

POTOMAC WATERSHED ROUNDTABLE
Quarterly Meeting – April 5, 2024
Held In Person at the PATH Foundation, 321 Walker Drive, Warrenton, VA 20186

Meeting Summary

Voting Members/Alternates

Chuck Koch, Tri County City SWCD
Dana Barakat, Northern Virginia SWCD
Dierdre Clark, John Marshall SWCD
Janelle Downes, Fauquier County
Harry Glasgow, Environment Member
Daniel Goodale-Porter, Tri-County City SWCD
Charles Grymes, Environment Alternate
Will Lintner, Prince William SWCD
Robert Pickett, Northern Neck SWCD
Marina Schumacher, Loudoun SWCD
Kelsi Steele, John Marshall SWCD
Nancy Vehrs, Prince William SWCD
Willie Woode, Northern Virginia SWCD

Advisory Members/Alternates (Non-Voting)

Debbie Cross, Virginia DCR
Daniel Moore, Virginia DEQ
Jacob Zielinski, Virginia DOF

Presenters

Jim Hilleary, Director, Fauquier County Agricultural Development Office
Chip Boyles, Executive Director, GW Regional Commission
Meredith Keppel, Environmental Planner, GW Regional Commission
Jim Hankins, Executive Director, Fauquier Education Farm

Interested Parties

Melissa Allen, John Marshall SWCD
Ken Alm, John Marshall SWCD
Maura Christian, Virginia DEQ
Derrick Clarke, Loudoun SWCD
Kevin Costello, Prince William County
Ed DeBerry, John Marshall SWCD
Trish Feth, Northern Virginia SWCD
Penny Gross
Tricia Hailey, John Marshall SWCD
Brianna Heath, Northern Neck Planning District Commission
Kaitlin King, Virginia DEQ
Duane Mohr, Prince William SWCD
Serena Moncion, Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin
Madison Morgan, Tri-County City SWCD
Rebecca Murphy, Northern Virginia Regional Commission
Paul Reynolds, Fairfax County
Heather Shackley, Northern Virginia SWCD
Mallory Stribling, Fauquier County
Elizabeth Ward, Chesapeake Bay Protection Act Board
Madison Whitehurst, Virginia DEQ

Call to Order, and Introductions

Chuck Koch called the meeting to order at 10:05 am and welcomed all to the meeting.

Minutes—January 12, 2024

The minutes of the January 12, 2024 meeting of the Potomac Watershed Roundtable (PWR) had been distributed in advance of the meeting. Mr. Koch asked if there were any corrections or additions. Hearing none and following a **motion** by Will Litner seconded by Dana Barakat the minutes of the January 12, 2024 meeting were approved by voice vote.

Welcome

Melissa Allen, District manager at the John Marshall Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), welcomed all to the meeting.

Updates from the Acting Roundtable Chair

Mr. Koch provided the following updates:

Stafford County

Stafford County withdrew their Potomac Watershed Roundtable membership on March 19, 2024 purportedly to reduce the workload for county staff and elected officials. Mr. Koch appealed to the Stafford County administrator, as well as the roundtable member and alternate, to reconsider withdrawing, but did not receive a response. The PWR will remain open to Stafford County should they seek advice or collaboration or wish to rejoin in the future. Mr. Boyles offered to reach out to Stafford County officials on behalf of the George Washington Regional Commission and offer to be a resource between the county and the roundtable. Ms. Gross noted that the removal of Stafford County will require a change in the roundtable bylaws. She also noted this is the first time a member has officially withdrawn. She suggested sending a message to the roundtable membership emphasizing the reliance of the roundtable on its members and discouraging other groups from withdrawing. Mr. Pickett suggested that perhaps Stafford County feels they are adequately represented by their elected soil and water conservation district board members.

Nominating Committee

Mr. Koch stated a nomination committee is needed to elect a roundtable chair, vice-chair, and secretary/treasurer. Robert Pickett moved and Nancy Vehrs seconded a **motion** to form a nominating committee to elect officers for the roundtable. Dierdre Clark, Dana Barakat, and Robert Pickett volunteered to serve on the nominating committee. Willie Woode suggested John Peterson serve on the committee; Mr. Peterson was not present at the meeting. Mr. Koch asked the nominating committee to identify candidates to vote on by the July 12, 2024 meeting.

Mr. Pickett volunteered to be the acting chair of the roundtable; he noted that an elected official should be nominated for the chair and vice-chair positions. Mr. Koch asked anyone interested in serving as secretary/treasurer to please come forward.

Updates from the Potomac Council Chair

Mr. Koch noted that the council discussed the departure of Stafford County from the roundtable. He said a committee has been formed to explore reliable sources of financial support for the PWR and will report back at the July 12, 2024 meeting hosted by the Tri-County/City SWCD. He also noted that at the meeting the Potomac Council's financial report for the first quarter of calendar year 2024 was approved.

Presentation:

The Intersection of Agricultural Development and Soil & Water Conservation

Jim Hilleary, Director

Department of Agricultural Development, Fauquier County

Mr. Hilleary used a PowerPoint presentation to discuss the intersection of economic development and agricultural development in the counties represented by the PWR; he highlighted farming in Fauquier County and aquaculture in Westmoreland County as an example of water quality connections and collaboration among counties.

Mr. Hilleary answered questions from attendees.

Presentation:

Environmental Planning at George Washington Regional Commission

Chip Boyles, Executive Director

Meredith Keppel, Environmental Planner

George Washington Regional Commission

Mr. Boyles introduced the George Washington Regional Commission (GWRC) and turned the presentation over to Ms. Keppel. Ms. Keppel used a PowerPoint presentation to give an overview of her work with the commission, including a program that awards grants to residents for septic repair and replacement.

Ms. Keppel answered questions from attendees.

Presentation:

The Fauquier Education Farm - A Highly Successful Public/Private Partnership

Jim Hankins, Executive Director

The Fauquier Education Farm

Mr. Hankins used a PowerPoint to present an overview of Fauquier Education Farm in Warrenton, Virginia. The farm is largely volunteer run and donates much of the produce grown to area food banks.

Mr. Hankins answered questions from attendees.

Announcements

- Daniel Moore reported on the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) ongoing compliance review process, in which programs within the Chesapeake Bay Program Act (CBPA) are assessed to determine the degree to which they comply with the CBPA regulations. He expressed his hope that Bay Act localities would remain active in the roundtable,
- Derrick Clarke announced the Amplifying Indigenous Women's Perspectives for Healthy Soil and Water event on Saturday, April 13, 2024 in Leesburg, Virginia organized by AgriCair and Oatlands.
- Robert Pickett said the Northern Neck Soil and Water Conservation District's electronic hazardous waste collection has reached close to a million pounds.

Adjournment

There being no other announcements and no other business, Mr. Koch encouraged all to enjoy lunch and networking and a tour of the Fauquier Education Farm. The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 12:27 pm.