

Meeting Minutes of the Virginia Citizens for Water Quality Board  
September 23, 2006 at Longwood College

Participating: Wayne Kirkpatrick; Sandy Cooke; Martha Chapman; Carolyn Thomas;  
Stacey Brown (VaSOS); Leslie Middleton (VCWQ)  
Unable to attend: Otto Guttenson; Karen Anderson

1. We had a brief review of the July VCWQ Summit using the notes compiled by Candler Communications under contract to the Alliance. All agreed that it was a successful event. Leslie Middleton will send out the compilation of evaluations to the Board members. Stacey Brown suggested the summary from Candler Communications could be a useful starting point for developing a work plan for VCWQ Board and members.
2. Wayne Kirkpatrick was elected Chairperson of VCWQ. Martha Chapman was elected Vice-Chairperson. The Board decided that the positions of Secretary and Treasurer were not needed at this time. Stacey Brown and Leslie Middleton reiterated that VaSOS and the Alliance will serve as staff to the newly formed Board.
3. We reviewed the "Letter of Agreement 2006 To Implement the Virginia Citizens Water Monitoring Program" that has been drafted for signature of the signatories (partners): DEQ, DCR, VWMC, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay; Virginia Save Our Streams; Virginia Water Monitoring Council, and Virginia Citizens for Water Quality. Leslie Middleton and Stacey Brown have represented VCWQ interests in the meetings this summer and fall with representatives of the above partners understanding that the newly elected VCWQ Board would have to approve the draft.

The Board suggested the following wording for the description of VCWQ under the section "Partner Responsibilities."

**Virginia Citizens for Water Quality**

The mission of VCWQ is to coordinate citizen water quality monitoring efforts and methodologies; to provide a funding mechanism for citizen water quality monitoring; and to promote watershed, water quality, and stream health issues. Through the VCWQ emailing list-server, VCWQ will provide a central place for agencies and other interested parties to distribute water quality-related information. VCWQ will maintain a comprehensive list of citizen water quality monitoring activities in Virginia on the VCWQ website. VCWQ will also host meetings twice a year to facilitate training opportunities and information sharing. VCWQ will utilize the annual summit to identify watershed priorities and needs as identified by the citizen water quality monitors. In addition, VCWQ will provide leadership in the effort to continue and expand funding sources for citizen water quality monitoring.

The Board agreed that the first two paragraphs under "Implementation" section should be revised to read:

We recognize that each partner has a unique and specific organizational mission, responsibility, and need for water quality monitoring data. To ensure success of this partnership agreement, we agree to meet at least twice a year to coordinate efforts; outline tasks to meet shared goals; and evaluate progress towards those goals.

In addition, Sandy Cooke had some suggestion for rewording some of the “Shared Goals,” but the Board agreed that it would be counter-productive to introduce too many changes at this point. Sandy Cooke will forward his suggested changes to the entire Board with the understanding that if any VCWQ Board member feels strongly that further changes need to be made, they will let Stacey and Leslie know by COB Tuesday September 27.

Stacey Brown and Leslie Middleton will then bring all changes to the committee of partners to facilitate their inclusion in the final version.

4. We decided to have the winter meeting of the VCWQ Board in December to give enough time to assure planning of the winter VCWQ meeting that will be in February or March of 2007. The December Board meeting will be by conference call on Thursday December 7, 2006 from 2 to 4 p.m.

5. The Board agreed to recruit Board members for VCWQ, especially working to attain representation of all watersheds and regions in Virginia. Special effort will go towards recruiting volunteers from the watershed of Big Sandy, New, York, Rappahannock, Black-water-Chowan and Lower James and region of Atlantic Coastal/Bays. The Board agreed that new recruits would be invited to participate in the next conference call, with formal voting at the VCWQ meeting in late winter. Stacey Brown will send a recruiting invitation to the Virginia Association of Watersheds.

6. The Board agreed to developing a comprehensive list of people and parties that it would like to see represented and/or participating in VCWQ activities. Sandy Cooke said that this list should include people who may not be water monitors but who are the “eyes and ears” of their respective watershed communities. Board members agreed to bring their lists to the next Board meeting. *(Leslie: since this is conference call, it may make sense to email these lists to one person to compile before the next conference call meeting.)*

7. Stacey Brown relayed upcoming opportunities:

- DEQ has an interest in the opening up the discussion of appropriate uses for citizen-gathered water quality monitoring data. (This could be the theme of the winter meeting.)
- DEQ has issued an invitation to the Technical Advisory Committee for Nutrient Criteria for Freshwater Streams. Stacey will send information to the Board about this.

- DEQ is beginning to undertake its triennial review of Water Quality Standards and issues related to water quality standards. VCWQ may wish to provide input via a white paper or some other mechanism.

8. The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.