

POTOMAC WATERSHED ROUNDTABLE
Quarterly Meeting – July 7, 2023
Held In Person at Powers Farm and Brewery.
Midland, Virginia

Meeting Summary

Voting Members/Alternates

Penny Gross, PWR Chair, Fairfax County
Jeff Adams, Tri-County/City SWCD
Janelle J. Downes, Fauquier County
John Flannery, Loudoun SWCD
Charles Grymes, PW Conservation Alliance
Chuck Koch, Tri County City SWCD
Will Lintner, Prince William SWCD
Jerry Peters, Northern Virginia SWCD
Robert Pickett, Northern Neck SWCD
Greg Prelewicz, Water and Wastewater Utilities
Marina Schumacher, Loudoun SWCD
Kelsi Steele, John Marshall SWCD
Elizabeth Ward, PWC Sustainability Commission
Willie Woode, Northern Virginia SWCD

Advisory Members/Alternates (Non-Voting)

Renee Bourassa, ICPRB
Kirsten Conrad, Virginia Cooperative Extension
Debbie Cross, Virginia DCR
Kinner Ingram, Virginia DOF
Daniel Moore, Virginia DEQ
Rebecca Shoemaker, Virginia DEQ
Jacob Zelinski, Virginia DOF

Presenters

Kevin Powers, Powers Farm and Brewery
Bert Harris, Clifton Institute
Rebecca Murphy, Northern Virginia Regional Commission
Dan Stell, Fauquier County GIS Department

Interested Parties

Sammie Alexander, John Marshall SWCD
Melissa Allen, John Marshall SWCD
Nicki Bellezza, Fairfax Water
Melina Cienski, Virginia DOF
Derrick Clarke, AgriCair
Ed DeBerry, John Marshall SWCD
Dean Dodson, Fauquier County
Evelyn Eichorn
Cole Gandee, Northern Virginia SWCD
Tricia Hailey, John Marshall SWCD
Brianna Heath, Northern Neck PDC
Denisa Hendriyadi, Virginia Cooperative Extension
Heather Hunter-Nickels, Northern Virginia SWCD
Kris Jarvis, John Marshall SWCD
Steve Jones, John Marshall SWCD
Erin Kozanecki, Fauquier County
Don Lacquement, Northern Virginia SWCD
Morgan Madison, Tri-County/City SWCD
Duane Mohr, Prince William SWCD
Ashley Palmer, Northern Virginia SWCD
Heather Shackley, Northern Virginia SWCD
Veronica Tangiri, Prince William SWCD

Welcome, Call to Order, and Introductions

Ms. Gross called the meeting to order at 10:08 am and welcomed all to the meeting. Ms. Gross asked those present to introduce themselves.

Mr. Powers of Powers Farm and Brewery welcomed all to the meeting, provided safety instructions for attendees, and thanked everyone for attending.

Minutes—April 14, 2023

The minutes of the April 14, 2023, meeting of the Potomac Watershed 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 Ms. Ward and seconded by Mr. Lintner, the minutes of the April 14, 2023 meeting were approved by voice vote.

Updates from the Roundtable Chair

Ms. Gross reported on recent information and regulations related to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances or PFAS. PFAS were the subject of the January 2023 meeting of the Potomac Watershed Roundtable; a topic that will continue to be of interest as regulations are issued.

Updates from the Potomac Council Chair

Ms. Gross asked Mr. Lintner to provide an update from the Potomac Council. Mr. Lintner reported that the Potomac Council met this morning. He noted that the bylaws of the Potomac Council have been approved. He also noted that the Northern Virginia SWCD will host the October 6, 2023 meetings of the Potomac Council and Potomac Watershed Roundtable instead of Tri-County/City SWCD. The meeting will be held at the Fairfax Water Griffith Water Treatment Facility in Lorton, Virginia.

Presentation: Highlights of Operations and Installed VCAP Projects on Farm

Kevin Powers, Owner, Powers Farm and Brewery

Mr. Powers used a PowerPoint presentation to introduce his farm and brewery and the sustainable farming practices that he utilizes. His presentation covered the growth of his business and the importance of having locally sourced products in his brewing practices. He emphasized the reduced carbon emissions and reduced food borne illness issues that come from using Virginia based suppliers.

Ms. Gross thanked Mr. Powers for his presentation and asked for questions from roundtable members. Mr. Powers answered questions on a range of topics including water retention and recycling practices, zoning and planning issues related to event spaces, and VCAP practices used on his property.

Ms. Gross reminded those present that there would be an opportunity to tour the farm after the meeting.

Presentation: Restoration of a 100-acre Overgrazed Pasture in the Headwaters of the Occoquan River

Bert Harris, Executive Director, Clifton Institute

Mr. Harris is the director of the 900-acre Clifton Institute. The focus of the institute is researching ways to revitalize and restore habitat of the region and conserve native biodiversity. Environmental education is another key component of the institute. This education is accomplished through involving kids and adults in conservation and preservation of natural areas.

Mr. Harris used a PowerPoint presentation to introduce the varying programs of the institute. The programs include plant propagation and research on reclaiming heavily overgrazed pasture. Grad students from Virginia Tech and American University are studying how to control fescue and rehabilitate native wildflower and grassland meadows.

Ms. Gross thanked Mr. Harris for his presentation and asked for questions. Mr. Harris responded to questions about the presented data, seed collecting practices, rotational grazing, and the creation of small scale meadows for homeowners.

Presentation: The Northern Virginia Regional Commission

Rebecca Murphy, Resources Program Manager, Northern Virginia Regional Commission

Ms. Murphy used a PowerPoint presentation to introduce the critical role that the Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC) and its programs play in regional environmental flood mitigation efforts. Her presentation highlighted many of NVRC's programs including Coastal Resources Management, Water Quality, Hazard Mitigation and Resilience, Water Quantity, and Solid/Hazardous Waste Management and Recycling. She also talked about NVRC's programs focused on living shorelines, green building and roof assistance, and the community flood preparedness program.

NVRC is one of 23 Planning District Commissions in the Commonwealth of Virginia and is actively involved in regional partnerships and collaborations to solve and manage future problems.

Ms. Gross thanked Ms. Murphy for her presentation and provided an opportunity for those present to ask questions.

Presentation: Fauquier County GIS Department – Supporting our County with Spatial Data

Dan Stell, Director, Fauquier County GIS Department

Mr. Stell used a PowerPoint presentation to introduce and explain the data that is collected and used by the Fauquier County Geographic Information Systems (GIS) team. He noted that the data can be used to make many jobs in both public and private sectors much easier. He mentioned that the data is used for site management by the parks department as well as for storm water and mowing management. The parcel and plot lines can be easily viewed by county government workers, making many projects more efficient.

Ms. Gross thanked Mr. Stell for his presentation and asked for questions from those present. Mr. Stell answered questions about stream monitoring, algae bloom management, and potential security issues associated with high resolution images.

Announcements

Ms. Gross noted a slight change to the agenda in which she would call for announcements and other business now and adjourn the business portion of the meeting before lunch. She thanked the meeting's hosts at Powers Farm and Brewery and the staff and volunteers from John Marshall SWCD for their efforts today.

Adjournment.

There being no announcements and no other business, Ms. Gross encouraged all to enjoy lunch and networking and to enjoy a walk around the farm. The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 12:39 pm.