

**POTOMAC WATERSHED ROUNDTABLE**  
**Quarterly Meeting – April 13, 2018**  
**Alexandria ReNew Enterprises, Alexandria, VA**

**MINUTES**

**Members and Alternates**

Hon. Penny Gross, Chair, Voting Member, Fairfax County  
Kirsten Conrad, Advisory Member, Virginia Cooperative Extension  
Curtis Dalpra, Voting Alternate, ICPRB  
Hon. John Flannery, Voting Member, Loudoun SWCD  
Harry Glasgow, Voting Member, Environment  
Laura Grape, Voting Alternate, Northern Virginia SWCD  
Daniel Moore, Advisory Member, Virginia DEQ  
Karen Pallansch, Voting Member, Water and Wastewater  
Hon. John Peterson, Voting Member, Northern Virginia SWCD  
Hon. Robert Pickett, Voting Member, Northern Neck SWCD  
Rebecca Shoemaker, Advisory Member, Virginia DEQ  
Michael Trop, Voting Alternate, John Marshall SWCD  
Hon. John Vinstadt, Voting Member, Arlington County  
Hon. Elizabeth Ward, Voting Alternate, Prince William SWCD

**Interested Parties**

Dongmei Alvi, Occoquan Watershed Monitoring Laboratory  
David Bulova, Virginia House of Delegates  
Mike Collins, Arlington County  
Bill Dickinson  
Holly Flannery, Loudoun SWCD  
Paul Holland  
Pam Kenel, Loudoun Water  
Jesse Maines, City of Alexandria  
Ashley Palmer, Northern Virginia SWCD  
Jerry Peters, Northern Virginia SWCD  
Juan Reyes, Fairfax County  
Niffy Saji, Fairfax Water  
Daniel Saltzberg, Northern Virginia Conservation Trust  
Heather Shackley, Northern Virginia SWCD  
Mary Sherrill, Fauquier County Water and Sanitation Authority  
Elaine Tholen, Northern Virginia SWCD  
Anna Tuthill, Virginia DEQ

**Call to Order.** Ms. Gross called the meeting to order at 10:04 AM and thanked Alexandria ReNew Enterprises and the Northern Virginia SWCD for hosting the meeting.

**Introductions.**

**Minutes.** A **motion** (Peterson-Ward) passed unanimously to approve the minutes from the January 5 meeting in Warrenton, VA.

**Welcome and Overview of Alexandria Renew Enterprises.** Ms. Karen Pallansch, Chief Executive Officer with Alexandria Renew Enterprises, welcomed the Roundtable to the Environmental Center of AlexRenew and provided an overview of the organization and operation. She noted that the utility was formerly the Alexandria Sanitation Authority and underwent rebranding to better reflect the transformation of water that takes place at the facility. The organization was established in 1952 by the Alexandria City Council as an independent political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia under the Virginia Water and Wastes Authorities Act. The entity has the singular purpose of intercepting and treating wastewater. However, it is the vision of the AlexRenew Board of Directors to manage the water infrastructure for added community benefit, including providing stewardship opportunities, providing stable rates, and establishing connections with waterways. She noted that Alexandria's water system is based on three organizations:

- Virginia American Water, which delivers drinking water to Alexandria homes
- City of Alexandria's sanitary and storm sewer systems
- Finally, AlexRenew receives the water for treatment before releasing it back to the Potomac or reusing it in the building or on the property.

AlexRenew receives roughly 60 percent of its wastewater from Fairfax County, by agreement with the county. Ms. Pallansch noted that 544 acres of the City of Alexandria is a Combined Sewer System (CSS), which includes 72 percent imperviousness and four Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) outfalls. Ms. Pallansch shared a map of a conceptual tunnel system to be built beneath the historic City that will divert water to the treatment facility and provide the tertiary treatment. She noted that a similar plan was established in Washington D.C. for the Anacostia River, which is showing noticeable improvements in the water quality of the river. Ms. Pallansch noted that while the tunnel is important to overall water quality health, implementation is not without its challenges. She shared that the small, urban footprint with no additional land options requires creativity in building new facilities. In addition, the organization is conscious of the continued needs for nutrient reductions, while also being aware of the potential for climate adaptation needs. However, the organization has a history of innovation and forward focus. Ms. Pallansch noted that the Nutrient Management Facility, which has a soccer field atop it, is rated Envision Platinum, which was the first water resource recovery facility in the United States to receive this recognition. In addition, the Environmental Center is the first constructed LEED Platinum Building in the City of Alexandria. Ms. Gross expressed her appreciation to Ms. Pallansch for her update and shared her enthusiasm that the Roundtable will have an opportunity to tour the facility in the afternoon tour.

**Overview of the 2018 General Assembly Session.** Delegate David Bulova, 37<sup>th</sup> District provided an engaging history of the Commonwealth of Virginia's Governance and the establishment of the General Assembly as the House of Burgesses 399 years ago. He provided an update on the current makeup of the House of Delegates and Senate, along with personnel changes since the last session. He noted the fate of several bills of interest to Roundtable members and that a special budgetary session was on-going.

**Potomac River Basin-Wide Comprehensive Water Resources Plan.** Mr. Curtis Dalpra, Communications Manager with the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin, introduced an initiative to develop a basin-wide water plan for the Potomac River that knits the various local and state scale planning efforts and explores cross-boundary issues. The concept of the plan originated from a project completed with The Nature Conservancy in assigning stream biological carrying capacities linked to anticipated flow changes from climate change and consumptive use. In

2015, the planning process got underway with the establishment of a multi-stakeholder group. The plan describes the challenges and recommendation, implementation framework, and strategies for adaptive implementation. The plan strives to identify common goals related to the protection of water supplies, drinking water sources, water quality, and aquatic life.

An advisory committee consisting of 24 representatives, met seven times between September 2016 and March 2018. The committee recognized that management of the water resource is a complex balancing act and identified the following challenge areas:

- Manage human land use for sustainability
- Cross-cutting challenges
- Protect and improve water quality
- Protect ecological health
- Ensure sustainable water use and supplies

Mr. Dalpra noted that cross-cutting challenges included issues like climate change and how water is used for energy production, the treatment and disposal of water, and other impacts that may affect flow or contribute thermal or chemical pollution. He noted that the plan's recommendations include simple actions with the intent of instilling behavioral changes and more specific policy recommendations per each challenge area. Mr. Dalpra noted that the implementation section identifies roles and responsibilities for action items, introduces potential funding sources and ways to integrate the basin-wide plan into other planning efforts. The plan has a 15 year lifespan with milestones reviewed every five years to determine successes and activities for the next five year period. The final plan is expected to be completed in early-summer 2018 and ongoing communication with stakeholder will take place during its roll-out and implementation. Mr. Dalpra invited members of the Roundtable to take part in the review of the plan. Ms. Gross acknowledged the important work of ICPRB and the value it brings to the larger region. She thanked Mr. Dalpra for bringing this to the attention of the Roundtable and asked members to follow up with him should they be interested in engaging in the plan review process.

**Adjournment, with Optional Tour.** Ms. Gross thanked everyone for their attendance and engagement in the meeting dialogue. She expressed appreciation to the Northern Virginia SWCD for their hospitality. She noted that the next meeting will take place on July 13, 2018 and will be hosted by the Northern Neck Soil and Water Conservation District. The formal meeting adjourned at 12:05 PM. Following lunch, several members stayed for a tour of the treatment system, including the laboratory, settling tanks, interceptor system, biological reactor basins, UV light tanks, deammonification facility and nutrient management facility. The tour was led by Chad Coneway, Director of Production at AlexRenew and concluded at 2:15 PM.