

**Town of Onancock
Town Council Meeting
Monday, March 25, 2024
7:00 PM**

- 1) **Call to order and Roll Call:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM and roll was called. Councilmembers Brandon Brockmeier, Cynthia Holdren, Joy Marino, Sarah Nock, Maphis Oswald and Mayor Fletcher Fosque were present. Councilmember Ray Burger was not present. Town Manager Matt Spuck and Town Clerk Debbie Caton were also present. A quorum was established.
- 2) **The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.**
- 3) **Approve minutes from the February 26, 2024, meeting** –Councilmember Nock moved to approve the meeting minutes from February 26, 2024. Councilmember Oswald seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.
- 4) **Public Hearings: None scheduled.**
- 5) **Public Presentation:**
 - a. Rail to Trails – was not present.
 - b. Neighbor to Neighbor – Peaches Dodge, an Onancock resident, gave a presentation on the startup of a new program in town called Neighbors to Neighbors. The goal of the organization is to assist residents with services such as picking up prescriptions or taking a neighbor to the doctor. This may give a better opportunity for the resident to age in place. All volunteers will be vetted and trained. If the program gets up and running, Neighbors to Neighbors will need support from the town and will need consideration in the FY26 budget.
- 6) **Council action:**
 - Prioritize Five Year CIP (Capital Improvement Plan) the 2025 budget – Town Manager Spuck explained that a list was developed from the Hill Studios’ town plan and a comprehensive list of equipment needs. The budget and the resolution signed for the budget is required to have a five-year CIP. Last month the projects and equipment were priced, and it was presented how each item would be funded and the resources to cover the expenditures. The town manager presented a list of how to prioritize each project based on suggestions and feedback from residents. The prioritized list is part of the council packet.

Town of Onancock

Town Council Meeting

Monday, March 25, 2024

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The agenda was amended to allow public comments earlier in the meeting.

7) Public Comment

- **Dr. Felthousen** – Dr. Felthousen expressed his concerns about the new permit submitted to the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality to renew and expand the amount of potable water drawn from the town’s three wells. He was surprised that a new permit has been applied for and stunned this was not discussed in an open forum. Dr. Felthousen learned about the permit while attending the Accomack County planning commission meeting and was surprised that Onancock’s planning commission members did not attend this meeting. He is encouraging an open dialogue before water is sold. (Dr. Felthousen’s letter to the DEQ staff with the same concerns is attached.) As part of the permit application, the DEQ paid for a Source Water Protection Plan. (Dr. Felthousen’s concerns about the application is attached.) He advocates for open and responsible government.
- **Dana Simson** – Ms. Simson pointed out issues in Somerset County (her previous residence) from the construction of a new prison. The residents’ wells went dry because the prison used so much water. We must look to the future and weigh heavily in terms of climate change and the number of residents that can have sustainability. Ms. Simson and other residents heard there was money to be allocated for the Onancock Historic School (HOS) for a new parking lot. She would like to see improvements to the Queen Street parking as this lot is essential to the success of businesses. (Ms. Simson’s full comments are attached.)

Mayor Fosque stated the town has not received any request from HOS for funds to improve the parking lot.

- **Priscilla Hart** – Ms. Hart is a member of Onancock’s local water committee. The committee was formed in September 2023. A consultant from CHA Solutions prepared a report and discussed many issues mentioned by Dr. Felthousen. Ms. Hart has concerns about the cost to provide water to developments outside of town limits and the cost to Onancock taxpayers for the infrastructure. Ms. Hart questioned our water quality reports. She presented water quality reports from 2019 - 2022 (see attached). She has concerns about why some of the contaminants have disappeared from the report.
- **Patsy Felthousen** – Mrs. Felthousen read from the lease agreement between Friends of Onancock School (FOS) and the town of Onancock. The lease states the town has no financial relationship with FOS. The wish list from Council members for budget year

Town of Onancock

Town Council Meeting

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2025 includes Councilmember Burger asking for \$50,000, Mayor Fosque asking for \$25,000 and Councilmember Holdren asking for money but did not specify a dollar amount. Ms. Felthousen and other residents have heard Councilmember Nock asked Mayor Fosque and Town Manager Spuck for \$850,000 for a new parking lot at HOS. If these requests are approved, HOS would receive \$1,000,000 in taxpayer money. FOS signed a lease acknowledging their obligations which includes the maintenance and repair of the parking lot. Mrs. Felthousen would like to see all the 501(c)3 non-profit organizations treated equally.

