

Water Communication Workgroup
Friday, January 22nd, 202011 | 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

MINUTES

Attending: Tegwyn Brickhouse (VCU- School of Dentistry), Brenda Davy (Virginia Tech, Department of Human Nutrition), Bob Edelman (VDH- Office of Drinking Water), Beth Leftwich (Department of Social Services), William Mann (Olde Towne Medical and Dental Center), Barry Matthews (VDH- Office of Drinking Water), Hannah Robbins (Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth)

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

Proceedings:

Welcome and Introductions

2021 Legislative Session Updates

- Water is a Human Right ([HJ 538](#)), recognizes that access to clean, potable, and affordable water is a necessary human right.
- Study Drinking Water Substances ([Item 307#2h](#)), supports the work of the Virginia Department of Health Office of Drinking Water to continue its study of the occurrence of synthetic chemicals [perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS), and other perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)] in the Commonwealth's public drinking water and to develop recommendations for specific maximum contaminant levels for PFOA, PFOS, and other PFAS.
 - History: In 2020, the General Assembly passed two bills to require ODW to study PFAS and PFOS and provide no financial support. In contrast, other states have attributed a half a million dollars to over a million dollars to study these chemicals in water. This limits the study to 50 systems plus significant water sources of water, out of 2,800 water systems in the state. EPA has also given some funding to ODW for additional sampling. This is a very limited study.

Workplan Proposal (*see presentation slides*)

Discussion

- Brenda: Virginia Tech civil engineers, Sid Roy and Mark Edwards, and a student developed a CCR template that this group is welcome to use. Sid Roy is reaching out to the Environmental Policy Innovation Center (EPIC), the group that held a challenge for a new CCR template, to see if additional feedback was given. EPIC will provide a summary of all submissions in a few weeks.
- We are looking for partner utilities that are using the baseline CCR template from VDH
- WIIN grant- opportunity to do a pilot CCR with some smaller utilities, SERCAP timeline is pushed out more than ours, looking ahead to 2021
- To simplify proposed CCR pilot project, the group can focus on small, medium, and large waterworks to have a spread of data. Only use groundwater waterworks.
- Survey distribution- how to reach rural communities that are most frequently at risk for unclean water. Still determining best methods. Possibly include survey information in water utility bills.
- CCR Distribution-
 - Majority are distributed electronically

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- If distributed electronically, need to print the exact URL
- Small and medium don't use electronic very often
- CCR for surface water systems is more complicated than a groundwater system, to keep things simple might consider only choose groundwater systems that have less treatment
- Bob: work with a water system owner who owns more than one system. Ex) American Virginia Groundwater company, or aquafer Virginia. Has a built-in control group
- Barry: Bob's idea would work if we could get a private entity to engage with us. Another idea: if Bob and Barry engage field offices, some are large municipality, others are more rural, VA beach Norfolk, SW Abingdon field office. Each field office gives us a small, medium, large water system. 3 from each of 6 field offices.
- Potential for incentives for community members filling out surveys, there is an opportunity to partner with partner safety net clinics in rural areas with water challenges
- DSS 211 call-in system, potential to add questions to intake questionnaire
- For equitable intervention, the survey needs to be delivered by multiple methods and not everyone has access to the internet or do not have computers
- Barry has a staff member who is a CCR expert to help with reviewing the new template

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.