



**Water Equity in Rural Virginia Workgroup**  
**Thursday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021 | 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.**

**MINUTES**

**Attending:**

Emily Kate Bowen (Mountain Empire Community College); Maureen Cunningham (Environmental Policy Innovation Center); Nelson Daniel (Office of Drinking Water); Erin Ling (Virginia Tech, Virginia Household Water Quality Program); Marty Kilgore (Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth); Darya Minovi (Center for Progressive Reform); Danny Saggese (Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth); Scott Vogel (Office of Drinking Water)

**Staff:** Erica Facetti, Chloe Van Zandt  
Meeting recording [link](#)

**Proceedings:**

**Discussion**

- Welcome and Introductions
- 2021 Legislative Update (*see presentation, slides attached*)
  - Biden proposed lead replacement over 15 years. We do not know the extent of lead pipes in Virginia.
- Tainted Tap Presentation: Darya Minovi (*see presentation*)
- Review Workgroup Mission/History
  - This group has a 12-month timeframe, and the mission of: to better understand water use/avoidance through research that identifies water coping behaviors in rural Virginia communities, by looking at the implications of drinking water quality and public perceptions of water quality.
- Proposed Workplan/Schedule (*see presentation, slides attached*)
- Discussion and Feedback
  - Proposed pilot program: partner with ODW lead testing in school and provide information and resources on remediation prioritization.
  - The added credibility of convening distinguished speakers will help the project be successful. Lead testing in schools is a difficult conversation.
  - Difficult to engage child centers statewide. It's helpful for ODW to have partners in this group and with this project. We foresee fewer challenges with lead testing in schools because there is more structure and organization inherent to school systems. There is a greater need to support lead testing in child day centers.
  - Rev Your Bev at Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth is currently sending 500 day care centers water promotion kits annually. Opportunity to include water consumption and the importance of water fluoridation in this project.
  - Schools have more resources than daycares. A lot of daycares are in homes or are in old buildings that are more likely to have lead pipes. Daycares are also additionally hard to reach. Can try to estimate the number of facilities and where they are located.
  - It might be helpful to focus on a specific region.
  - Leigh Anne and Erin are working on a project in SW Virginia focused on 6 counties affected by the Mountain Valley pipeline, including questions about water coping



Virginia  
Health Catalyst  
The Intersection of Overall  
Health and Oral Health

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strategies. To better characterize the condition of their water and how much that affects their perception of tap water.

**Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.**

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 11<sup>th</sup>