

Water Equity in Rural Virginia Workgroup
Thursday, October 29th, 2020 | 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

MINUTES

Attending:

Emily Kate Bowen (Mountain Empire Community College); Nelson Daniel (Office of Drinking Water); Emily Keenum (Virginia Early Childhood Foundation); Marty Kilgore (Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth); Leigh Anne Krometis (Virginia Tech, Biological Systems Engineering Department); Beth Leftwich (Virginia Department of Social Services); Erin Ling (Virginia Tech, Virginia Household Water Quality Program); William Mann (Olde Towne Medical and Dental Center); Danny Saggese (Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth); Scott Vogel (Office of Drinking Water)

Staff: Sarah Holland, Ericca Facetti, Chloe Van Zandt
Meeting recording [link](#)

Proceedings:

Desired Outcomes

- Shared understanding of workgroup's mission and purpose
- Build consensus on workgroup's strategy to best meet the mission
- Develop future meeting structure and timeline

Discussion

- Review wkgrp mission: Water Equity in Rural Virginia Workgroup mission (*draft*): To better understand rural water quality and the implications on water use/avoidance through research that identifies water coping behaviors
 - Clarify "home water"
 - Keep in mind PFOS and PFOA and what we are learning about bottled water
 - Add home and school water, does this incorporate all tap water?
 - Legislation can complicate how we categorize water
 - "to better understand drinking water quality and the implications on water use/avoidance through research that identifies water coping behaviors in rural Virginia communities"
 - It's okay to keep the mission open and narrow our focus later
 - Does this address access? Access includes affordability, unaffordable water is not accessible
 - Include public perceptions, as we think about quality and perceptions of quality
 - Can include policy, outreach, in additional to research
 - Clarification on water coping mechanisms
 - How are people impacted by lack of accessible water? Are they buying bottled water, or relying on sugar-sweetened beverages (SSBs), economic challenges
 - Mom's wanting to provide 'the best' for their children, which is sometimes bottled water
- What work is currently happening that meets the mission:
 - Leigh Anne: do water violations and the communication of the results affect water morality in rural areas? Published in AWWA



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- Current research in 6 rural VA counties (Roanoke, Montgomery, Pittsylvania, Franklin, Giles, and Craig) to understand perceptions/use and water quality of private water systems. Working on expanding what is being tested for in the water
- VFHY/Rev Your Bev: assessments in schools of water use, how students and administrators feel about water quality in schools, and how to use this information
- VDH/ODW contracts with MECC for an associates program to train water operators (moved online)
- ... we will continue to add to this list!
- What do we still need to understand?
 - How public health and equity are connected in regard to water equity
 - Your zip code matters more than your genetic code when it comes to health
 - Different types of water systems in rural areas
 - Private water (wells and springs), small municipalities, schools, etc.
 - Are there additional partners to add to the group?

Action Items

- Next meeting: Thursday, December 17th at 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
- Review resources before the next meeting
- Add additional research, policy, and outreach activities to update our list of information (can email to Chloe)

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.