

POTOMAC WATERSHED ROUNDTABLE
Quarterly Meeting – January 13, 2023
Held In Person at the Prince William County Service Authority
Meeting Summary

Voting Members/Alternates

Penny Gross, PWR Chair, Fairfax County
Jeff Adams, Tri-County/City SWCD
Deidre Clark, John Marshall SWCD
Charles Grymes, PW Conservation Alliance
Chuck Koch, Tri County City SWCD
John Peterson, Northern Virginia SWCD
Will Lintner, Prince William SWCD
Jerry Peters, Northern Virginia SWCD
Greg Prelewicz, Fairfax Water
Marina Schumacher, Loudoun SWCD
Kelsi Steele, John Marshall SWCD
Rich Wilkins, Northern Neck SWCD
Willie Woode, Northern Virginia SWCD

Advisory Members/Alternates (Non-Voting)

Kirsten Conrad, Virginia Cooperative Extension
Debbie Cross, Virginia DCR
Jim McGlone, Virginia DOF
Rebecca Shoemaker, Virginia DEQ

Presenters

John DeRosa, PWCSA
Rachel Carlson, PWCSA
Susan Miller Fairfax Water
Don Pannell, PWCSA
Greg Prelewicz, Fairfax Water

Interested Parties

Dongmei Alvi, Occoq. Watershed Monitoring Lab
Audrey Arnold, PWCSA
Deana Crumbling
Seth Frantz, Occoq. Watershed Monitoring Lab
Fraser, Northern Virginia SWCD
Rick Galliher, Virginia Bottle Bill
Joseph Gorney, Fairfax County
Renee Grebe, Nature Forward
Rentz Hilyer, No. Virginia Conservation Trust
Chakavak Kamran, CDM Smith, Inc.
Lori Kledaras
Don Lacquement, Northern Virginia SWCD
Elizabeth Lonoff
Mike McGrath, Fairfax County Wastewater Mgmt.
Rebecca Murphy, NVRC
John Peterson, Northern Virginia SWCD
Chuck Phillips, Alexandria Renew Enterprises
Marjorie Roddy
Heather Shackley, Northern Virginia SWCD
Court Squires, Prince Wm Conservation Alliance
Ashley Studholme, Prince Wm Conservation Alliance
Veronica Tangiri, Prince William SWCD
Elizabeth Ward, Green Risks
Sophia Wood, Northern Virginia SWCD

Call to Order and Introductions

Ms. Gross called the meeting to order at 10:02 am and welcomed all to the meeting. Her announcement that this was the first in-person Potomac Watershed Roundtable (PWR or roundtable) meeting since January of 2020, was met with a round of applause. Those in attendance were asked to introduce themselves. An agenda for the meeting had been sent out to participants before the meeting.

Don Pannell, Deputy General Manager and Chief Operating Officer of the Prince William County Service Authority (PWCSA), welcomed all to the meeting. He expressed his appreciation for the roundtable, the meeting today, and the group's interest in the work of the authority. He and his team look forward to sharing more about the work of PWCSA later in the program and encouraged all to participate in the tour of the facility following the meeting.

Minutes—October 7, 2022

The minutes of the October 7, 2022 of the roundtable had been distributed in advance of the meeting. Ms. Gross asked if there were any corrections or additions. Hearing none, and following a motion by Mr. Lintner, seconded by Ms. Clark, the minutes of the October 7, 2022 meeting were approved by voice vote. Mr. Peters abstained from the vote.

Updates from the Roundtable Chair

Ms. Gross apologized for her untimely departure from the October 7, 2022 roundtable meeting due to a family emergency and thanked Mr. Peterson for stepping in to lead at the end of the meeting.

Ms. Gross reported that she has announced that she will not be seeking reelection to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors when her current term concludes at the end of 2023. She has served on the Board of Supervisors for 28 years, and has served 20 years as the chair of the Potomac Watershed Roundtable. As she steps down, she noted, there will need to be a new roundtable chair and encouraged everyone to begin thinking about that transition.

Ms. Gross raised the possibility of the roundtable hosting a “water summit,” similar to one hosted by this group previously. She provided some details of the previous summit, noting that estimates at that time were that adequate supplies of drinking water would be available through 2035. She is advocating for another summit that will plan for the drinking water supply through 2050 or 2060. With population growth in the national capital region, ensuring adequate water supply is essential. Along these lines, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOC) is hosting a “Water Policy and Science” series which she encouraged all to explore. More information is available on the [MWCOC website’s](#) events page.

Ms. Gross then took a few minutes to recognize John Peterson, former director and immediate past chair of the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District (NVSWCD), long time roundtable member, and chair of the Potomac Council (council) until his retirement from that position in December of 2022. She noted that Mr. Peterson has been a stalwart member of the roundtable since its inception and a great mentor to her. One of Mr. Peterson’s last duties on the roundtable was a remarkable effort to update the roundtable’s bylaws. She commended his calm but focused approach to getting things done on behalf of the roundtable, as chair of the Potomac Council, and as director and chair of the NVSWCD.

At the request of Ms. Gross, Mr. Peters, roundtable member and NVSWCD vice chair, made a few remarks about Mr. Peterson and his work on behalf of NVSWCD, the region, the state, and the nation. Mr. Peters commended Mr. Peterson for his work, noting that he has been a constant and stalwart light. He looks forward to benefiting from Mr. Peterson’s continued advice and counsel. Several other members of the roundtable added their praise and thanks for Mr. Peterson’s work and leadership, and the roundtable followed these remarks with a round of applause for Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson assured Ms. Gross that he plans to continue to attend the roundtable meetings as a member of the public.

