

**VASWCD Update**  
**Notes from DEQ's Water Programs**

Office of Ecology (Contact: John Kennedy, john.kennedy@deq.virginia.gov)

- x **Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP)** which was submitted to EPA on August 23, 2019. Matthew Strickler, DEQ Director, noted that the WIP is a "strong path forward for having the practices and programs in place by 2025 to achieve the Chesapeake Bay's dissolved oxygen goals." He also noted that FY2020 offers the largest ever investment in the VA Agricultural BMP Cost Share Program and that DEQ created an Agricultural BMP Loan Program in July 2019.
- x On September 24, 2019, three programs in the Office of Ecology (Water Monitoring & Assessment, Water Standards, Local Government Assistance Program and Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act) participated in a **WIP Training session for DCR Conservation Planners** hosted at Monacan SWO. Office of Ecology was joined by the TMDL Nonpoint Source, Stormwater and Erosion & Sediment Control, Wetlands and Stream Protection, Water Withdrawal, and Application Programs.

Office of Water Supply (Contact: Scott Kudlas, scott.kudlas@deq.virginia.gov)

- x **Water Withdrawal Reporting Regulation (9 VAC 2500-10 et seq.)** DEQ appreciates the assistance of the VASWC and Districts as we continue to register farms to report water withdrawals. Withdrawal reports are due by January 31 each calendar year for the **Reporting Area** previously unreported is appreciated. Contacts for withdrawal reporting are Sara Jordan, (804) 698-5714, [sara.jordan@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:sara.jordan@deq.virginia.gov) and Trevor Lawson, (804) 698-1113, [trevor.lawson@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:trevor.lawson@deq.virginia.gov)
- x **Groundwater Withdrawal Regulation (9 VAC 2510-10 et seq.)** Groundwater withdrawals of 300,000 gallons or more in any month in a designated groundwater management area require a permit. Efforts to increase awareness about permitting requirements for groundwater users will continue throughout 2020. Implementation of provisions of House Bill 358, added to the Groundwater Management Act in 2018, continues with information outreach materials being made available detailing the requirements of developers of subdivisions of 30 or more lots supplied by private wells to apply for a technical evaluation. Additionally, legislative action related to the Groundwater Withdrawal Regulations, Senate Bill 1599, which was enacted on March 21, 2019, and the State Water Control Board to adopt regulations providing incentives for the withdrawal of water from the surficial aquifer. The Yorktown-Eastover in the Eastern Shore Groundwater Management Area published a Notice of Intended Regulatory Action (NOIRA) on November 11, 2019 seeking comments to amend the Groundwater Withdrawal Regulations to include a general permit regulation for the Eastern Shore Groundwater Management Area.
- x **Surface Water Withdrawal Permitting (9 VAC 250-10 et seq.)** DEQ regulates surface water withdrawals statewide through the Virginia Water Protection (VWP) Permit Program. Efforts to increase awareness about permitting requirements for surface water users will continue throughout 2020. In the Eastern Shore, several agricultural users have begun the process of applying for water withdrawal permits and DEQ expects to see more participation in the VWP withdrawal permitting program in that region in the coming years.
- x The **contacts** for the Water Withdrawal Permitting and Compliance Program are Joseph Grist, (804) 698-1804, [Joseph.Grist@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:Joseph.Grist@deq.virginia.gov) and Ryan Green, (804) 698-2588, [ryan.green@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:ryan.green@deq.virginia.gov)



