

Potomac Watershed Roundtable
Hosted by Loudoun Soil and Water Conservation District
Held in Person at Hamilton Safety Center
39077 E Colonial Hwy
Hamilton, VA 20158

Friday October 10, 2025, at 10:00 am

Voting Members/Alternates

Dana Barakat, Northern Virginia SWCD
Renee Bourassa, ICPRB
Dierdre Clark, John Marshall SWCD
Daniel Goodale-Porter, Tri-County City SWCD
Penny Gross, Citizen of the Watershed
Chuck Koch, Tri-County City SWCD
Will Lintner, Prince William SWCD
Robert Pickett, Northern Neck SWCD
Greg Prelewicz, Fairfax Water
Nancy Vehrs, Prince William SWCD
Richard Wilkins, Northern Neck SWCD
Willie Woode, Northern Virginia SWCD

Advisory Members/Alternates (Non-Voting)

Rebecca Murphy, Northern Virginia Reg. Commission

Presenters

Derrick Clarke, Loudoun SWCD (Voting Alternate)
Leah Sattler, Loudoun SWCD
Brianna Heath, George Washington Reg. Commission

Interested Parties

Josie Anderson, Prince William SWCD
Nicki Bellezza, Fairfax Water
Suzie Brown, Loudoun SWCD
Jim Christian, Loudoun SWCD
Kris Dennen, Loudoun SWCD
Trish Feth, Northern Virginia SWCD
Jay Frankenfeld, Loudoun SWCD
Rebecca Grossi, Northern Virginia SWCD
Heather Hunter-Nickels, Northern Virginia SWCD
Don Lacquement, Northern Virginia SWCD
Elizabeth Lonoff
Madison Morgan, Tri-County City SWCD
Paul Reynolds, Fairfax County
Heather Shackley, Northern Virginia SWCD
Veronica Tangiri, Prince William SWCD
Chris VanVlack, Loudoun SWCD
David Ward
Elizabeth Ward
Robert Wilbur, Loudoun SWCD
Sophia Wood, Northern Virginia SWCD

Meeting Summary

Call to Order and Introductions

Robert Pickett called the meeting to order at 10:07 am.

Minutes – July 11, 2025

The minutes of the July 11, 2025 Potomac Watershed Roundtable (PWR) meeting had been distributed in advance of the meeting.

A motion by Ms. Gross and seconded by Ms. Vehrs to approve the minutes of the July 11, 2025 meeting passed by voice vote.

Mr. Christian, Loudoun SWCD Director, welcomed all to Loudoun County and Hamilton, Virginia.

Updates from the Chair

Mr. Pickett announced that Kathy Clarke is resigning from her position as District Operations Manager with the Northern Neck SWCD and said that she will be sorely missed. Mr. Pickett also acknowledged the recent passing of environmental champion Jane Goodall.

Updates from the Potomac Council Chair

Mr. Koch provided updates from the Potomac Council (PC) meeting. He said most of the discussion focused on the proposed changes to the PWR meeting schedule.

Discussion of Proposed PWR Meeting Schedule

Mr. Pickett led a discussion of proposed options for the PWR meeting schedule, as outlined in an email sent out by Mr. Woode prior to the meeting. Ms. Gross recommended maintaining the current schedule for consistency and momentum, with the exception that the July meeting could be held virtually. Mr. Pickett supported holding a July meeting, either virtually or in person, noting that new state laws often take effect that month. Ms. Vehrs favored canceling the July meeting due to the typically heavy workload for district staff. Mr. Koch observed that shifting the schedule by a month would not resolve workload issues, as June and July are consistently busy, and noted that hosting in-person meetings places additional demands on district staff. He suggested eliminating speakers for the July meeting as a solution. Mr. Woode reminded the group that NVSWCD's financial and administrative responsibilities continue regardless of the meeting schedule. Mr. Koch said that the schedule could be adjusted again in the future if needed. Mr. Woode acknowledged Ms. Gross's comment regarding maintaining momentum, noting that attendance levels suggest momentum could be improved throughout the year. Mr. Koch suggested publicizing PWR meetings more effectively with stakeholders and adding links to roundtable meetings on SWCD websites to increase attendance. Mr. Prelewicz observed that shifting the schedule by one month would better align with the Virginia General Assembly calendar.

Mr. Pickett stated that the Potomac Council will continue the PWR meeting schedule discussion at the Annual Meeting in December and invited attendees to share additional comments or suggestions with him or Mr. Koch via email.

Ms. Gross noted that at the general election this November, every PWR member district will be voting for their representatives to the Virginia House of Delegates. She suggested districts have a letter ready to send to newly elected delegates introducing them to the roundtable and inviting them to attend the quarterly meetings. Districts should also forward contact information for newly elected delegates to Northern Virginia SWCD.

Presentations

Loudoun County Invasive Plant Species Management Program Overview

Leah Sattler, Invasive Plant Species Management Program Administrator, Loudoun SWCD

Healthier Soil, Less Waste, Improved Economics, Cleaner Environment

Derrick Clarke, Associate Director, Loudoun SWCD

Update from George Washington Regional Commission

Brianna Heath, Environmental Services Coordinator II, George Washington Regional Commission

Announcements

- Ms. Gross reported that the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement is in its final version and will likely be presented to the Chesapeake Executive Council in December 2025. She said the agreement has been streamlined to four points: thriving habitat and wildlife; clean water; healthy landscapes; and engaged communities. Ms. Gross noted that the current watershed agreement, which expires in 2025, made progress towards the goals set forth in the agreement.

- Ms. Bourassa said ICPRB's annual Potomac River Conference will be held on Wednesday, October 22, 2025, at the Potomac Environmental Research and Education Center in Woodbridge, Virginia. The topic is harmful algal blooms. She noted there is currently a waitlist for registration.
- Ms. Bellezza announced that Fairfax Water's Water Supply Stakeholder Grant Program opens in January of 2026. She also said Fairfax Water will present at the Saturday, October 18, 2025, Climate Action Conference at Lake Braddock Secondary School in Fairfax, Virginia.
- Mr. Woode announced NVSWCD would be adding a vegetable and herb seedling giveaway to its annual Seedling Sale to expand the sales' equity component.
- Mr. Koch announced that the Rappahannock River Watershed Roundtable Annual Symposium will be held on Wednesday October 15, 2025, at the Woolen Mills in Fredericksburg. He also recommended attending the York River Symposium.
- Mr. Clarke left copies of the Assessment of Groundwater Supply <https://loudouncoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/Assessment-of-Groundwater-Supply-in-Loudoun-County 09 15 2025.pdf> in Loudoun County for attendees to take.
- Ms. Heath also encouraged folks to attend the Rappahannock River Watershed Roundtable.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:33 pm.

Next meeting will be held on Friday, January 9, 2025
Additional details will be provided closer to that date