

POTOMAC WATERSHED ROUNDTABLE
Quarterly Meeting – October 6, 2023
Held In Person at Fairfax Water Griffith Water Treatment Facility
Lorton, Virginia

Meeting Summary

Voting Members/Alternates

Penny Gross, PWR Chair, Fairfax County
Woody Hynson, PWR Vice Chair, Westmoreland County
Jeff Adams, Tri-County/City SWCD
Dierdre Clark, John Marshall SWCD
Ellie Coddling, Fairfax County
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
Kelsi Steele, John Marshall SWCD
Willie Woode, Northern Virginia SWCD

Glenda Booth, Friends of Dyke Marsh
Joni Calmbacher, Fairfax County
Craig Carinci, Fairfax County
Trish Feth, Northern Virginia SWCD
Judy Fraser, Northern Virginia SWCD
Rebecca Grossi, Northern Virginia SWCD
Brianna Heath, Northern Neck SWCD
Denisa Hendriyadi, Northern Virginia SWCD
Ron Kendall, Friend of Penny Gross
Meredith Keppel, GW Regional Commission
Chris Koerner, Northern Virginia SWCD
Elizabeth Lonoff
Bob Love, Town of Occoquan
Fatima Malek, Office of Congressman Connolly
Sylvia Malm, Ground Water Protection Council
Matt Meyers, Fairfax County
Susan Miller, Fairfax Water
Duane Mohr, Prince William SWCD
Rebecca Murphy, NV Regional Commission
Kayli Ottomanelli, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay
Ashley Palmer, Northern Virginia SWCD
John Peterson, Northern Virginia SWCD
Paul Reynolds, Fairfax County
Heather Shackley, Northern Virginia SWCD
Dan Storck, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors
Jerry Stonefield, Fairfax County
Veronica Tangiri, Prince William SWCD
Elizabeth Ward, PWC Sustainability Commission
Sophia Wood, Northern Virginia SWCD

Advisory Members/Alternates (Non-Voting)

Renee Bourassa, ICPRB
Kirsten Conrad, Virginia Cooperative Extension
Daniel Moore, Virginia DEQ

Presenters

Daniel Moore, Virginia DEQ
Greg Prelewicz, Fairfax Water
Nicki Bellezza, Fairfax Water

Interested Parties

James Albright, Friend of Penny Gross
Ken Alm, John Marshall SWCD
Josie Anderson, Prince William SWCD
Jesse Aranda, Fairfax Water
Nicki Bellezza, Fairfax Water

Welcome, Call to Order, and Introductions

Ms. Gross called the meeting to order at 10:01 am and welcomed all to the meeting. Ms. Gross asked those present to introduce themselves. Ms. Gross noted that there will be a tour of the Griffith water treatment facility following the meeting.

Mr. Prelewicz of Fairfax Water welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Will Lintner for a special presentation.

Farewell to Penny Gross

Mr. Lintner, on behalf of the Potomac Council and the Potomac Watershed Roundtable, paid tribute to Ms. Gross for her many years of service as chair of the Potomac Watershed Roundtable. He invited several guest speakers to say a few words celebrating Ms. Gross.

Fatima Malek, a representative from Congressman Gerry Connolly's office, presented Ms. Gross with a copy of the Congressional Record honoring Ms. Gross.

Dan Storck, Mount Vernon District Representative on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, presented Ms. Gross with a bouquet of flowers and recognized Ms. Gross' decades of service to education and the environment. Others who spoke included Mr. Hynson, Mr. Peterson, Mr. Carinci, Mr. Albright, and Mr. Prelewicz.

Mr. Litner presented Ms. Gross with a framed print by local artist David White featuring the Potomac River at Riverbend Park.

Ms. Gross thanked everyone for their sentiments and remarked that the roundtable has a unique breadth of perspectives in its membership.

Minutes—July 7, 2023

The minutes of the July 7, 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 Mr. Prelewicz and seconded by Mr. Pickett, the minutes of the July 7, 2023 meeting were approved by voice vote.

Updates from the Roundtable Chair

Ms. Gross reported on two recent meetings she attended, the Local Government Advisory Committee to the Chesapeake Bay and the Chesapeake Forum, both of which focused on Pennsylvania.

Ms. Gross also reported on Fairfax County's partnership with the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District, specifically an energy assistance program with the Fairfax County Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination. She expressed her interest in making this partnership a sustained grant program. Finally, Ms. Gross stated that Fairfax County staff have recommended a flood mitigation assistance cost share program for residential inland flooding issues.

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 and discussed ways to support the implementation of Virginia Agricultural Cost Share projects. He noted that the majority of farms in Virginia are smaller family farms that do not have a lot of money to fund projects upfront. Ms. Gross suggested that the roundtable have a future presentation on the challenges faced by smaller farms. Mr. Woode mentioned a letter from the Potomac Watershed Roundtable to the Department of Conservation and Recreation, suggesting a framework in which there would be an option for farmers to receive some of their cost share funds in advance rather than only once the practice was fully installed. This letter recommended that this suggestion be brought to the General Assembly.

Ms. Gross asked Mr. Love from the Town of Occoquan to introduce himself. Mr. Love provided an overview of the connection between Fairfax Water and the Town of Occoquan.

Presentation: The Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act & Allowed Development

Daniel Moore, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality

Mr. Moore used a PowerPoint presentation to provide a detailed overview of the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act (the Act), including regulatory requirements and local program requirements, waivers and exceptions, and new amendments to the Act.

Ms. Gross thanked Mr. Moore for his presentation and asked for questions from roundtable members. Mr. Peters provided a historical perspective on the Occoquan watershed water quality monitoring of nonpoint source pollution and how it led to the Act. Mr. Moore answered questions on a range of topics including how often erosion and sediment control regulations are revised, provisions dealing with mature trees, and challenges with smaller localities

implementing the requirements of the Act. There followed a discussion of how perspectives regarding the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act might differ based on people's political views.

Presentation: Water Supply and Source Water Protection

Greg Prelewicz and Nicki Bellezza, Fairfax Water

Mr. Prelewicz and Ms. Bellezza used a PowerPoint presentation to introduce water supply planning, the Occoquan watershed plan, and source water monitoring and protection.

Ms. Gross thanked Mr. Prelewicz and Ms. Bellezza for their presentation and asked for questions from roundtable members.

Mr. Prelewicz responded to questions about pharmaceutical drugs in the water supply, PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances known as forever chemicals), swimming bans and horsepower limits for water supply reservoirs, and contamination by microplastics and road salt.

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 Fairfax Water and the Northern Virginia SWCD for their efforts today. She noted that a new chair will be elected at the Friday, January 12, 2024 meeting of the Potomac Watershed Roundtable, and that members need to make a concerted effort to fill slots that are currently vacant. Ms. Gross suggested microplastics and reverse osmosis/desalinization as future speaker topics.

Adjournment

There being no other announcements and no other business, Ms. Gross encouraged all to enjoy lunch and networking and a tour of the water treatment plant. The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 1:01 pm.