

Regional Environmental Managers Technical Committee

May 16th, 2023, at 1:30pm

In person, virtual on Zoom

MEETING MINUTES

In attendance: Taylor Coxon, Valerie Tyler, Deona Johnson (Spotsylvania County), Scott Rae (Fredericksburg City), Alexis Butchers (King George County), Freda Rosso (UMW), Andrea Heller, (Stafford County Public Schools Contractor), Rob Adams (Stafford County Public Schools), Alexis Butchers, Chris Clarke (King George) Meredith Keppel (GWRC)

Meeting Notes

Outcome 1: MS4 Updates

- Mr. Scott Rae shared lessons learned and outcomes of the City's EPA audit of their MS4 program. Certain notes were miscommunications that he hopes will be rectified with his comments back. He also noted that the City of Fredericksburg had officially hired a Stormwater Specialist to replace Tyler Gelles. The new specialist is Bryan Cook.
- Ms. Freda Rosso from University of Mary Washington (UMW) did not believe there was anything to share at this time.
- Ms. Andrea Heller from Stafford County Public Schools' consultant company, Apex, shared that Mr. Coalter Hollberg had been working hard on getting together the biannual trainings for staff.
 - Mr. Rae is interested in combining efforts on training in the future.
- Ms. Deona Johnson from Spotsylvania County shared that Environmental Codes was staying the course and had not received final word on their MS4 eligibility yet.
- Ms. Meredith Keppel from GWRC asked again about whether there was low hanging fruit that could be achieved as a group with STEAM education.
 - Mr. Rae said that the City already checks off MCM 1 through many low hanging opportunities with the Friends of the Rappahannock such as their Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences (MWEE) and their Wild and Scenic Film Festival.

- There was a brief discussion on where the new General Permit for Virginia sat. It is believed that the public comment period wrapped up mid-April.

Outcome 2: CZM Resiliency Database

- Ms. Keppel shared the context of the database and why the state is asking for this resource.
- Mr. Chris Clarke from King George offered that Barnesfield Park needs stormwater updates and could do with impervious surface removal. Wayside Park could also use stormwater updates as they move to reopen the park. It is along the Potomac River and the parking lot is eroding the riverbank.
- Mr. Rae offered that MS4 Best Management Practices (BMPs) from the City could be put forward. He and Ms. Keppel can meet separately to talk through the details.
- Ms. Keppel asked Spotsylvania County if there were priorities in the county—perhaps Harmful Algal Blooms at Lake Anna could be a project? Maybe Living Shorelines would be a good option?
 - Ms. Taylor Coxon from Spotsylvania shared that there is a huge problem with cost effectiveness and adoption of living shorelines at the Lake. If cost was no object and there were concerted efforts to educate the public on boat traffic, perhaps Living Shorelines could be effective.

Outcome 3: Sharing Resources

- Ms. Keppel reminded the group of the Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professional (CBLP) certification opportunity that Wetlands Watch presented at the March Resiliency Meeting.
 - Since that presentation, the Rappahannock Roundtable has been awarded money for professional development of partners in the area. Some of that money was earmarked for our region and GWRC is recommending it be spent addressing the proper maintenance of BMPs by hosting a CBLP crews training in September.
 - Ms. Keppel also inquired about whether any of the local high schools would be interested in CBLP-Associates, which is a vocational training program for high school students interested in learning more about stormwater career opportunities.
 - If partners were interested in the CBLP level 1 class, Rappahannock Roundtable may be able to offer a significant discount to the Richmond class on August 23rd and 24th.
- Ms. Keppel also shared that GWRC had been authorized to develop a program design for the Septic Local Partners Program grant. As part of the process of developing this program, GWRC anticipates reaching out to partners about septic pump outs in the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act (CBPA) areas. There may also be a summit of stakeholders in late May or early June.

Outcome 3: Partner Roundtable on Environmental Programs

- Mr. Rae shared that the City is struggling to fill positions for the City Arborist, the Sustainability Coordinator, and the Director of Public Works. He highlighted the success of Compost-A-Thon with the R-board and the Clean and Green Commission leading the planning efforts.
- Spotsylvania County reiterated their focus on staying the course and trying to reach status quo.
- Ms. Alexis Butchers shared that although King George is working on their Resiliency plan, they are not far in the process.

Outcome 4: Looking Ahead

- Ms. Keppel inquired about whether the group finds value in these meetings and what GWRC can do to make them less burdensome on members.
 - **Consensus:** meet every 6 months to network and share successes. Maybe add in an activity with partners like touring Downtown Greens new land or kayaking Crow's Nest, seeing a BMP project. Rotate who hosts among the different localities.
- Ms. Keppel highlighted the Regional Resiliency Meeting which is upcoming on June 20th with guest speaker David Wood from the Chesapeake Stormwater Network.



You are invited:

REGIONAL RESILIENCY MEETING

RSVP on EventBrite



Special Guest Speakers from **Chesapeake Stormwater Network** to talk about their CUSP certification and give an overview of MS4 permitting

June 20th, 1:30-3pm

406 Princess Anne St, Fredericksburg

GEORGE WASHINGTON
REGIONAL COMMISSION