- **Kasey Grier** – 74 Market St – Ms. Grier proposed town councilors and the mayor have set office hours for citizens to discuss issues in a casual setting. (Ms. Grier’s full comments are attached).
- **Rosemary Paparo** – Ms. Paparo hopes the mayor and town council read an email sent on March 22, 2024, regarding certain issues with respect to the town’s signed agreement to supply potable water to Coastal Square residential development of more than 450 homes and commercial tenant in Onley, VA. Ms. Paparo trusts town officials will convene a special town meeting to discuss the ramifications of that agreement and any other agreements for housing or other projects beyond town limits with all the town residents and taxpayers since we do not know what Onancock’s cost will be and they could be significant. (Ms. Paparo’s full comments are attached).

8) Council Discussion:

- Discuss operating priorities (what to add to budget and what to remove)
 - i. Councilmember Brockmeier would like to see the Christmas lights stretch the entire business district instead.
 - ii. Councilmember Nock asked if it would increase hiring potential by offering an offset to employees who need a family policy for health insurance since the employee portion is fully subsidized. Town Manager Spuck stated from a policy point of view, he thinks the personnel committee can take that on but from a financial point of view, since there is only one employee who uses two-person coverage it would be premature at this time to offer a subsidy. Councilmember Nock addressed the earlier public comments that she asked Mayor Fosque and Town Manager Spuck for \$850,000 for the HOS parking lot. She stated that it was utterly inaccurate.
 - iii. Councilmember Oswald stated her previous list is accurate. (See attached list from the council packet.) Councilmember Oswald stated it is important that organizations that support the entire shore and not just Onancock like Eastern Shore Coalition Against Domestic Violence (ESCAV) deserve to be funded.

Town of Onancock

Town Council Meeting

Monday, March 25, 2024

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- iv. Councilmember Holdren feels a landowner has a responsibility for a building structure hence we should be contributing in some amount to maintaining that building. (HOS) She would also like to see a seasonal employee to help with landscaping. Because of the past issues with the zoning, she thinks we should have an audit of the zoning ordinances to verify all ordinances were codified when it was transferred to Municode.
 - v. Councilmember Marino would like mulch in at the Northeast playground. She would like to buy and supply a covered utility trailer that could be used by residents for a party on their block or street. She would like funding for “Neighbor to Neighbor” and the American Legion.
 - vi. Mayor Fosque stated although there was a lease in place with HOS that it does not preclude the town from giving them money. HOS has not formally submitted any request for funds for a new parking lot. The Queen Street parking lot is the priority.
 - vii. Councilmember Brockmeier commented that he thinks non-profits should request the funds and there should be a matrix in place to quantify how we fund the organization.
- Impact of real estate assessments – Town Manager Spuck stated Accomack County reassessed real estate and Onancock property values increased by 19.1%. The law requires we must start with our current budget and state how many dollars we raised from last year’s real estate taxes. The budget for 2024 was \$400,000. With the 19.1% we need to determine what the tax rate would need to generate \$400,000 for the 2025 budget.
 - Water rates: Town Manager Spuck reported the water meters are being replaced by remote read meters which are being provided by HRSD. The meter replacement should start this summer. HRSD will also bill monthly. As the meters are replaced, the resident will start receiving bills monthly. During this time, some residents will be billed monthly, and some residents will stay on bi-monthly.

9) Committee Reports

- Personnel (Cindy Holdren) – Councilmember Holdren reported unless there is an issue, the personnel committee will meet quarterly.
- Onancock Main Street (OMS) (Cindy Holdren) – Councilmember Holdren reported OMS maintained status as a nationally accredited Main Street program. OMS is submitting the Downtown Improvement Grant. If awarded the grant, mural phase III is planned. Mural Phase III will consist of a mural in uptown section of town with hopes the mural will demonstrate our ethnic diversity. A committee was formed to help. There will a mosaic wrap on the Welcome Center to be visible for those people parking in the parking lot walking toward the main part of town. Most of the money will be for a commercial

Town of Onancock

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interior improvement grant for the businesses located in the Main Street district. There will be community engagement to refresh OMS' connection to the community and to ensure the downtown initiatives reflect the need and desires of the town's people.

- Historic Onancock School (Sarah Nock) – Councilmember Nock reported the following upcoming events:
 - Field Day Fiesta – Saturday, May 4, 2024, from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM.
 - 2nd Annual Blooms and Brushes – Saturday, June 8, 2024, from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM.
 - Wine Wednesdays each month.
 - Eastern Shore Art League Spring show opened March 1, 2024, and will continue through April 24, 2024.

