

Quarterly Update

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Region's Utility Directors Evaluate Successes

By Julia Hillegass, HRPDC

The Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC) staff recently facilitated the annual retreat for the region's Utility Directors. The retreat was an opportunity to evaluate programs from the most recent fiscal year, as well as to take a mid-year look at progress of current efforts and set the direction and draft a budget for next fiscal year.

Notable successes include the extensive regional work on requirements of the Regional Special Order by Consent, especially the development of a regional program to address fats, oils and grease (FOG). The regional network of directors and staff enables the region to make timely responses to issues of regional importance on the local, state and national levels. This cooperation is unsurpassed in the state and affords a higher degree of credibility to Hampton Roads. Other program successes include the development of a regional grit and grease facility on the Southside, which is likely to begin construction in the next fiscal year.

Areas for improvement included a higher level of promotion and solicitation for the H2O—Help to Others—program, as

well as even better utilization of technology to increase efficiencies in communications and information sharing.

Future direction includes work in groundwater, completion of the regional water supply plan and environmental benchmarking on the costs of environmental programs in the region. Water conservation efforts through the Hampton Roads Water Efficiency Team, also coordinated by the HRPDC, will focus on promoting EPA's WaterSense program, water wise landscaping, as well as the value and quality of the water produced in Hampton Roads.

The Directors were highly complimentary of HRPDC and HRSD staff and the work that they do together for the region. We anticipate that relationship will only improve as the work continues. Staff from both agencies and the localities have a very real understanding that we all need to do what is best for our shared clients—the ratepayers—and that is in the forefront of all the work to improve the regional water and wastewater programs.

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www.HRSD.COM/RWWMP.HTM

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

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

<u>Locality</u>	<u>During Business Hours</u>	<u>After Business Hours</u>
Chesapeake Public Utilities	757-382-CITY	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	757-269-2750	757-247-2500
Norfolk Public Utilities	757-823-1000	757-823-1000
Poquoson Public Works	757-868-3590	757-868-3501
Portsmouth Public Utilities	757-393-8524	757-393-8561
Suffolk Public Utilities	757-514-7000	757-514-7034
Town of Smithfield	757-365-4272	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	757-890-3773	757-890-3773

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MOM Program Cuts Through the FOG

By Julia Hillegass, HRPDC

Local government and Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC) staff have developed a model ordinance on management of fats, oils and grease (FOG), which has been released for adoption by participating localities. Related implementation guidance, in the form of regionally consistent enforcement management guidelines, and a regional Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) are in various stages of adoption by area localities. Training and certification processes are still under development by the FOG technical subcommittee. A separate regional FOG education committee will develop associated educational materials. FOG management is a part of Management, Operations and

Maintenance (MOM) for wastewater purveyors and is a requirement of the regional Special Order by Consent with the Department of Environmental Quality.

FOG accumulation in the sanitary sewer system is a particular problem that can be a symptom of misalignment or sags in the piping, as well as a cause of sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs). The region is working together on both technical and educational components to improve FOG programs, with the goal of eliminating FOG from the system. A new website, www.fatfreedrain.org, is also under development.