Minutes by Robin Wilder

**Steering Committee representatives attending:**
- Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay (ACB) – Chris French
- Clean Virginia Waterways (CVW) – Katie Register
- County of Chesterfield – Weedon Cloe
- County of Henrico – Robin Wilder
- County of James City – Fran Geissler
- University of Mary Washington – Michael Bass
- Virginia Citizens for Water Quality (VCWQ)/Friends of the Shenandoah – Karen Anderson
- Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) – Stuart Torbeck, James Beckley
- Virginia Department of Health (VDH) – Dan Dietrich
- Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) – Steve Begg
- Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences (VIMS) – Lyle Varnell
- Virginia Water Resources Research Center (VWRRC) – Jane Walker

**Organizations without a representative at the meeting:**
- Ferrum College
- Longwood University
- Newport News Waterworks
- Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District
- United States Geological Society (USGS)
- Virginia Association of Counties (VACo)
- Virginia Department of Forestry (DOF)
- Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF)

The Virginia Water Monitoring Council (VWMC) Steering Committee met by conference call on August 11, 2010 (1:00–2:30 PM). Katie Register, Steering Committee Co-Chair, led the meeting. The meeting was called to order at 1:05 PM. Following welcome and introductions, the meeting agenda was reviewed and approved with the addition of one item. The minutes from the June 17, 2010 meeting were reviewed, corrected and approved.

**Financial Report:**
Jane Walker reported that the VWMC has a financial balance of $9,753 as of June 30, 2010 and $7,622 as of August 11, 2010.

**Announcements:**
- Chris French announced the Virginia Citizens for Water Quality Summer Summit is scheduled for Saturday at Holiday Lake 4-H Center in Appomattox, VA. Preston Bryant, the former secretary for Natural Resources will be the Keynote Speaker.
- 9/13/10 there will be a Water Conservation and Rain Barrel Workshop sponsored by Clean Virginia Waterways and the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay in Richmond.
- 9/1/10 is the DEQ deadline for Citizen Monitoring Grant Proposals.
- The 2010 Draft 303d/305b Integrated Report will be released on 8/23/10.
• The VA Water Resources Research Center is sponsoring a one-day Virginia Stormwater Symposium at VCU on 10/21/10.

**Old Business:**

**2009 Altria Grant Obligations**

The World Water Monitoring web-based guide is complete, but will need some updating since it is a dynamic site. This completes the 2009 grant obligations.

**2010 Altria Grant Obligations:**

The grant monies for 2010 will be used to promote the WWMD Guide, administrate the annual conference, facilitate VWMC communications, provide a summer intern to the VWMC, and provide WWMD Kits for distribution by DEQ.

**New Business:**

**SOS Update:** Jay Gilliam resigned as coordinator of Virginia Save our Streams (SOS) at the end of June. A representative from the Izaak Walton League of America, Leah Miller, is working with SOS regional trainers and SOS partners, including the VWMC. The VWMC has a grant through SOS with Altria. There is a question on the 501c3 status of SOS, which would affect the VWMC 2010 grant with Altria. On Friday of this week, Chris French will have a conversation with Leah Miller regarding meeting our Altria obligations.

Several expressed concern for training of the rocky bottom/muddy bottom biological assessment methodologies. Although trainers for these methods are few and far between, Karen Anderson does know of two in her area (Winchester) who will provide training in the rocky bottom method.

**2011 Altria Grant:** Jane, Chris, and Katie had a conference call with Altria (Wendy Shields). A summary of the meeting discussion includes the following:

- Altria is not able to support the council at the same level in 2011 as it did in 2010 because they have less funding available.
- Altria expressed concerns about the Council’s function; wondering how it overlapped with other funded groups and if a gaps analysis had been conducted.
- Altria also wondered if a Strategic Plan should be conducted to better iron out the role of the VWMC, particularly with regard to Va. Citizens for Water Quality and Va. SOS.
- Altria expressed interest in funding an evaluation of the VWMC’s structure in light of the changes occurring in VA with other non-profit water monitoring groups. Altria emphasizes capacity building with its grantors (partners).

A motion was made to vote on whether to pursue a grant for strategic planning next year. The resulting vote indicated 9-4 for proceeding with asking for funds to conduct strategic planning. Assistance with writing a grant proposal was requested from all on the council. An ad hoc committee was formed consisting of: Katie Register, James Beckley, Robin Wilder, Chris French, and Jane Walker.

**MS4 Compliance Workshop**

Fran Geissler reported that the workshop will be held at VIMS in early December. A conference call on 7/22 resulted in some ideas for topics of interest. The target audience includes MS4 localities and facilities/organizations. The VIMS campus was offered for free, and they can do registration and organization. Approximately $20 will cover hand-outs and lunch (this does not include any revenue remaining). August 18, 2010 will be the next conference call to discuss more specific topics and speakers. Dan Dietrich suggested VACO be contacted as a possible speaker.
**SER-CAP:** This organization requested to merge our annual conference with their conference on May 16 in Roanoke. After a discussion regarding the matter, the steering committee decided to decline this offer.

**Future Meeting Date:**
Wednesday, October 27th, 1-3:30pm Conference Call with Piedmont DEQ office room.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:58pm