Pavilion construction is ongoing with the trusses and foundation work being complete. Fundraising efforts are underway.

- Planning Commission (Brandon Brockmeier) – Councilmember Brockmeier reported they discussed parking and the suggestions that were given back to the Town Council. The commission will continue to look at the comprehensive plan to review ordinances that are important for further review.
- Waterfront (Fletcher Fosque) – Mayor Fosque reported the first meeting of the season was Tuesday, March 23, 2024. Town Manager Spuck reported part of the ARPA projects was to dredge the floating docks. Unfortunately, the original permit expired but when applying for the new permit the bulkhead and fuel dock will be included. The spill site has been approved.
- Economic Development Authority (EDA) (Joy Marino) – Councilmember Marino reported the contracts are ready to sign for the IRF loan with all the required attorney's approval. Councilmember Marino introduced Katie Schwab, Chairperson for the EDA. The new checking account is open.

10) Mayor's Report – Mayor Fosque addressed the earlier public comments about supplying water to developments outside of town. He stated no contracts have been signed. Town Manager Spuck clarified a letter of interest and capacity was required by the developer to present to Accomack County. Councilmember Oswald asked if the developer decides to install wells, would the water come from the same aquifer? Mayor Fosque responded yes. Mayor Fosque stated the town council will make the decision about the supplying water to a development outside of town in an open forum during a public hearing. Mayor Fosque also stated he would get the answers about the inconsistencies on the water reports. Town Manager Spuck interjected to say he does not create the water reports. Virginia Department of Health (VDH) decides the

Town of Onancock

Town Council Meeting

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requirements for reporting. Currently, there are vacancies on Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA). The circuit court judge appoints the members but will take recommendations.

11) Town Manager's Report - The entire report is available in the town council packet. But Town Manager Spuck gave specific updates on the following projects.

- DPW will be running the water line from Lilliston to the Welcome Center.
- Wharf concrete pour will be this week. The excessive rain and tide schedules have caused several delays.
- Town Manager Spuck thanked Onancock Business and Civic Association (OBCA) on a successful St. Patrick's Day parade.
- **Financial Report** -the full report is available in the town council packet.

12) Town Councilmember comments

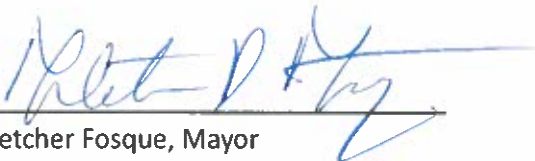
- a. Councilmember Brockmeier – no comments.
- b. Councilmember Burger – not present.
- c. Councilmember Holdren also responded to Kasey Grier's and Councilmember Marino's suggestions to have office hours and informal meetings. Her concern is if you speak to one of us you are getting one person's opinion which is not the same thing as a council decision.
- d. Councilmember Marino agrees with Kasey Grier's suggestions about bi-annual meetings with other town officials like the chief of police and fire department or "coffee with councilmembers" at a local restaurant.
- e. Councilmember Nock encouraged everyone to watch "Against the Current." The documentary will air April 24, 2024, at 8:00 PM on WHRO.
- f. Councilmember Oswald agrees with the comments about a town hall meeting to help facilitate communication.

13) Closed Session


- **None Scheduled**

14) Adjourn - Councilmember Marino moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Nock seconded the motion. The vote passed with 5-0 vote. The meeting adjourned at 9:04 PM.

Town of Onancock
Town Council Meeting
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Fletcher Fosque, Mayor



Debbie Caton, Town Clerk

2019 7

The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. Many other contaminants were analyzed, but not detected. The presence of contaminants in the water supply does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the state requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently.

Contaminant	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, AL, or MRDL	Your Water	Range Low-High	Violation	Date of Sample	Typical Source of Contamination
Disinfectants & Disinfection By-Products (There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)							
Chlorine (as Cl ₂)(ppm)	4	4	0.05	0.03 – 0.08	No	2019	Water additive used to control microbes.
TTHMs (Total Trihalomethanes) (ppb)	NA	80	.017	NA	No	2019	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Inorganic Contaminants							
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.46	NA	No	2016	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	10	10	ND	N/A	No	2019	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	1.3	AL-1.3	0.60	0.16 – 0.76	No	2017	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	0	AL - 15	9.0	ND – 29.2	No	2017	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Radiological Contaminants							
Gross Beta Particles	0	50**	6.0	NA	No	2017	Decay of natural and made made deposits

