



LAND USE & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes – May 30, 2013

Attendees:

Jenny Biche'	Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission
Deirdre Clarke	John Marshall Soil & Water Conservation District
Brian Daniel	Madison County
Michelle Edwards	Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission
David Ek	Fauquier County
Erik Filep	VA Department of Forestry
Drew Hammond	VA Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
Beverly Hunter	RappFlow
Richard Jacobs	Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District
Terry Lasher	VA Department of Forestry
Don Locke	Piedmont Environmental Council
Patrick Mauney	Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission
Ray Pickering	Fauquier County
Gayle Sheldon	Fauquier Trails Coalition
Carl Stafford	VA Cooperative Extension
Debra Switzer	VA Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR)
Gary Switzer	VA Department of Health
Michael Trop	John Marshall Soil & Water Conservation District

2014 Stormwater General Permit

Drew Hammond, DEQ, Office of VPDES Permits

Mr. Hammond provided an overview of the 2014 Stormwater General Permit. A copy of his presentation is available on the Land Use and Environment Committee's webpage at www.rregion.org/envcmte.html.

High lights from the presentation include:

- Local stormwater program guidance documents are being developed to assist localities with implementation;
- E-permitting system is being finalized and will begin statewide testing;
- New fee schedule to begin July 1, 2014;

- Duration of permit coverage is during land disturbance activity only, not pre-development or post-development;
- Construction General Permit (CGP) provides authorization to discharge during construction activities;
- CGP governs the operator of the construction activity;
- CGP coverage is statewide;
- Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) is an Operator Plan, not a Locality Plan. The inspection is done by the operators themselves. Local staff can serve as enforcement/compliance. EPA reserves the right to do spot inspections;
- Water-quality based narrative limitations of the SWPPP ensure that implementation is adequate and the BMPs are maintained so as not to exceed water quality standards;
- CGP Regulations will be effective July 1, 2014.

Comments and questions from Mr. Miller's presentation include:

An inquiry was made as to what the expected impact of the new regulations will have on the ground. Mr. Hammond replied that the amount of compliance should increase drastically, because all land disturbing projects over an acre will now have to have a locally approved stormwater plan; and Virginia will be on target to meet the Bay TMDL goals by 2025, meeting Virginia state allocations.

Mr. Hammond also replied that waste load allocations would be aggregated statewide, and beta testing of the new Virginia E-Permitting website will commence on July 1, 2013 and run for the month of July. Gerry Seely at gerry.seely@dcr.virginia.gov can be contacted for questions regarding DEQ's e-Permitting System.

DCR Stormwater Program Update

Debra Switzer, DCR, Stormwater Division

The DCR Warrenton Office will remain open and share office space with DEQ. While DCR stormwater staff will become DEQ employees by the end of June, Ms. Switzer's phone number will remain the same. Beginning July 1, 2013, the code citations of the DCR stormwater, and erosion and sediment control regulations will also change. Information regarding the new citations will be posted on the DEQ website.

Every Virginia locality required to have a stormwater program applied for a one-year extension, and all applications were recommended for approval. The Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board will review and vote on the applications on June 6, 2013. The applications will not be approved individually, but rather as a whole. DCR completed cursory reviews of submitted local stormwater ordinances and will work with localities to fine tune them over the next several months. Revised stormwater ordinances are due to DEQ on December 15, 2013, and adopted ordinances are due April 1, 2014. The new local ordinance are required to be implemented beginning July 1, 2014.

DCR and DEQ will begin offering the first of several stormwater training sessions, with the first targeting state and local stormwater program staff.

Regional Green Infrastructure Phase II Update

Patrick Mauney, Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission

Patrick Mauney gave an update on the Commission's Green Infrastructure Phase II project. The presentation can be viewed at www.rrregion.org/envcmte.html.

Phase I involved updating the VCLNA Ecological Core Data. Although there was some fragmenting, there was not much loss of acreage. Phase II updated the VCLNA Forest Economics and Cultural Assets data layers. This phase also utilized DCR and local data sources to develop a protected lands layer for the region to be used in conjunction with the Forest Economics and Cultural Assets layers.

Development of the Forest Economics data layers is in progress and should be completed by July 2013. Draft maps of all data layers will be posted on the RRRC website for review. Questions can be sent to Patrick at plmauney@rrregion.org.

Michelle Edwards stated that she will be developing outreach materials once the Green Infrastructure maps are completed. The fact sheets will be available on the Commission's green infrastructure webpage at www.rrregion.org/greeninfrastructure.html.

RRRC Agriculture Ad-hoc Subcommittee

Michelle Edwards, Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission

Ms. Edwards stated that there are upcoming grant opportunities for regional food system and sustainable agriculture projects. She will be putting together an Ad Hoc Subcommittee to focus on brainstorming and developing such potential projects. The Committee was asked to forward Michelle names and contact information for anyone they would like to recommend for the Commission's Agriculture Working Group.

Next Land Use & Environment Committee Meeting:

The next Land Use & Environment Committee meeting will be held on August 15, 2013 at 10am at the Regional Commission.

Please email Michelle at medwards@rrregion.org with suggestions for future meeting topics.