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# Richmond Public Utilities and Services Commission

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## 2024 Report

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as per Richmond City Council Ordinance # 2023-315*

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# Glossary

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
Leak prone pipe	A segment of natural gas infrastructure that is at high risk of leaking as determined by the federal Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration. A pipe designated as leak prone is made of material including, but not limited to, unprotected steel, cast iron, wrought iron, copper, and certain plastics. Federal regulation requires that these pipes be removed from service by the year 2032. This regulation stems from the federal Pipeline Safety, Regulatory Certainty, and Job Creation Act of 2011 and the later federal PIPES Act of 2020.
PFAS	A category of long-lasting synthetic chemicals that pose health and environmental concerns. They are often referred to as forever chemicals because of their molecular durability. Six different PFAS chemicals were recently regulated by the federal Environmental Protection Agency, instructing water utilities to reduce the presence of those chemicals to near zero levels. This regulation is published under <a href="#">89-FR-32532</a> .

# Acknowledgements

The development of this report is a collaborative effort that would not be possible without the input of the people below. Thank you.

## Commission Members

Adriano Vieira	Andrew Grigsby	Christopher Rashad Green
Jaquelyn Johnson	John Russell	Kevin Cianfarini
Patrick Fanning	Tracey Thayer	Trieste Lockwood
William Nickerson		

## Ex-Officio Commission Members

April Bingham	Bentley Chan	Cindy McKelvy
Dawn Oleksy	George Hayes	Matt Longshore
Torrence Robinson	Wayne Stevens	

## Other Acknowledgements

Billy Vaughan	Bob Stone	Daniel Rifenburg
David Lansdell	Emily Messer	Eric Whitehurst
Gerald Westry	Joyce Davis	Laura Thomas
Lynnette Lemon	Paul Giglio	Rhonda Johnson
Steve Skinner		

# Executive Summary

The Public Utilities and Services Commission (“Commission”) was established in November 2023 pursuant to City Ordinance (“Ordinance”) 2023-315 to advise Richmond’s City Council and Mayor on the operations and financial integrity of the City’s utilities and other services. The Ordinance mandates focus on the natural gas, clean drinking water, wastewater, stormwater and solid waste services provided by the City, as well as certain sustainability measures. Additionally, the Commission is tasked with researching and advising the City on how it may facilitate a transition of the gas utility in accordance with its climate and ecological emergency declaration. Finally, the Commission is tasked with increasing public engagement with the City’s services and utility operations.

The Commission first began operations in June 2024 and has since met ten times. In doing so, the Commission has nearly completed laying the foundation on which it will operate; it has identified preliminary focus areas for its Subcommittees to focus on; and, it has developed recommendations for the Mayor that will ensure more efficient operations into the future. Specifically, the Commission has experienced recurring issues because three of the thirteen total possible appointments to the Commission remain vacant.

We hope that the current or future Mayor will act to fill the three vacancies of the Commission to ensure it is able to work effectively. During the six full Commission meetings, the Commission has failed to meet quorum three times. This has impacted not only the motions the Commission wishes to vote on, but also the participation of Commissioners during mixed in-person and virtual meetings. Furthermore, the required Solid Waste Utility Operations Subcommittee has not yet met due to lack of membership. In an attempt to alleviate these issues, the Commission has made recommendations to the Mayor’s Office of individuals to appoint to the three vacancies and it hopes to work with the current and future Mayors to ensure those vacancies are filled.

In conclusion, the Commission and its subcommittees have constructed the framework by which it operates and is ready to engage in the issue areas identified within the Ordinance and this Report. The Commission is confident it can provide meaningful policy and operational recommendations to Council and the Mayor in a timely manner provided its ability to operate at full capacity.

# Summary of Commission Activities and Description of Work to Date

As of this Report, the Commission and its subcommittees have met a total of ten times between June and October of 2024. A bulk of the effort thus far has been establishing the necessary foundation from which this Commission will operate. As a result, the Subcommittees which are capable of deeply researching specific utility topics have not yet had the opportunity to conduct the detailed research and work necessary to establish policy or operational recommendations for the City’s services. The list of Commission meetings can be found in the *Appendix* section. Future work of the Commission will now be able to predominantly focus on utility and service operations instead of the operations of the Commission itself.

## Election of Officers

The Commission elected its officers in June 2024 with seven members present at the Commission meeting. Kevin Cianfarini was elected Chair, Trieste Lockwood was elected Vice-Chair, and Andrew Grigsby was elected Secretary.

In the absence of formally adopted bylaws at the time of this report, the Commission Chair has opted to appoint subcommittee Chairs. If the final adopted bylaws specify an election process for subcommittee Chairs, officer elections will be held at the soonest opportunity within each subcommittee.

Name	Role	Term
Kevin Cianfarini	Chair	3 Years
Trieste Lockwood	Vice-Chair	2 Years
Andrew Grigsby	Secretary	2 Years

## Staffing and Creation of Subcommittees

The Commission has staffed the mandated Water, Stormwater, Wastewater, Solid Waste, and Natural Gas Utility Operations subcommittees; additionally, an ephemeral Bylaws Subcommittee was created and staffed.

In some instances, fully staffing the subcommittees was challenging. The Solid Waste Utility Operations Subcommittee, for example, is currently staffed by a single

commissioner and has yet to meet. Further challenges of this subcommittee are elaborated in the *Problem Statements and Recommendations* section of this report.