** The MCL for beta particles is 4 mrem/year. EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles

- **Activity associated with a Level 1 assessment**
During the past year, we were required to conduct no Level 1 assessments. In addition, no corrective actions were required.
- **Activity associated with a Level 2 assessment**
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Definitions

- (AL) Action Level - the concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements, that a water system must follow.
- (MCL) Maximum Contaminant Level - the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- (MCLG) Maximum Contaminant Level Goal - the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
- (MRDL) – Maximum Residual Disinfection Level means the highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
- (MRDLG) - Maximum Residual Disinfection Level Goal means the level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
- (NA) – Not Applicable.
- (ND) Not Detected - the test method/equipment did not measure any compound.
- (ppb) Parts per billion or Micrograms per liter (µg/L)
- (ppm) Parts per million or Milligrams per liter (mg/L)

- For the benefit of people who are restricting their sodium intake, lab testing indicates a sodium level of 27.3 ppm. A “severely restricted” sodium diet allows consumption of water with 20 ppm sodium, and a “low” sodium diet allows 270 ppm. For questions or concerns about sodium intake and your tap water, contact your doctor.

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Chlorine (as C12)(ppm)	4	4	0.05 ppm	0.03 – 0.06 ppm	No	2020	Water additive used to control microbes.
TTHMs (Total Trihalomethanes) (ppb)	NA	80	.015 ppb	NA	No	2020	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Inorganic Contaminants							
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.46	NA	No	2019	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	10	10	0.23	N/A	No	2020	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	1.3	AL-1.3	0.0903 ppm	0.0602 – 0.102	No	2020	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	0	AL - 15	ND	ND – 29.2	No	2020	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Radiological Contaminants							
Radium (226+228)	0	5 pCi/L	0.2 pCi/L			2017	
Gross Beta Particles	0	50**	6.0	NA	No	2017	Decay of natural and manmade deposits

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2021

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Disinfectants & Disinfection By-Products (There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)							
Chlorine (as Cl ₂)(ppm)	4	4	0.05 ppm	0.03 – 0.06 ppm	No	2021	Water additive used to control microbes.
TTHMs (Total Trihalomethanes) (ppb)	NA	80	.8 ppb	NA	No	2021	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Inorganic Contaminants							
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.46	NA	No	2019	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	10	10	0.5	N/A	No	2021	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	1.3	AL-1.3	0.0903 ppm	0.0602 – 0.102	No	2020	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	0	AL - 15	ND	ND ND	No	2020	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
HAA5	0	60 ppb	.7 ppb		No	2021	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Radiological Contaminants							
Radium (226+228)	0	5 pCi/L	0.2 pCi/L	NA	No	2017	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Beta Particles	0	50**	6.0	NA	No	2017	Decay of natural and manmade deposits

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Disinfectants & Disinfection By-Products (There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)							
Chlorine (as Cl ₂)(ppm)	4	4	0.38 ppm	0.04 6.00 ppm	No	2022	Water additive used to control microbes.
TTHMs (Total Trihalomethanes) (ppb)	NA	80	.0023 mg/L	NA	No	2022	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Inorganic Contaminants							
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.78	NA	No	2022	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Copper (ppm)	1.3	AL-1.3	0.0903 ppm	0.0602 – 0.102	No	2020	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	0	AL - 15	ND	ND ND	No	2020	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
HAA5	0	60 ppb	3.9 ppm	NA	No	2022	By-product of drinking water chlorination

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- (ND) Not Detected - the test method/equipment did not measure any compound.
- (ppb) Parts per billion or Micrograms per liter (µg/L)
- (ppm) Parts per million or Milligrams per liter (mg/L)
- (RTCR) Revised Total Coliform Rule

Dear DEQ staff,

I am a resident and citizen of the town of Onancock. I had absolutely no knowledge of the permit application by the town manager of Onancock until reading of the proposal in our local newspaper. Had it not been for this permit being presented to the Accomac County planning commission at their meeting and the tag to your site, I would still be unaware of it.

Since that meeting, I have done considerable research and attended the recent meeting (March 19,2024) of the ESVA Groundwater Committee. I have learned of the considerable risks to our potable water supplies from the perspectives of quantity, contamination and the risks of saltwater intrusion. All are extremely significant.

A recent report, submitted last week, issued by Raylani Reis of CHA for the Source Water Protection Plan for the Town of Onancock is even more disturbing. Her contact information is as follows (rreis@chasolutions.com) 540-552-5574. Her report identifies the inadequate quantities of potable water that the Town has available in the present water system and numerous sources of contamination from private wells and local streams. It is also highly significant that her report does NOT offer any insight as to the expansion of the quantities of water to be pumped from the Middle Yorktown-Eastover aquifer and the increased risks of saltwater intrusion if this plan is approved.

