

# Annual Update

February 2015

Volume 7, Issue 1

Visit the RWWMP  
Web page at  
[www.HRSD.com](http://www.HRSD.com)  
for:

- Background information
- Related news articles
- Public presentations and
- Other related information

## Inside this issue:

Tips to Protect Area Waterways	2
HRSD to Celebrate 75 Years of Service	3
How to Report SSOs	4
Locality Team Participants	4
HRSD Service Area Map	4

For information on everything green in Hampton Roads, visit:  
[www.askHRgreen.org](http://www.askHRgreen.org)

Go to:  
[www.elizabethriver.org](http://www.elizabethriver.org)  
to learn how to make restoration a reality.

## HRSD Reports Progress on Sanitary Sewer Overflow (SSO) Reduction Program

Chris Wilson, P.E.  
Brown and Caldwell

HRSD held its annual meeting to review the status of the Regional Wet Weather Management Plan (RWWMP) on January 27, 2015. The public was invited to attend this session, which included information about the extensive cooperation between HRSD and the localities it serves. The wastewater system in the Hampton Roads region includes city and county (locality) owned local sewer collection systems and pumping stations, as well as HRSD owned regional pipelines, pumping stations, and treatment plants.

HRSD is engaged in a multi-year effort to reduce sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) in the Hampton Roads area. These overflows occur when the system is overloaded with excess storm water or groundwater that enters the system during rain events, or when pipes or pumps fail due to unexpected mechanical problems or pipe breaks. The SSO reduction program includes wide-scale monitoring of wastewater flows, pressures and rainfall, development of a computer model of the pipe network, inspection of the system's many assets (pipes and pumping stations), and development of a Regional Wet Weather Management Plan. The HRSD system flow, pressure, and rainfall monitoring program, development of the computer model, and condition assessment activities have been completed in previous years, although ongoing monitoring and model maintenance continues.

In 2013, HRSD coordinated with the localities to evaluate an alternative approach to the SSO reduction program, where the entire wastewater system would be regionalized under a single service provider that could implement the RWWMP at a significantly lower cost, and reduce the average bill to the ratepayers. A hybrid approach to regionalization evolved. This called for HRSD to plan, implement and fund the full RWWMP, thereby maintaining significant savings to the ratepayers.

During 2014, HRSD worked with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to amend the HRSD Consent Decree for the hybrid approach to regionalization. Since the amendment was completed in August 2014, HRSD has been conducting an updated round of flow monitoring, pipeline condition assessment and sewer system modeling activities in the locality systems, which will be completed by the middle of 2015. This work supplements the data collected by the localities and gives HRSD a clearer picture of the condition of the system. After the new data is collected, the process to identify capacity limitations in the regional system will continue through the remainder of 2015, with capacity solutions developed in the first half of 2016. HRSD will continue to collaborate with the localities through the RWWMP development process.

## Tips to Protect Area Waterways

# I Pulled This Out Of My Washing Machine!

Sarah Crawford  
HRSD Community Educator

This little item is something most moms can't live without. We use them on baby bums, on messy hands, on runny noses, and on gunked up toys. The wonderful product we know and love – the wipe. I even have them stashed all over the place, and I'm one of those [crunchy cloth diapering types](#). I mean, sometimes that backup package in the car saves the day after the 7-month old has an epic pooplosion while I'm out running errands, or I make the bad decision to let my 3-year old eat a candy cane in the car (still totally worth 5 minutes of silence). I try to stick to cloth wipes at home but I recently bought some Honest disposable baby wipes since they are made with sustainably harvested material and without a lot of chemicals typically found in wipes (and they were on sale). Hey, I'm human, and I like a good deal.

So how did a baby wipe end up in my washing machine? Well, I have a very wriggly 7-month old and during a frenzied diaper change the other day I must have thrown a wipe into the wet bag with the cloth diapers bound for the laundry, instead of into the diaper pail bound for the landfill. The wipe in the photo made it all the way through the cycle, which included a prewash, hot normal wash and double rinse. It had gotten wrapped around a few of the diapers and was still intact! Nothing was breaking that thing apart.

