

POTOMAC WATERSHED ROUNDTABLE
Quarterly Meeting - April 14, 2023
Held In Person at Wetlands Studies and Solutions, Inc.
Gainesville, Virginia

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
Will Lintner, Prince William SWCD
Jerry Peters, Northern Virginia SWCD
Robert Pickett, Northern Neck SWCD
Marina Schumacher, Loudoun SWCD
Kelsi Steele, John Marshall SWCD
Elizabeth Ward, PWC Sustainability Commission
Willie Woode, Northern Virginia SWCD

Advisory Members/Alternates (Non-Voting)

Debbie Cross, Virginia DCR
Jim McGlone, Virginia DOF
Rebecca Shoemaker, Virginia DEQ

Presenters

David Bulova, 37th District, VA House of Delegates
John Bateman, Northern Neck PDC
Veronica Manka'a Tangiri, Prince William SWCD

Interested Parties

Melissa Allen, John Marshall SWCD
Josie Anderson, Prince William SWCD
Linda Dunn, Prince William SWCD
Mary Fosi
Joseph Gorney, Fairfax County
Seth Hatfield
Heather Hunter-Nickels, Northern Virginia SWCD
Meredith Keppel, Geo. Washington Regional Comm.
Chris Koerner, Northern Virginia SWCD
Don Lacquement, Northern Virginia SWCD
Kim Lowther, Prince William SWCD
Lauren McCall
Duane Mohr, Prince William SWCD
John Peterson, Northern Virginia SWCD
John Price, Prince William SWCD
Heather Shackley, Northern Virginia SWCD

Welcome, Call to Order, and Introductions

Ms. Gross called the meeting to order at 10:13 am and welcomed all to the meeting. She apologized for her delayed arrival and asked those present to introduce themselves. Ms. Gross remarked that the Potomac Watershed Roundtable met at this location early in the building's history, noting that it was one of the first buildings in the area with a green roof.

A representative from WSSI welcomed all to the meeting, provided safety instructions for attendees, and thanked everyone for attending.

Minutes—January 13, 2023

The minutes of the January 13, 2023 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 Ms. Clark, the minutes of the January 13, 2023 meeting were approved by voice vote. Ms. Gross expressed her appreciation to Ms. Shackley for the quality of the minutes.

Moment of Silence in Memory of Curtis Dalpra

Ms. Gross announced that Curtis Dalpra, representative to the Potomac Watershed Roundtable from the Interstate Commission for the Potomac River Basin and stalwart member of the roundtable for twenty years, passed away on March 5, 2023. Ms. Gross asked members to keep Mr. Dalpra's family and friends in their thoughts and for a moment of silence in memory of Mr. Dalpra.

Updates from the Roundtable Chair

Ms. Gross recently made introductory remarks at the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments' (MWCOG) *2023 Water Policy and Science Series, Regional Summit on PFAS* (Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances). Ms. Gross reiterated her interest in another summit—similar to one held years ago, 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.

Updates from the Potomac Council Chair

Ms. Gross asked Mr. Lintner, chair of the Potomac Council, to provide an update.

Mr. Lintner reported that the Potomac Council met this morning. He noted that the bylaws of the Potomac Council have been revised and have been recommended for approval at the Potomac Council's next meeting on July 7, 2023. Mr. Lintner noted that the revision streamlines the bylaws and eliminates some duplication or overlap with Potomac Watershed Roundtable bylaws. The Potomac Council will continue to serve 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.

Mr. Lintner noted that the Potomac Council were briefed on the invasive water chestnut, *Trapa bispinosa*, the work being done by the Northern Virginia SWCD to eradicate this invasive plant, and how other SWCDs might get involved.

Presentation: Update on the 2023 Session of the Virginia General Assembly

David Bulova, Virginia House of Delegates, 37th District

Ms. Gross introduced Delegate David Bulova, a familiar face to many on the Potomac Watershed Roundtable and one of the young leaders in the Virginia General Assembly. She expressed her appreciation to Mr. Bulova for his participation today.

Mr. Bulova expressed his thanks to the roundtable for the invitation to speak about this year's General Assembly. He reported that the work of the roundtable has made a huge impact in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Today, he hopes to layout a framework for what was accomplished during this year's session and then perhaps to hear from roundtable members about issues that are important to them.

Using a PowerPoint presentation, Mr. Bulova provided information about this year's General Assembly session. He reported some of the statistics of the session noting that although it was a "short" session a lot was accomplished. Here are a few highlights from that presentation:

- The assembly is going through big changes with every seat up for reelection in 2023. Each chamber is "close" in terms of control and redistricting resulted in many "paired" incumbents.
- The General Assembly is also facing unprecedented turnover which will affect both chambers. This turnover will mean a huge loss of institutional knowledge.

- An update of the budget and a review of information on the distribution of fiscal year 2022 surplus funds. By law and constitution, a part of that surplus goes into the Virginia Water Quality Improvement Fund.
- A review of some gubernatorial and legislative spending priorities and an update on the state budget and its status.
- Information on key bills of interest to the roundtable, including those related to the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Improvement Program.
- Review of other bills including those related to PFAS, Blue Catfish, a delicious but invasive species, noxious weeds and invasive plants, and bills related to drought response.
- Upcoming issues including those related to tree canopy goals, conflict between agriculture and utility scale solar, and emerging pollutants such as PFAs.