I also had the opportunity to see the recent release of "Against the Current", a WHRO documentary, which clearly shows the growing risks to our fragile Eastern Shore environment. I ask you respectfully to schedule a public hearing for all of our shore residents to gain more information and voice their opinions on this matter.

Sincerely,

Dr. Greg Felthousen D.D.S, M.S.

Good morning Dr. Felthousen,

Your comments have been received and will be addressed at the end of the public comment period.

Thank you.



Caitlin Kelly

Groundwater Withdrawal Permitting Team

Lead

Office of Water Withdrawal Permitting

Virginia Department of Environmental
Quality

1111 East Main Street, Suite 1400

Richmond, VA 23219

(804) 774-0828

Town Council Meeting - March 25, 2024

Town Council members, Mayor Foskey and Town Manager, Mr. Spuck;

Thank you for your attention and allowing me to speak briefly tonight.

There are many issues that have been going through my mind over the past several months. I have tried to relax and absorb the impact of the frustration in trying to address my concerns regarding the pavilion project. As you are aware, there have been few, if any changes to the original concerns that were expressed by the members of the Onancock Residents Group. I have remained silent. After months of discussions with the Friends of Onancock School, there are no guidelines, no Special Use Permits, no plans for further discussions.

In summary, the Onancock school continues to go forward with the project. Our concerns have not been addressed. In the Friends yearly report, it was stated that the school has cash reserves, no debts and are making steady progress in addressing the roof, windows and heating system. All spaces are rented, including some by commercial businesses. So I think I can rest, confident that it is being managed well.

That said, "casual conversations" continue between the Town Manager and the school which have not been discussed publicly. An evaluation of the school building structures has evidently been done By whom is not known But evidently it has been paid for by the town. These, and other issues, renew my feelings of distrust.

NOW comes a new issue.

Our Town Manager has recently applied to the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality to renew and greatly expand the amount of potable water drawn from the town' three wells. Speaking in round numbers, he is asking to withdraw 120,000,000 gallons of water per year. This is approximately 50 % greater than present use. The purpose of this increase is to provide water to approximately 1,000 new residences and supporting businesses outside of the town limits.

I was literally stunned to discover that this was not discussed at any time. Equally amazing is the fact that the members of the Planning Commission also were NOT aware of the plan nor of the arrangements made by Mr. Spuck to provide our town water to others without our knowledge and consent.

I remind the town council members and those who created the town' Comprehensive Plan just 2 years ago that in the plan, it was clearly stated that our present ground water is good and the supply is adequate until 2030 at the CURRENT levels of use (page 39 of the plan).

NOW let me get to the most recent issue.

As part of the permit application, the Virginia DEQ paid for a Source Water Protection Plan. This was only made available this past Friday. It is 155 pages long with many detailed charts, maps, measures and discussion. This report was created WITHOUT mention of increases to water withdrawal.

Several important items mentioned in the report are:

- page 9 the design capacity is limited by the present storage capacity. Simply put, as I understand it, it can NOT be expanded without modification.

- page 18 the Town should investigate impairments, ie. The Central Branch of Onancock Creek is polluted by E. coli and other bacteria. The sources are NOT known.

- page 18 the Town' wells are potentially at risk for saltwater intrusion, ie. The wells may become unusable if the aquifer is overdrawn.

- page 24 the Town should coordinate with other municipalities concerning future development. Where is our planning commission ?

- page 25 there is no emergency response plan and no plan to inform the public.

Table #1. Town of Onancock Wells

Well Name	Depth (feet)
Well 7	220
Well 8	220
Well 9	220

The Town of Onancock waterwork has an estimated water demand of 288,000 gallons per day (gpd), a total source capacity of 604,800 gpd, and a storage capacity of 377,600 gpd. The waterwork is permitted for 8,079,200 gallons per month and 80,615,000 gallons per year. The waterworks is limited to a design capacity of 377,600 gallons per day due to limited storage capacity.

3.5 Water Resources

3.5.1 Surface Water Resources

While the Town of Onancock drinking water source comes from three groundwater wells as described in Table 1, the waterbodies surrounding the SWPA contribute to how contamination and pollutants are transported within the SWPA. Table 5 summarizes the water quality impairments for water bodies located in the SWPA. The waterbodies described in Table 5 are shown in Figure 2 Topographic and Impaired Streams Map. As shown in Table 5, there are several impaired streams and waterbodies whose impairment cause has limited or no data. The Town of Onancock should investigate funding sources to apply for in order to assess these impairments and accurately determine their potential impact on the Town’s drinking water wells.