This is a perfect example of why [wipes should never be flushed](#). If you've ever had a tissue sneak into your wash you know they break up into tiny pieces, stick to your clothes, and make a mess. Not wipes. They get stretched and tangled and spun but they stay in one piece. They only got tangled in diapers in my washing machine, but if they are flushed they can get tangled in pumps that are used to pump our wastewater to treatment plants, or form a cement-like material when combined with fats, oils and grease (called [FOG](#)) in our sewer pipes. This leads to increased maintenance costs, clogs, and even sewage spills into the environment.

There are actually no regulations right now for [labeling a product as flushable](#), so even if your wipe package says "flushable", please don't flush them! Just because they can make it down your home's plumbing doesn't mean they won't cause issues down the line. You can help keep the environment clean and keep your kiddos clean at the same time – just make sure to keep the wipes out of the pipes.



A baby wipe that made it all the way through the wash cycle!

And if you are wondering why in the world I use cloth diapers in the first place – check out my [cloth diaper blog](#). You may be convinced to try it yourself!

Read more of Sarah's blogs on: [Let's Talk Green](#)

# HRSD to Celebrate 75 Years of Service

Nancy Munnikhuysen  
HRSD Chief of Communications

Visionary citizens of the region, on November 5, 1940, passed the referendum that established the Hampton Roads Sanitation District, a political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia. As it prepares to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its creation, HRSD is paying tribute to those with the courage to vote to eliminate sewage pollution in the tidal waters of the Chesapeake Bay by publishing the story of their legacy. In the months leading to November 5, 2015, we will post a chapter at [www.hrsd.com/history](http://www.hrsd.com/history) that describes the challenges and achievements of each decade of our history. We hope that by understanding HRSD's contributions to the health of area waterways and the economy of Coastal Virginia, those we serve will appreciate their role in "Living the Legacy." We also invite you to click on the link at that site to view the many environmental education and community service activities HRSD is conducting to call attention to our heritage and engage the public in achieving our vision: Future generations will inherit clean waterways and be able to keep them clean.



Then and Now: In 1944, sewage ran in open ditches where children played in Portsmouth's Simonsdale neighborhood (above). Today, valve assemblies like the one shown to the right are part of HRSD's interceptor system that includes more than 100 pump stations and about 500 miles of pipelines.

**BE PART  
OF THE LEGACY**

Visit

[www.hrsd.com/jobs](http://www.hrsd.com/jobs)

to learn about rewarding  
career opportunities



Read the fascinating  
history of HRSD's creation  
by public referendum at  
[www.hrsd.com/history](http://www.hrsd.com/history)



**Regional Wet Weather Management Plan**

**Annual Update**

This newsletter is published by:  
 HRSD  
 Communications Division  
 P.O. Box 5911  
 Virginia Beach, VA 23471-0911

For additional information, contact:  
 Sarah Crawford, Editor  
 (757) 460-7064  
[scrawford@hrsd.com](mailto:scrawford@hrsd.com)

FIND US ON THE WEB



**Locality Team Participants**

- Chesapeake
- Gloucester
- Hampton
- Hampton Roads Planning District Commission
- HRSD
- Isle of Wight
- James City Service Authority
- Newport News
- Norfolk
- Poquoson
- Portsmouth
- Smithfield
- Suffolk
- Virginia Beach

**Help Protect Our Waterways by Reporting Suspected Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs)**

Please call the number listed for your locality if you observe an SSO.

Locality	During Business Hours	After Business Hours
Chesapeake Public Utilities	757-382-6352	757-382-3550
Gloucester Public Utilities	804-693-4044	804-693-3890
Hampton Public Works	757-727-8311	757-727-8311
Isle of Wight Public Utilities	757-365-6284	757-357-2151
James City Service Authority	757-229-7421	757-566-0112
Newport News Public Works	757-933-2311	757-926-8195
Norfolk Public Utilities	757-823-1000	757-823-1000
Poquoson Public Works	757-868-3590	757-868-3501
Portsmouth Public Utilities	757-393-8561	757-393-8561
Suffolk Public Utilities	757-514-7000	757-514-7000
Town of Smithfield	757-365-4200	757-357-2151
Virginia Beach Public Utilities	757-385-1400	757-385-3111
Williamsburg Public Works	757-220-6140	757-220-6196
York Environmental & Development Services	757-890-3752	757-890-3621

