are assessed via the probabilistic monitoring network).

- iii) All of the presentations are available on the DEQ citizen monitoring website
 - iv) Other workshops where ok
 - v) How many streams does Virginia actually monitor? About 18%.
 - vi) How much does one station represent in terms of stream miles? It is left up to the best professional judgment of the DEQ person conducting the "assessment" process.
 - vii) The revised version of the Virginia Citizen Monitoring Methods manual was made available at the meeting. There were no substantial changes to the manual.
- c) Winter Meeting for 2008
- i) We will have the draft program by the end of November
- d) Workplan for 2008
- i) We had a lot of discussion here about the future of VCWQ, what our mission is, and how to accomplish this if there is no money to pay VA SOS or the Alliance to help the volunteer board get things done.
 - ii) We discussed having a nominal fee for our winter meeting and summit. These fees would likely only cover the cost for lunch and not administrative costs for holding the meetings.
 - iii) Should we charge for membership?
 - iv) What do we want the organization to be? What direction? Do we need to be a 501(c)3?
 - (1) Right now –
 - (a) the organization puts together two meetings a year
 - (b) we coordinate
 - (c) we are unique in that we coordinate, network, and can provide training
 - v) What does it cost to do this? The past two years we have received about \$32,000 to do this work

- vi) Can we go to DEQ for this funding? With a specific role of being a liaison between citizen volunteers and agencies
 - vii) Next steps? Do both – try to get funding for the organization so that we can continue as usual. If funding is not obtained, then the Board will need to take on more responsibilities in order to accomplish the networking and coordinating function.
 - (1) Fear that if we become an all volunteer organization then we will all revert back to our own “home” rather than cooperating. Our effectiveness will be sharply curtailed.
 - viii) We should have a good idea by January of the financial status of the organization
- 4) New Business
- a) VA Budget Reductions to volunteer water quality monitoring programs
 - i) VA SOS, the Alliance and Virginia Forever met with Secretary of Natural Resources to discuss the cut of the volunteer monitoring grant program. He indicated that this was to be a sustained cut, meaning that funding for the program would not be included in the 2009-2010 budget that will be hashed out this General Assembly session.
 - ii) Helen Tansey with Virginia Forever paid the board a quick visit to meet the Board members and let people know about what the Alliance, VA SOS, and Virginia Forever have done to begin addressing this issue. We are looking to inform and influence legislators to make the program more stabilized rather than allowing it to be constantly on the chopping block.
 - (1) We would like to get the grant program reinstated
 - (2) We would like to get more money in the grant program
 - (3) Possibly use other revenue sources to either stabilize the program or add additional funds
 - iii) Information about Virginia Forever – hybrid organization that builds bridges between environmental organizations and economic

development partners (like Philip Morris and Smithfield) to help increase funding for natural resource programs. The Board of Virginia Forever may be available to lobby for the volunteer water quality monitors. Virginia Forever is helping the Alliance and VA SOS put together a road map of how to get the money reinstated – this involves putting together a white paper about volunteer monitoring, meeting with legislators, and writing letters to legislators and the governor.

- iv) White Paper on volunteer water quality monitoring
 - (1) We have a draft available. Final version should be available soon
 - v) There is such a demand for more water quality monitoring information – from nutrient loading caps, to water supply planning – we should use this need to bolster our case.
 - vi) Gov. Kaine’s budget will come out December 17th. We will need to mobilize at that point to get volunteer monitors to contact their legislators about the program and ask that they consider supporting a budget amendment to reinstate the program
- b) Items for newsletter?
- i) If you have an item for the newsletter – no matter how mundane – please pass it along!
 - ii) Any item is appropriate
 - iii) Of interest would be activities that have spawned off of your water quality monitoring program
- c) Next Meeting Dates
- i) Board meeting – January 16th 10:00 am conference call
 - ii) Winter Meeting
- d) Other New Business
- 5) Adjourn

Board Members and Watershed Affiliations

- 1) **Big Sandy** – no representation
- 2) **Upper Tennessee** – Martha Chapman
- 3) **New River** – Carolyn Thomas
- 4) **Roanoke River** – Wayne Kirkpatrick (lower) and Carolyn Thomas (upper)
- 5) **Upper James** – Carolyn Bott
- 6) **Piedmont James** – Robbie Savage
- 7) **Lower James** – Sandy Cooke
- 8) **Chowan/Dismal Swamp** – Stacey Bradshaw
- 9) **York** – no representation
- 10) **Atlantic Ocean/Chesapeake Bay/ Small Coastal** – no representation
- 11) **Rappahannock** – Beverly Hunter and Jim Disbrow
- 12) **Shenandoah** – Karen Andersen
- 13) **Potomac** – Otto Gutenson