Table #5. Town of Onancock SWPA Impairments

Name	Location Description	Impairment Cause
Pungoteague Creek	Tributary that branches off near Dingleys Mill Road and crosses Savageville Road	Unknown/Not Assessed
Joynes Branch	Eastern riverine tributary to the Central Branch of Onancock Creek	DO, PH, and E. coli bacteria
Tributaries of Rattrap Creek	Tributaries of Rattrap Creek east of Route 13	Unknown/Not Assessed
Tributaries of Merry Branch	Tributaries of Merry Branch near intersection of Fairgrounds Road and Tasley Road	Unknown/Not Assessed
Various tributaries north and south of Onancock Tangier Fry	Various tributaries north and south of Onancock Tangier Fry including Back Creek, Chesconnessex Creek, Cedar Creek, Leatherberry Creek, Finneys Creek, Parkers Creek, Titlow Creek, South Branch Onancock Creek, Warrington Branch, and North Branch Onancock Creek	Unknown/Not Assessed
Ross Branch	Tributary to Folly Creek. Riverine section of Ross Branch, segment begins at headwaters extending downstream to start of tidal waters. Located south of Accomack.	Benthic Population
Chesapeake Bay	Entire Chesapeake Bay Watershed	Total Suspended Solids, Total Nitrogen, Total Phosphorus
Onancock Creek	Central Branch	Enterococcus

3.5.2 Saltwater Intrusion

According to the EPA, sea level rise in combination with increased groundwater pumping can increase saltwater intrusion in groundwater aquifers. This can result in increased treatment costs related to desalinization and in severe cases render groundwater wells unusable. Over utilization of the Middle Yorktown-Eastover aquifer has the potential for increasing saltwater intrusion and