Updates from the Potomac Council Chair

Ms. Gross asked Mr. Lintner, chair of the Potomac Council, to provide updates. Mr. Lintner reported that he had been elected Potomac Council chair at the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation District’s Annual Meeting in Roanoke in December of 2022.

The Potomac Council met this morning, just before the roundtable meeting. Following the recent update of the PWR bylaws, the Potomac Council plans to update its bylaws in the coming quarter. Mr. Lintner noted that the Potomac Council serves as the administrative arm of the Potomac Watershed Roundtable and is comprised of representatives from the six Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) in the Potomac Watershed.

Presentation

From Source to Tap: Fairfax Water's Insights on PFAS and Source Water Protection

Susan Miller, Manager Public Affairs and Greg Prelewicz, Manager Planning, Fairfax Water

Ms. Gross introduced Ms. Miller and Mr. Prelewicz, both from Fairfax Water and today's first speakers. Their topic is one of national and international interest, per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS, which are "forever chemicals" used in industry and consumer products and which enter the environment and water cycle.

Ms. Miller used a PowerPoint presentation to provide information about Fairfax Water, about PFAS, and the sources of exposure and regulations surrounding these chemicals.

Mr. Prelewicz continued the presentation to discuss possible PFAS treatment goals, noting that this region is fortunate to have some of the most advanced water treatment facilities. The level of treatment technology is very high, and the facilities are phenomenal. However, the current facilities were not really designed to remove PFAS. Fairfax Water worked with a consultant to give a high-level overview of what is needed and how much it will cost. Mr. Prelewicz reviewed possible treatment goals, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) directives to integrate PFAS treatment into pre-treatment programs to reduce harmful PFAS pollution, and explained the steps which are being taken in northern Virginia.

Mr. Prelewicz reminded the group about Fairfax Water's Water Supply Stakeholder Outreach Program, grants that are available each year to qualified organizations who engage in water supply education, water quality monitoring, or watershed protection projects. Additional information on the grants is available on the [Fairfax Water website](#). This year's grant applications are due by May 5, 2023.

Ms. Gross thanked Mr. Prelewicz and Ms. Miller for their presentations and entertained questions from the group. What followed was a robust discussion about the PFAS, their omnipresence, the expected regulatory guidance from the Environmental Protection Agency, and how that guidance will direct next steps.

Presentation

An Overview of the PWCSA and the H.L. Mooney Advanced Reclamation Facility

John DeRosa, Regulatory Affairs Officer and Rachel Carlson, Plant Superintendent, PWCSA

Ms. Gross introduced the next speakers, John DeRosa and Rachel Carlson of the Prince William County Service Authority, and expressed her appreciation for the PWCSA's hosting of today's meeting.

Mr. DeRosa provided a brief overview of the PWCSA and its work, noting that the authority just celebrated its 40th anniversary. He provided details of the authority's mission, organizational structure, and business philosophy, noting that the authority follows the growth in Prince William County and its practices emphasize diversity and inclusion. Prince William County is the 10th most diverse county in the nation according to the 2020 census.

Ms. Carlson then used a PowerPoint presentation to share information about the treatment facility. Mr. DeRosa followed this with information about the laboratory and the processes used.

Ms. Gross thanked Mr. DeRosa and Ms. Carlson for their presentations and entertained questions from the group. What followed was a robust discussion about the PWCSA, other water treatment plants in the area,

water security and water monitoring systems, flood prevention and mitigation, water system infrastructure, salt levels/data tracking related to salt, and water utility risk and resiliency assessments.

Announcements and Updates from Roundtable Members

Ms. Gross noted a slight change to the agenda, indicating that announcements will be entertained now, rather than after the lunch. Following lunch, the meeting will adjourn and those who wish to participate in the tour of the PWSCA facility are encouraged to do so.

Ms. Gross then asked if there were any announcements from those present. What follows are highlights from those announcements:

Virginia Department of Forestry

Dr. McGlone reported that he brought with him Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOP) calendars for everyone to take. He also noted that VDOP has reorganized and that this portion of the state is now being serviced by Rappahannock Program Area. This is a large service area, and the department is currently recruiting foresters. The VDOP is very committed to watershed forestry with a focus on forested riparian buffers. In addition the “Virginia Trees for Clean Waters” grant request for proposals will be issued by the end of January 2023. Additional information on this program is available from the [VDOP website](#).

Under the requirements of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Improvement Program, Phase III, a lot of trees need to be planted and this planting needs to be documented. Dr. McGlone encouraged those present, if they are doing any kind of tree planting projects, to report these on the VDOP “My Trees Count” app. Additional information and links to the app are available on the [VDOP website](#).

Finally, Dr. McGlone encouraged contacting him with any forestry issues or questions.

Virginia Cooperative Extension

Ms. Conrad reported that the Virginia Cooperative Extension has been divided into five districts. She represents the Northeast District which is basically the western side of the Potomac River, a large area.

Schedule of Potomac Watershed Roundtable Meetings

Ms. Gross announced that while the roundtable would normally meet on the first Friday of the months of January, April, July, and October, it has been suggested that the April meeting be moved to the 14th to avoid conflict with spring holidays. In-person meetings of the roundtable and council are planned for April 14, July 7, and October 6, 2023, with Prince William SWCD, John Marshall SWCD, and Tri-County/City SWCD, respectively, serving as host districts.

Ms. Gross thanked the meeting’s hosts at the PWCSA, as well as NVSWCD staff for their efforts today. She thanked all for their attendance and engagement in today’s meeting. She noted that lunch is now available and that the tour will leave from this building at 1:30 pm.

Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:37 pm