Minutes by Jane Walker

Organizations with representatives that attended:
  Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay (ACB), Stacey Moulds
  Clean Virginia Waterways (CVW), David Buckalew
  United States Geological Survey (USGS--Virginia Office), Ward Staubitz
  Virginia Association of Municipal Wastewater Agencies (VAMWA), Dan Barker
  Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), Fran Geissler
  Virginia Department of Forestry (DOF), Sam Austin
  Virginia Department of Health (VDH), Michele Monti, Jessica Trumbo
  Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS), Lyle Varnell
  Virginia Water Resources Research Center (VWRRC), Jane Walker
  Virginia Water Well Association (VWWA), Jane Cain

The Virginia Water Monitoring Council Steering Committee met August 7, 2001 (11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.) at the Department of Forestry building in Charlottesville, Virginia. Sam Austin (Chair, Steering Committee) of the Virginia Department of Forestry led the meeting. Ten organizations were represented. Each person introduced himself or herself. The minutes from the July 10, 2001, VWMC Steering Committee meeting were reviewed, edited, and accepted.

Financial Report:
  Jane Walker, Administrative Assistant, reported that the VWMC has a number of pending proposals, and the VWRRC is currently covering expenses.

Committee Reports:
  Operations Committee
  Jane Walker reported that the Operations Committee had a telephone conference call on August 6, 2001. Much of the call was dedicated to discussing fundraising options and planning the annual meeting. The committee suggested that the VWMC become incorporated to limit individual liability, and proposed that gaining 501c3 status be of secondary importance.

Communications Committee
  The Communications Committee met just prior to the Steering Committee meeting. The committee met with Michele Monti, Jessica Trumbo, and Stacey Moulds of the Inventory and Needs Assessment Committee to discuss posting the survey results on the website. The group discussed methods for online submission of survey responses and how to secure the inventory results so that only authorized representatives can change their organization's information. It was decided to keep the website on the Virginia Tech server and see if funds could be raised for students to design and develop the proposed new VWMC website.
Inventory and Needs Assessment Committee
Michele Monti with the VDH reported on the tasks underway with the Inventory and Needs Assessment Committees. An electronic copy of the survey will be forthcoming in the near future for comment. Steering committee members were asked to send their suggestions to Michele by August 20th. Fran Geissler suggested that at a later date, survey responders could be asked whether or not they would like to become a VWMC member.

Fundraising
It was decided that the VWMC would write two grant proposals: one to VEE due August 15th and one to the DEQ Mini-grant due August 27th. Stacey Moulds and Kate Register provided information to help with these proposals. Jane Walker will also submit proposals to state and federal agencies as well as other VWMC member supporters.

Annual Meeting
Four members of the Steering Committee were slated to come off the committee to allow elected representatives the opportunity to join and to keep the committee membership at 20, as stated in the Operating Guidelines. The four organizations slated to come off the committee include: Virginia Water Environment Association, American Water Works Association, Virginia Marine Resources Commission, and Water Quality Academic Advisory Committee. The current Steering Committee members were asked to suggest names of possible Steering Committee Member candidates. The Nominations Committee planned to meet via a conference call on August 20th to develop a slate of candidates.

Sam Austin will be giving a presentation about the VWMC at the Virginia Watershed Management Conference. Sam asked for input on his developed presentation. Steering Committee members were asked to send a copy of their logo to Sam by August 20th to be included in the presentation.

Several Steering Committee members volunteered to work together to design and make a VWMC exhibit to be displayed at the Virginia Watershed Management Conference. Fran Geissler offered to work with DCR staff to update the VWMC brochure and have it ready for distribution at the time of the conference.

Announcements
Fran Geissler announced that the Citizens for Water Quality Summit would be Saturday, September 22. Sam Austin offered to attend the summit and tell the citizen monitors about the VWMC.

Program
Ward Staubitz led the meeting program with a presentation on some of the water monitoring efforts of the USGS in Virginia.

Upcoming meeting
The next VWMC Steering Committee meeting was scheduled to be a conference call on September 11 from 10am-Noon. The meeting will focus on preparations for the conference.