Questions and Answers

Ms. Gross thanked Mr. Bulova for his presentation and asked for questions from roundtable members.

What followed were questions, answers, and discussion about several topics including tree canopy goals, climate action plans, incentivizing greenhouse gas reduction to encourage more tree planting, the possibility of partial, upfront payments for Virginia Agricultural Cost Share (VACS) best management practices (BMP) installation, PFAS, and Virginia's participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative or "Reggie."

In response to the discussion about partial, upfront payments for the installation of VACS BMPs, there was a suggestion that the Potomac Watershed Roundtable might want to send a letter to the General Assembly encouraging a framework where producers could receive some of the funds in advance of BMP installation.

Ms. Cross noted that there is an existing loan program through the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality that is intended to be used in conjunction with the VACS program. She mentioned that there is a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) that puts together the VACS program and that this might not be a General Assembly issue. She noted that the VACS TAC is taking comments through the end of April.

Ms. Gross suggested that perhaps the letter of support could go to the TAC. Ms. Cross stated that a letter of support might be very helpful and encouraged that the more specific that letter is, more helpful it would be. It was determined that this will be discussed further at a future roundtable meeting.

Presentation: Regional Environmental Programs in Virginia's Northern Neck

John Bateman, Senior Regional Planner, Northern Neck Planning District Commission

Ms. Gross introduced Mr. Bateman, Senior Regional Planner at the Northern Neck Planning District Commission (PDC). Mr. Bateman coordinates the Northern Neck region's environmental planning efforts and works to promote and support multi-jurisdictional and collaborative planning in the areas of coastal resource management, floodplain management, and water quality.

Mr. Bateman used a PowerPoint presentation to introduce the role of PDCs and the critical part they play in regional environmental efforts. His presentation covered five main areas of planning, implementation, and support, including Coastal Resources Management, Water Quality, Hazard Mitigation and Resilience, Water Quantity, and Solid/Hazardous Waste Management and Recycling.

Ms. Gross thanked Mr. Bateman for his presentation. She asked for questions from roundtable members which Mr. Bateman answered on a range of topics including water closures due to fecal coliform contamination and the work the Northern Neck PDC has done in encouraging the use of native plants.

Announcements and Updates from Roundtable Members

While the next presenter was working through some technical difficulties, Ms. Gross asked if there were any announcements. The following are highlights from those announcements.

Dr. McGlone announced that there is still funding available as a part of the Virginia Department of Forestry Virginia Trees for Clean Water grant program. Additional information on this program is available at the [VDOF website](#). In addition, funding is available for [Emerald Ash Borer treatment](#) through the Virginia Department of Forestry. Further, Dr. McGlone reported that the VDOF has reorganized. The newly formed Rappahannock District covers almost all of the Potomac Watershed area except for two counties in the Northern Neck. He reported that there are finally foresters for all the counties—until July 1, 2023 when he is retiring.

Ms. Gross expressed her appreciation to Dr. McGlone for his faithful participation in the Potomac Watershed Roundtable and her hope that the job description for his successor includes active participation in the roundtable.

Ms. Bellezza reported about Fairfax Water's Water Supply Stakeholder grant program. Applications are available and will be accepted until May 5, 2023 for projects involving water supply education, water quality monitoring, or watershed protection projects. Additional information and applications are available at [Water Supply Stakeholder Grant Program | Fairfax Water - Official Website](#).

Ms. Gross announced that the next meetings of the Potomac Council and Potomac Watershed Roundtable will be held on Friday, July 7, 2023 and will be hosted by the John Marshall SWCD.

Ms. Gross noted that, in a slight change to the agenda, today's meeting will adjourn before lunch. Following lunch, those who wish to participate in the tour of the WSSI facility are encouraged to do so.

Presentation: Land Use Changes in Riparian Ecosystems: Water Quality Impact and Climate Risk, Prince William County, Virginia

Veronica Manka'a Tangiri, Water Quality Programs Manager, Prince William SWCD

Ms. Gross introduced Ms. Tangiri, Water Quality Programs Manager at Prince William SWCD. Ms. Tangiri has contributed enormously to the establishment of that district's water quality program—promoting water quality awareness and science in the community.

Ms. Tangiri began her presentation by thanking everyone who has helped her to be who she is today. She extended a special thanks to Dr. McGlone for his work with the Master Naturalists and Mr. Peters for his past project collaboration with her.

Ms. Tangiri's presentation included information on the Prince William SWCD water quality programs, including Biological Monitoring, Chemical Monitoring, its "Adopt a Stream" program, and its "Floatable" Monitoring program. She provided additional information about each of these programs and the data obtained from them. Her presentation also included background information on water quality in the Chesapeake Bay as well as facts on Prince William County and its 1,100 miles of streams. She noted how

land use changes have affected water quality in the county and how climate change is impacting water quality everywhere, especially in areas of increasing development. Finally, she reviewed research she has conducted, the processes, the data that has resulted, and the conclusions she has drawn, emphasizing particularly the impact of increased impervious surfaces and land use on water quality. She recommended promoting more water quality monitoring and more advanced monitoring techniques to capture chemical data.

Ms. Gross thanked Ms. Tangiri for her presentation, noting that her research is impressive. Ms. Gross then asked if there were questions from the roundtable. Ms. Tangiri answered questions about the data presented and how it is used.

There being no other business, Ms. Gross encouraged all to enjoy lunch and networking and to participate in the WSSI tour if able.

Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:01 pm.