

POTOMAC WATERSHED ROUNDTABLE
Quarterly Meeting – October 11, 2024
Held In Person at the Helen & Tayloe Murphy Hall at Westmoreland State Park
145 Cliff Road, Montross, VA 22520

Meeting Summary

Voting Members/Alternates

Dierdre Clark, John Marshall SWCD
Harry Glasgow, Prince William SWCD
Daniel Goodale-Porter, Tri-County City SWCD
Woody Hynson, Westmoreland County
Robert Pickett, Northern Neck SWCD
Kelsi Steele, John Marshall SWCD
Nancy Vehrs, Prince William SWCD
Willie Woode, Northern Virginia SWCD

Advisory Members/Alternates (Non-Voting)

Marissa Roland, Virginia DCR

Presenters

Dr. Melissa Collier, Georgetown University
Verena Conkin, Georgetown University
Lisa Hull, Northern Neck Planning District
Commission
Joe Parfitt, Virginia Department of Transportation
Dr. Anna Salzburg, Virginia Department of
Transportation

Interested Parties

Ken Alm, John Marshall SWCD
Diana Alvarado, Georgetown University
Josie Anderson, Prince William SWCD
Joanna Balderson, Northern Neck SWCD
Nicki Bellezza, Fairfax Water
Maura Christian, Virginia DEQ
Kathy Clark, Northern Neck SWCD
Derrick Clarke, Loudoun SWCD
Annika Dean, Georgetown University
Trish Feth, Northern Virginia SWCD
Brianna Heath, George Washington Regional Commission
Elizabeth Lonoff
Madison Morgan, Tri-County City SWCD
Grace Murdoch, Northern Virginia SWCD
Ashley Palmer, Northern Virginia SWCD
Paul Reynolds, Fairfax County
Aaron Wendt, Virginia DCR
Richard Wilkins, Northern Neck SWCD

Call to Order

Robert Pickett called the meeting to order at 10:02 am and welcomed all to the meeting. He asked Mr. Hynson to say a few words.

Welcome

Mr. Hynson also welcomed all to the meeting and mentioned it was fitting that the meeting is being held at Westmoreland State Park in the Helen and Tayloe Murphy Hall, noting that Tayloe Murphy was an environmental champion in his time in the Virginia legislature.

Steve Davis, Westmoreland State Park Manager, thanked everyone for coming and for the roundtable members' work to keep the waterways clean.

Mr. Pickett honored Diane Hoffman, former director of the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District who passed away on August 29, 2024, with a moment of silence. Mr. Pickett also recognized that today is the beginning of Yom Kippur.

Updates from the Potomac Council Chair

Mr. Koch was unable to attend the meeting today, so Ms. Vehrs chaired the Potomac Council meeting. Ms. Vehrs provided the following updates:

- The grant renewal for the PC/PWR was sent to the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation on time.
- Finances for PC/PWR are looking good.

Minutes—July 12, 2024

The minutes of the July 12, 2024 meeting of the Potomac Watershed Roundtable (PWR) had been distributed in advance of the meeting. Mr. Pickett asked if there were any corrections or additions. Hearing none and following a **motion** by Mr. Goodale-Porter and seconded by Mr. Hynson, the minutes of the July 12, 2024 meeting were approved by voice vote.

Introductions

People went around the room and introduced themselves.

Mr. Hynson recounted the recent DEQ Public Hearing for the Caroline County Water Withdrawal project proposed on the Rappahannock River. Over 50 individuals spoke, all of whom had relevant comments about the proposal. Most memorable he said was the last speaker, Chief Anne Richardson of the Rappahannock Tribe who spoke against the project. She noted the Treaty of 1658 in which the Virginia Colonists agreed to allow the indigenous people the right to the river's fish and wildlife, but more importantly agreed to protect forever the life blood of their sustenance: the waters of the Rappahannock River.

Presentation:

Virginia Department of Transportation's Resilience Program and TMDL Program

Dr. Anna Salzberg, ENV SP, Resilience Specialist

Joe Parfitt, TMDL Program Manager

Virginia Department of Transportation

Dr. Salzberg used a power point presentation to discuss VDOT's resilience program. She then answered questions from attendees.

Mr. Parfitt used a power point to discuss VDOT's Living Shorelines program. He then answered questions from attendees.

Presentation:

Dolphins of the Potomac: Current Knowledge and Future Directions

Dr. Melissa Collier and Verena Conkin

Georgetown University

Dr. Collier and Ms. Conkin used a power point to discuss the history and status of dolphins in the Potomac River.

Presentation:

Northern Neck Planning District Commission Environmental Programs

Lisa Hull, Economic Development Coordinator

Northern Neck Planning District Commission

Announcements

- Nancy Vehrs said Loudoun SWCD just hosted their Farm and Field Days and they were very well attended.
- Ken Alm, Rapidan-Rappahannock Regional Commission, suggested the roundtable explore the topic of groundwater supply in the event of large-scale contamination, noting that if the water supply for the District of Columbia or Fairfax County became contaminated, there would only be a few days of potable water available.
- Mr. Woode presented the PWR meeting schedule for the next several years and asked members to review it and suggest any changes before the next meeting.

Adjournment

There being no other announcements and no other business, Mr. Pickett encouraged all to enjoy lunch and the tour of VDOT's coastal resilience project. The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 12:39pm.