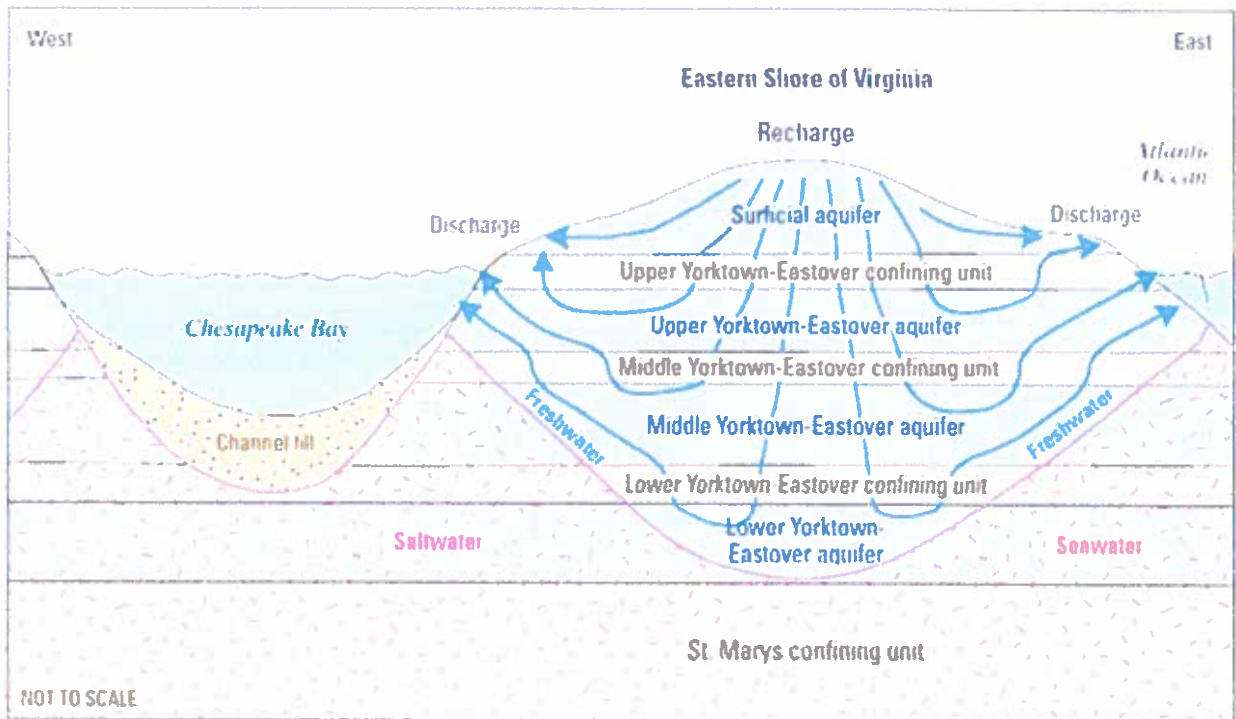


contaminating the Town of Onancock’s drinking water wells. The Town of Onancock should stay informed on the utilization of the Middle Yorktown-Eastover aquifer and implement conservation efforts as needed. Additionally, the Town of Onancock should stay up to date on current saltwater intrusion research such as coordinating with the Accomack-North Hampton Regional Planning District who are actively researching and implementing aquifer replenishment efforts.

3.5.3 Groundwater Resources

As described in Section 3.1, the Town of Onancock’s three groundwater wells withdraw from the confined Middle Yorktown-Eastover aquifer. According to the Town of Chincoteague Water Supply Plan there are four main aquifers within Accomack county suitable for drinking water use and are, in order of increasing depth, Columbia aquifer, and the upper, middle, and lower Yorktown-Eastover aquifers. These freshwater aquifers are divided by confining units comprised of very fine sand, silt, and clay. Because the Yorktown-Eastover aquifers are confined, their groundwater availability is characterized by low recharge rate, high storage, and low susceptibility to contamination. Figure 6 shows a vertical cross section of the aquifers and confining units for the Eastern Show of Virginia.

Figure 5 – Vertical Cross Section of the Eastern Shore of Virginia



EXPLANATION
 → General direction of ground water flow

Source: USGS Virginia Eastern Shore Groundwater Resources 2021.



4.0 POTENTIAL SOURCES OF CONTAMINATION

4.1 Identifying Existing Potential Sources of Contamination

As discussed in Section 2.1 of this Source Water Protection Plan (SWPP), potential contamination of the SWPA could occur via conduits into the confined aquifer. Based on the high usage of the aquifer as a water source in the area, the greatest potential pathway would occur through the introduction of contaminants from the surface through improperly constructed or defective wells within the SWPA. The private wells that have been identified within the Town of Onancock AOI are shown in Figure 1 and included in the potential conduit inventory.

The risk of contamination varies depending on the type of contaminant and its potential for reaching the groundwater. The highest priority area for protection includes the activities within the groundwater wells within the AOI. The Town of Onancock should use the potential conduits to evaluate the risk posed to the groundwater resources, and the need for protection measures.

VDH develops an inventory of PSC within the designated Zone 1 and Zone 2 SWPAs as described in Section 3.0 through its SWAP. Since the aquifer that the three groundwater wells withdrawal from is a confined aquifer with an identified AOI, the original inventory developed by the SWAP is not shown on Figure 1 and is only included in Appendix A for informational purposes. The potential conduits shown on Figure 1 and included in Appendix A are the biggest threat to the groundwater quality. The potential conduit inventory is summarized in Table 6.

The identification of existing contamination sources will help to address immediate concerns about the protection of the local water supply. A summary listing of various sources of contamination that are commonly considered is included in Appendix A.

Table #6. Town of Onancock Summary of Potential Conduits

Facility Type	Area of Impact
Private Wells	12
Impaired Streams	6
TOTAL	18

The potential conduits of most concern are the 12 privately owned wells located within the AOI.

4.2 Identifying New Potential Sources of Contamination

To ensure that the supply remains uncontaminated, continual review of land use activities and identification of potential sources of contamination and potential conduits is necessary. The Town of Onancock should be aware of the SWPA and AOI when making any decisions regarding land use and future development to ensure sources of contamination and potential conduits do not impact the Town's groundwater supply. Coordination with Accomack County and nearby municipalities may be needed depending on the scale and location of any proposed future development.

5.0 SOURCE WATER PROTECTION PLAN

The SWPP describes the actions necessary to minimize the risk to the quality of the source water utilized by the Town of Onancock. The goal of the plan is to reduce or eliminate potential threats to drinking water supplies within the SWPA, either through existing regulatory or statutory controls or by using non-regulatory (and often voluntary) measures centered around an involved public.

