



**Virginia Health Catalyst
Water Equity Taskforce
Wednesday, February 26, 2020 | 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.**

MINUTES

Attending: Tonya Adiches (Virginia Department of Health, Dental Health Program); Raz Ahmadi (Virginia League of Conservation Voters); Jeanette Bowman (Virginia Department of Health, Dental Health Program); McAllister Castelaz (Horizon Health Services, Inc.); Nelson Daniel (Virginia Department of Health); Brenda Davy (Virginia Tech); Brittany DeKnight (United Way of Roanoke Valley); Bob Edelman (Virginia Department of Health, Office of Drinking Water); Laurie Forlano (Virginia Department of Health); Sam Galston (Virginia Dental Association); Lance Gregory (Virginia Department of Health); Natasha Grover (VCU CMH Family Dental Clinic); Martha Heeter (Plan RVA); Emily Keenum (Virginia Early Childhood Foundation); Marty Kilgore (Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth); Beth Leftwich (Virginia Department of Social Services); Erin Ling (Virginia Tech); Cindy McKelvy (Virginia Department of Health, Henrico Health Department); Bill Mann (Olde Towne Medical Center); Robert Noriega (Healthy Living and Learning Center, Petersburg); Stephanie Norris (Virginia Department of Health); Natalie Pennywell (VCU Health Hub at 25th); Haley Phinney (Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth); Carol Pratt (Virginia Department of Health); Hannah Quigley (Richmond City Health District); Polly Raible (Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association); Brenden Rivenbark (Virginia Department of Health); Dwayne Roadcap (Virginia Department of Health, Office of Drinking Water); Hannah Robbins (Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth); Danny Saggese (Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth); Tony Singh (Virginia Department of Health, Office of Drinking Water); Scott Vogel (Virginia Department of Health)

Staff: Sarah Bedard Holland, Lauren Sawyer, Brita Bergland, Chloe Van Zandt

Proceedings:

Desired Outcomes:

- Continue to cultivate a network of water stakeholders across the state.
- Gain a shared understanding of water from a variety of perspectives
- Build consensus on next steps to get us closer to our mission: that everyone in Virginia has safe, trusted, fluoridated water that they are drinking.

Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- WET – Proposed Framework presentation: Sarah Bedard Holland, Chief Executive Officer, Virginia Health Catalyst recapped the last meeting in December and discussed the US Water alliance framework. (*attached*)
- Health and Trust presentation: Hannah Robbins, Marketing Specialist, Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth and Emily Keenum, Coordinator of Health Initiatives, Virginia Early Childhood Foundation (*attached*)
- Infrastructure and Community Water Fluoridation presentation: Bob Edelman, Director of Technical Services, Virginia Department of Health Office of Drinking Water and Jeanette Bowman, Community Water Fluoridation Coordinator, Virginia Department of Health Dental Health Program (*attached*)
- Environment presentation: Lance Gregory, Division Director, Virginia Department of Health Water and Wastewater Services (*attached*)



- Water Quality presentation: Erin Ling, Senior Extension Associate and Program Coordinator, Virginia Tech (*attached*)
- Public Literacy presentation: Brenda Davy, Profession, Department of Human Nutrition, Foods and Exercise, Virginia Tech
- Questions: Following the presentations questions were asked around the CCR and how it can be updated.
- Water Equity Taskforce Structure: Sarah Bedard Holland led the group in a discussion on the proposed group structure:
 - Taskforce: The Water Equity Taskforce would remain as the umbrella for all the following groups, meeting twice a year. The proposed taskforce would serve as the largest group and its goal would be to build a larger network.
 - Steering committee: The proposed steering committee would include key stakeholders like the Virginia Department of Health as well as members of the workgroups. Its goal would be to build the Water Equity Taskforce long-term priorities and funding opportunities.
 - Workgroups: To start, two workgroups would be formed, one on access and affordability and the other on consumer literacy, specifically focusing on the CCR. Each workgroup would meet every six weeks, develop a work plan, and be staffed by a Catalyst staff member. The long-term goal would be to create additional workgroups on climate change and infrastructure.
- Discussion opened around the structure for WET: Following the proposed structure presentation a discussion began around it. Questions were asked about including private wells in the conversation, and the group agreed they were an important piece to the group. Additional points were raised about engaging broader partners like local governments and water utility organizations.

Action Items

- Catalyst will share a survey to determine interest in workgroups and steering committees.
- Next meeting date for broader group and workgroups to be determined.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.