

Regional Update

A Monthly Report of Activities on the Eastern Shore of Virginia

May 2006

Private Well Owner Training Offered

Residents of Accomack and Northampton counties are offered an opportunity to attend a free training workshop on how to properly manage their home's private water well.

Residents who rely on private water systems as their home drinking water supply may be at risk of drinking contaminated water. In Virginia, public drinking water supplies are the only water supplies regularly tested and protected against contamination. The management of private water systems (including maintenance, testing, and treatment) are the voluntary responsibility of the homeowner so residents need to take the proper measures to ensure that their drinking water is safe.

This workshop is offered as part of the Delmarva "Master Well Owner Network", a program intended to teach volunteers from across the Eastern Shore about proper management of their own private water system. In return, the volunteers must go out into their local community to educate others about the importance of proper management of private drinking water supplies. "During the training, we'll cover proper well location, construction, and maintenance, land-use activities associated with individual pollutants, drinking water standards, water testing, and water treatment," says Stephanie Clemens, coordinator of the Master Well Owner Network.

All volunteers will receive a free analysis of their home water supply, a handbook of educational materials, a certificate for completion of the training workshop, and access to regional water experts. Resource professionals throughout the region will offer this training in Accomack County, VA on Saturday, May 13, 2006 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

To become part of this network or for more information, please contact Stephanie Clemens at 1-800-375-6690 or at 814-865-2250. Visit the Master Well Owner Network website <http://mwon.cas.psu.edu/VolunteerRequirements.htm> for an application.

This Issue

PDC Holds Water Supply Planning Workshop, May 5th

Counties Support Locally Grown Food

Willis Wharf Floating Dock Project Moves Forward

Housing Choice Voucher List is Open

SPARC Homeownership Funds Available



Participants at another Well Owner Network Training on the Delmarva Peninsula

PDC Holds Water Supply Planning Workshop May 5th

In November 2005, Virginia published final regulations regarding Local and Regional Water Supply Planning. The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is the state agency responsible for implementing this planning requirement.

All counties and towns are required to submit a local water supply plan by November 2, 2010, except Accomack County whose deadline is November 2, 2008. Those jurisdictions that wish to participate in a regional plan need to declare their intention by November 2, 2008 and will be allowed until November 2, 2011 to submit their plans.

These plans must meet several requirements. The requirements include existing resource information, projected water demand, water demand management information, and a statement of needs and alternatives. Other information on drought, drought response and various other information will also need to be included.

The Eastern Shore of Virginia Groundwater Committee is prepared to assist Eastern Shore localities by sharing information the Committee has about our groundwater source. As part of this effort to assist localities, the Committee is sponsoring a Water Supply Planning Workshop on Friday, May 5th at the PDC office in the Enterprise Building, Accomac, at 10 am.

Representatives of DEQ's Water Supply Planning Office will be available to discuss the regulations and to answer questions about the regulations and funding available.

Counties Adopt Resolution of Support For Locally Grown Food

Shore Good Foods is a new community organization that was formed as a result of the work done in conjunction with a USDA Sustainable Agriculture Community Innovation Grant awarded to the A-NPDC. One of *Shore Good Foods* ongoing tasks is to assess our region's current food system to understand how and why it works the way it does.

As a first step in this assessment, 650 surveys were distributed in December and January, and 24% were returned, an excellent response rate. One question on the survey was "Are you

interested in buying more locally grown or locally prepared food?" Eighty-eight percent of the respondents to this question indicated that they wanted to buy more locally grown or processed foods.

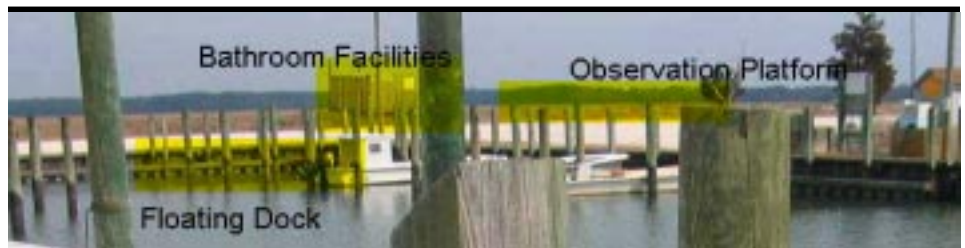
The survey results led to the drafting of a resolution to present to the county board of supervisors in April. Both counties adopted the resolution. *Shore Good Foods* next meets on May 11 from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. at the A-NPDC Conference Room in Accomac.

Call Barbara Schwenk at (757)787-1247 x115 for more information.

Willis Wharf Floating Dock Project Proceeds

State representatives of the Virginia Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program and local Northampton officials, the Willis Wharf Harbormaster, A-NPDC staff, and local waterman and residents met several times to discuss improvements to the Willis Wharf Harbor. At the March 23rd village meeting, the residents voted in favor of improvements to the harbor. At the April 10th, Northampton Board of Supervisors meeting, Supervisors heard an update on the project.

Plans include construction of a floating dock, improvements to the bathroom facilities, and construction of an observation platform. The PDC will construct the floating dock portion and have proceeded with an application to the Virginia Marine Resources Commission. Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries staff will construct the observation deck portion of the planned improvements. All of these improvements are funded by the CZM's Seaside Heritage Program.



Location of Improvement at the Willis Wharf Harbor

Housing Choice Voucher Waiting List Remains Open

The Accomack-Northampton Regional Housing Authority (A-NRHA) continues to keep the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program Waiting List open. Any person requiring rental assistance in order to find safe, decent, affordable housing should pick up an application at the A-NRHA Section 8 Office located at 23372 Front Street, Accomac, VA or call Bobbie Wert at (757)787-2800 or toll free (866)787-3001 to have an application mailed to you.

Accomack-Northampton Planning District
Commission
23372 Front Street
P.O. Box 417
Accomac, Virginia 23301

SPARC Homeownership Funds Available

The A-N Housing & Redevelopment Corporation has been awarded Sponsoring Partnership And Revitalizing Communities (SPARC) Round 5 funds. The total set-aside allocation is 1.25 million. The allocation interest rates are .5 to 1% less than the applicable rate. SPARC funds target individuals that are within the 60 to 80% of the area median income. The program will leverage federal HOME funds for down-payment and closing costs assistance. The Virginia Housing Development Authority (VHDA) will process and underwrite all SPARC loans. For more information, please contact Bobbie Jo Wert at (757) 787-2800 ext. 125 or Toll Free (866) 787-3001.



How to Contact the A-NPDC

If you have questions or would like to discontinue your subscription, please contact the Planning District Commission.

Phone 757-787-2936
Toll Free 866-787-3001
E-Mail anpdc@a-npdc.org
Website www.a-npdc.org

PRSR STD U.S. POSTAGE PAID PERMIT NO.# 3072 ACCOMAC, VA 23301

If you would like to alter or cancel your subscription, please call (757)787-2936.