

VCWQ Board Meeting Minutes
March 19, 2007

Conference Call

Present:

Jim Disbrow
Stacey Brown
Otto Gutenson
Sandy Cooke
Leslie Middleton
Wayne Kirkpatrick
Beverly Hunter
Karen Andersen

1. Review and approve meeting minutes from February 3, 2007.
Minutes reviewed and approved without any additions.

2. **Old Business.**

Bylaws review –

Committee will meet in April, review and come up with changes – put potential changes in front of Board at May meeting so we can get the changes ready for voting on the Summit

Spring Training Event –

The new date for the habitat assessment is June 2nd
Training announcement will be sent to everyone

Summit Planning Committee –

See Summit Planning Document for discussion items

VCWQ work plan status -

A little behind for the e-newsletter. Leslie is checking with new hire at the Alliance to see if they have any ideas about this.

Communications Committee –

See handout for discussion items

Next Meeting –

May 23rd – will it be phone conference or in person?

In person – in Charlottesville

Stacey will work on details of meeting location

Partnership Agreement -

See attached minutes of the last Partnership Agreement meeting.

Plans are underway to focus (with the help of DEQ and DCR) the next Partnership Agreement meeting on gaps and overlaps in volunteer monitoring around the state, starting with a smaller watershed to develop a process (model) of generating information that will be useful to watershed groups with existing or planned water quality monitoring programs. Once developed for one watershed, this process can be replicated around the state.

We plan to meet in April to work on the above outline. Leslie and Stacey explained our next step.

Virginia Watershed Alliance (VaWA) –

Leslie in communication with VAWA and she will suggest that they put their events on the VCWQ Calendar. There is a possibility that we may be invited to the VAWA meeting in April to talk about volunteer monitoring.

Sustainability --

We need to coordinate our efforts with other organizations. We should come up with plans on how to coordinate the needs of the VCWQ – as an umbrella organization that can help organize folks – with the needs of individual members. We should look back at the Kentucky model and see how they coordinate the needs of the umbrella with the needs of the members. This topic will be discussed in more detail at the May meeting.

3. New Business

Water Column

The water column could be local as well as statewide. We should contact Angela Nielan to see if DEQ would be interested in supporting this. Perhaps we can tie into the TMDL program – and implementation - would DCR support this?

If we get a grant to develop the water column, we need to work on the display of Data. Visually how to best display to water quality data, interpret data to indicators, and data to information.

Letters of Support needed from organizations.

GIS Workshop

Stacey will let everyone know the details of this once she has ironed them out with Gary Kappasser.

4. Other Business –

Meeting Dates for 2007

- Next VCWQ Board meeting: May 23 –
- July 21 Summit
- September 6 - Conference call @ 1:30 p.m.
- October 20 World Water Monitoring Day – fall training, perhaps in conjunction with VWMC and USEPA Region III Volunteer Monitor Conference
- December – In-person meeting (work plan for 2008)

Committees will meet at other times (Communications, Summit Planning, Bylaws, and Sustainability)

Adjourned at 2:15 pm.

DISCUSSION ON COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE WORK

Short version needs some work.

Long version – everyone likes; could be a strong element of the brochure

Third bullet should be partnering not to partner

Short version – change the word “yellow pages”

Maybe: “We link all volunteer citizens water quality monitoring activities in Virginia.”

The third bullet “issue” needs to be wordsmith.

Communications committee to go back to change this wordsmithing and will go ahead and put it into the brochure. Board members can review the wordsmithing within the brochure.

It could be that we even make the mission statement shorter – make it fewer words and eliminate the bullets

Maybe “empower citizens to become effective and responsive to water quality needs and issues in their local watersheds” for the third bullet

Communications committee will move forward

Vote on brochure and logo via e-mail

VCWQ Summit – DRAFT PLAN FOR 2007 SUMMIT

Awards go along with theme?

Selecting people to review nominations – someone who has a good knowledge of what is going on

Awards are limited to members of VCWQ?

What about state gov’t employees?

Add categories – government; local, state, national

Nomination – self nomination or Board members – how

Awards Committee – Stacey; Leslie; Beverly

Need to work out: categories, nomination process, who can be nominated, how will be on the committee that chooses the winner

Switch morning and afternoon?

Reason – in case regional breakout can consider what they heard in the trainings/workshops

Voting on Board of Directors – in watershed breakouts