

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

**EASTERN VIRGINIA GROUNDWATER
MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2020
ANNUAL REPORT**

**TO THE HONORABLE RALPH S. NORTHAM,
GOVERNOR, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, AND THE
STATE WATER COMMISSION**

NOVEMBER 2020

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Eastern Virginia Groundwater Management Advisory Committee (EVGMAC) was reestablished effective July 1, 2020 pursuant to legislation enacted following the 2020 Virginia General Assembly session.¹ The Director of the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) appoints members of the EVGMAC. DEQ convenes the EVGMAC at least four times each fiscal year, and during each meeting DEQ updates the EVGMAC on activities related to groundwater management in the Eastern Virginia Groundwater Management Area and solicits EVGMAC members to present topics and analysis at future meetings. DEQ prepares and submits this report of the EVGMAC's examinations to the Governor, the General Assembly, and the State Water Commission by November 1 of each year pursuant to § 62.1-256.2 of the Code of Virginia.

INTRODUCTION

The Eastern Virginia Groundwater Management Advisory Committee (EVGMAC) was reestablished effective July 1, 2020 pursuant to legislation enacted following the 2020 Virginia General Assembly session.² The purpose of the EVGMAC is to serve “as an advisory committee to assist the State Water Commission and the Department [of Environmental Quality (DEQ)] in the management of groundwater in the Eastern Virginia Groundwater Management Area.”³ The Eastern Virginia Groundwater Management Area includes all of the Commonwealth east of Interstate 95, except for the Eastern Shore, which is a separate groundwater management area.⁴

The first iteration of the EVGMAC was established pursuant to legislation adopted by the 2015 General Assembly.⁵ Pursuant to the 2015 legislation, the first iteration of the EVGMAC completed its activities in 2017 and the committee's enabling legislation expired on January 1, 2018. The final report submitted by the first iteration of the EVGMAC is available on DEQ's [Eastern Virginia Groundwater Management Advisory Committee website](#).

¹ 2020 Va. Acts Ch. 805.

² *Id.*

³ Va. Code Ann. § 62.1-256.2.

⁴ 9VAC25-600-20 A (“The board hereby orders the declaration of the eastern part of Virginia as a groundwater management area. This area shall be known as the Eastern Virginia Groundwater Management Area. This area encompasses the counties of Charles City, Essex, Gloucester, Isle of Wight, James City, King George, King and Queen, King William, Lancaster, Mathews, Middlesex, New Kent, Northumberland, Prince George, Richmond, Southampton, Surry, Sussex, Westmoreland, and York; the areas of Caroline, Chesterfield, Fairfax, Hanover, Henrico, Prince William, Spotsylvania, and Stafford counties east of Interstate 95; and the cities of Chesapeake, Franklin, Hampton, Hopewell, Newport News, Norfolk, Poquoson, Portsmouth, Suffolk, Virginia Beach, and Williamsburg.”).

⁵ 2015 Va. Acts Chs. 262 and 613.

MEMBERSHIP

Members of the Eastern Virginia Groundwater Management Advisory Committee (EVGMAC) are appointed by the Director of the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) pursuant to § 62.1-256.2 of the Code of Virginia. Membership of the EVGMAC is to “be composed of nonlegislative citizen members consisting of representatives of industrial and municipal water users; representatives of public and private water providers; developers and representatives from the economic development community; representatives of agricultural, conservation, and environmental organizations; state and federal agency officials; and university faculty and citizens with expertise in water resources-related issues.”⁶

Pursuant to § 62.1-256.2 of the Code of Virginia in September 2020 the DEQ Director appointed the following persons to serve as members of the EVGMAC:

Martha Moore – Farm Bureau

Stephen Schoenholtz – Virginia Water Resources Research Center

Kurt Stephenson – Virginia Tech

Hope Cupit – Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project, Inc.

Robert Wayland – Citizen at large

Robert Pickett – Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Keith Martin – Virginia Chamber of Commerce

Anna Killius – James River Association

Peggy Sanner – Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Nina Butler – WestRock Company

Steward Leeth – Smithfield Foods, Inc.

Andrea Wortzel – Mission H2O

Shannon Alexander – Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission

David Jurgens – City of Chesapeake

Neiman C. Young – King George County

Doug Powell – James City Service Authority

⁶ Va. Code Ann. § 62.1-256.2.

Al Moor – Western Tidewater Water Authority⁷
Ted Henifin – Hampton Roads Sanitation District
John Aulbach – Aqua Virginia
John O’Dell – Virginia Water Well Association
Chief Stephen Adkins – Chickahominy Tribe
Norm Oliver – Virginia Department of Health
Mark Bennett – U.S. Geological Survey
John Loftus – Virginia Economic Development Partnership

MEETINGS

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is to convene meetings of the Eastern Virginia Groundwater Management Committee (EVGMAC) at least four times each fiscal year.⁸ During each meeting, DEQ is required to “(i) update the [EVGMAC] on activities pertaining to groundwater management in the Eastern Virginia Groundwater Management Area and (ii) [to] solicit members to present topics and analysis for examination at future meetings.”⁹ The first meeting of the EVGMAC is scheduled to take place on October 22, 2020. A summary of the October 22, 2020 meeting will be included in the 2021 Annual Report.

⁷ On October 6, 2020 Al Moor contacted DEQ and declined the invitation to serve as a member of the EVGMAC due to a change in job duties.

⁸ Va. Code Ann. § 62.1-256.2.

⁹ *Id.*

APPENDIX A - § 62.1-256.2 OF THE CODE OF VIRGINIA

§ 62.1-256.2. (Expires July 1, 2025) Eastern Virginia Groundwater Management Advisory Committee established; sunset.

A. The Department of Environmental Quality (the Department) shall establish the Eastern Virginia Groundwater Management Advisory Committee (the Committee) as an advisory committee to assist the State Water Commission and the Department in the management of groundwater in the Eastern Virginia Groundwater Management Area. Members of the Committee shall be appointed by the Director of the Department and shall be composed of nonlegislative citizen members consisting of representatives of industrial and municipal water users; representatives of public and private water providers; developers and representatives from the economic development community; representatives of agricultural, conservation, and environmental organizations; state and federal agency officials; and university faculty and citizens with expertise in water resources-related issues. The Department shall convene the Committee at least four times each fiscal year. Members of the Committee shall receive no compensation for their service and shall not be entitled to reimbursement for expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

B. During each meeting of the Committee, the Department shall (i) update the Committee on activities pertaining to groundwater management in the Eastern Virginia Groundwater Management Area and (ii) solicit members to present topics and analysis for examination at future meetings. The Committee may develop specific statutory, budgetary, and regulatory recommendations, as necessary, to enhance the effectiveness of groundwater management in the Eastern Virginia Groundwater Management Area.

C. The Department shall annually report the results of the Committee's examinations and related recommendations, and any responses from the Department, to the State Water Commission, the Governor, and the General Assembly no later than November 1 of each year.

D. The provisions of this section shall expire on July 1, 2025.