5.1 Existing Measures and Activities

Current measures in place for protecting the quality of water within the SWPA are:

- Virginia DEQ and VDH requirements for proper construction of new wells and abandonment of inactive or defective wells;
- Monthly and annual water testing;
- Routine maintenance of the water system;
- Security fencing around all wells;
- Town of Onancock Code of Ordinances (Chapter 14 – Environment) which specifies unlawful property maintenance conditions including the accumulation of trash and garbage that may have the potential to impact stormwater quality.
- Town of Onancock Code of Ordinances (Chapter 34 – Utilities, Article IV – Water Conservation) which specifies the measures to be followed in the event a drought or similar inadequate public water supply.
- Accomack County code (Chapter 38, Article III – Erosion and Sediment Control) serves to prevent the degradation of properties, stream channels, waters, and other natural resources of the County of Accomack by establishing requirements for the control of soil erosion, sediment deposition, and nonagricultural runoff and by establishing procedures whereby these requirements shall be administered and enforced.

5.2 Source Water Protection Emergency Response Plan

The Town of Onancock does not currently have an emergency response plan. The “Emergency Response Planning Template for Public Drinking Water Systems” produced for the Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP) National Network and the Rural Community Assistance Corporation (2005) was used to develop a draft Emergency Response Plan. The Emergency Response Plan provides contact information and defines emergency response procedures to aid the waterworks in responding to a source water contamination event. A copy of emergency response materials is included as Appendix C.

5.3 Public Education and Outreach

For citizens to appreciate the benefits of source water protection, they must first understand what the problems are in providing safe drinking water, and how they can become involved in the process. Public education is the greatest promoter of voluntary action and public support for a community’s wellhead source water protection program.

Activities and opportunities should be sought that will increase public awareness that source water protection is a local issue and that each citizen plays a part. A public education brochure template is available in Appendix D. An example of public education and outreach could include providing

I am Dana Simson, with both a business and home in Onancock. If any money is to be allocated to improve a parking lot, Queen Street has already been designated by Hill Associates as central to the health of downtown. The new visitor's center's back entrance area should not look run down and ignored.

I spent last Monday on the sign committee hearing a tenant of the school lament that they receive few visitors. The School's large parking lot is in better condition than Queen Street.

There are many other areas of this town that also need repair or attention to better serve the wider community.

In keeping with Onancock's dark sky focus, and increasing flooding issues due to excessive rainfall due to climate change, any new or improved parking lot should be permeable. There are many new substrates (some even from recycled materials) that look great and function like asphalt. Downtown Salisbury has long flooded, from both run off and tides. Our building there did not flood because we refused to pave our back parking lot.

Please enter this comment into the minutes of this meeting.

thank you.

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ORG statement 25 Mar 2024

My name is Kasey Grier; I live at 74 North Street.

About a year ago, I proposed that Town Councilors add "office hours" to their schedule. There, citizens could talk about issues in a casual setting. Some councilors and the mayor stated that phone calls, email and "running into each other" were sufficient for gaining constituent input.

I disagree. Serious issues facing Onancock include pedestrian safety, problematic residential zoning requirements, the special needs of North East, town water, a weak planning commission, the ~~management~~^{management} of public lands in the town, and the need to be able to exert more control over the proposed Liberty Street housing development. I can easily come up with half a dozen other issues, too.

Another channel for open communication is needed. I propose a biannual or quarterly town meeting. As long as official business is not conducted, a town meeting is not in violation of FOIA. These gatherings could take a number of formats. I'll suggest these in a separate email to the Town Council, Mayor and Town Manager. Participation in these meetings should be a requirement for Town Council, the Mayor and Town Manager. The Police Chief, the Fire Chief, and other local officials could be invited to participate in sessions when there is a topic that touches on their responsibilities.

We need more two-way communication and transparency in decision-making processes. The more we practice it, the better we will be at sharing ideas. Thank you for your attention, and I look forward to discussing this with you further.

I'm Rosemary Paparo and I reside in the Town of Onancock.

3/25/24
Town Council MTS

I hope you read my March 22nd e-mail regarding the issues with respect to the Town's signed agreement to supply potable water to Coastal Square & Residences development of more than 450 residential units and commercial tenants in Onley.

I trust you will convene a special town meeting to ~~discuss~~ ^{EXPLAIN} the ramifications of that agreement as well as any other "water agreements" for housing or other projects beyond town limits with all the Town's residents and taxpayers.

Since we don't know what Onancock's costs will be, and they could be very significant, allocating funds to the historic Onancock school at this time is premature and certainly not economically prudent.

Besides the burden which may be placed on residents, there will be a decidedly negative impact on current businesses and our ability to attract new businesses to Onancock if the agreement with Coastal and other entities causes a short or long term rise in the already steep cost of water in Onancock.

I ask that these comments be appended to the minutes of this evening's meeting.

Thank you.