Likewise, Commissioners interested in serving on the Water, Stormwater, and Wastewater Utility Operations subcommittees substantially overlapped. For this reason, and because the Commission is not appointed to its full capacity, the chairs of those subcommittees have opted to concurrently meet for efficiency purposes, though they maintain separate agendas for each distinct subcommittee. These subcommittees are currently staffed by six people each and plan to operate independently of each other in the future. This is evolving, and the next concurrent meeting of these subcommittees intends to facilitate the independent operation of these subcommittees.

The Natural Gas Utility Operations Subcommittee is staffed by five commissioners at the time of writing. It maintains a single Chair and designates a Secretary during each meeting.

The Bylaws Subcommittee was created and is staffed with six commissioners as of this Report. This subcommittee has been discussing and developing draft bylaws for adoption by the Commission. The final document, once approved by the Commission, will provide guidelines and rules by which the Commission will operate. At that time, the Bylaws Subcommittee will no longer be needed.

The composition of the subcommittees is shown below.

<b>Gas</b>	<b>Water, Stormwater, &amp; Wastewater</b>	<b>Solid Waste</b>	<b>Bylaws</b>
Kevin Cianfarini (Chair)	Jaquelyn Johnson (Chair, Water)	Christopher Rashad Green (Chair)	Trieste Lockwood (Chair)
Trieste Lockwood	William Nickerson (Chair, Wastewater)		Kevin Cianfarini
John Russell	Patrick Fanning (Chair, Stormwater)		Jaquelyn Johnson
Tracey Thayer	Adriano Vieira		John Russell
Andrew Grigsby	John Russell		Tracey Thayer
	Christopher Rashad Green		Patrick Fanning

## Operations of Water, Stormwater, and Wastewater Subcommittees

As of this Report, the Water, Stormwater and Wastewater Utility subcommittees concurrently met on September 5, 2024. Meeting cadence, frequency and approach were discussed, resulting in the decision that the three subcommittees continue to meet together for the time being. The bulk of this meeting was spent reviewing and discussing Commissioner survey responses as they pertain to water, wastewater, and stormwater.

During these subcommittee meetings, Commissioners spoke with the Director of Public Utilities about the City's lead pipe replacement program, the associated regulations from the federal Environmental Protection Agency, and the grant funding which has been secured by the City to help residents afford lead pipe replacement. The Water Utility Operations Subcommittee agreed it is important to bolster public awareness of this program and requested a presentation that delves into further detail on this topic. At the conclusion of the Water Utility Operations Subcommittee meeting, the Director of Public Utilities provided informational resources to the Commission which are attached in the section entitled *Appendix*.

Additionally, Commissioners spoke of the large capital investments required for the implementation of sewer enhancements that will bring the City into combined sewer overflow compliance.

Wastewater operations have not yet been discussed substantively.

## Operations of Natural Gas Subcommittee

At the time of writing, the Natural Gas Utility Operations Subcommittee met on September 9, 2024. The subcommittee identified areas of interest on which it intends to focus research and discussion. Those topics are outlined in the section below entitled *Interest Areas of the Commission*.

Additionally, an in-depth discussion about the state of the gas utility's infrastructure took place, with a specific focus on the risk assessment, prioritization, and capital expenditure of leak prone pipe replacement. Commissioners sought to understand the financial implications of leak prone pipe replacement, particularly through obtaining information on the utility's current inventory of leak prone pipes, their replacement timelines, and how replacement project costs are calculated. This discussion led to the agreement by City Staff to provide documentation to Commissioners that will aid in the understanding of the City's infrastructure inventory and financial investments required to modernize that infrastructure.



These topics additionally yielded the request from Commissioners for the Department of Public Utilities Staff to offer presentations on the gas rate setting process and the risk assessment criteria used to determine the priority of leak prone pipe replacement. As a result, City Staff presented their current [strategic plan](#) and a brief overview of the rate setting process. Further information gathering and research is required for Commissioners to gain a comprehensive understanding of the rate setting process and the risk assessment criteria.

Finally, this subcommittee has been offered the opportunity to participate in a specialized version of the Department of Public Utilities' Citizen's Academy. The full Commission is interested in participating in this opportunity, and the Commission Chair is working with the Director of Public Utilities on organizing this event.

## Creation of Bylaws

The Bylaws Subcommittee has met twice at the time of writing and will likely require one additional meeting in November 2024 to finalize and propose bylaws to the full Commission. Shortly thereafter, the Commission intends to adopt the proposed bylaws and this subcommittee will suspend operations unless amendments to the Commission's bylaws are deemed necessary. The current draft bylaws specify several key policies for Commissioners, including:

1. The procedure for forfeiture of office, whether induced or voluntary;
2. The duties of the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson, and the Secretary of both the Commission and Subcommittees;
3. The elections of the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson, and the Secretary as well as the duration of their terms;
4. The operating relationship between members of the Administration and Commissioners, as well as City Council members and the Commissioners; and,
5. The rules of order.

## Creation of a Common Language Glossary

Finally, the Commission is undertaking the creation of a glossary of terms that facilitates mutual understanding among Commissioners and the Administration at the recommendation of the Director of Public Utilities. City services and utilities are mired in jargon making it difficult for the public to understand the implication of what's being communicated. The Commission hopes that this glossary will help clarify those communications and is committed to using plain language in its reports to the benefit of all readers, particularly Council, the Mayor, and citizens. The current iteration of this glossary can be found in the appendix section entitled *Commission Terminology*.

# Interest Areas of the Commission

A survey among the currently appointed Commissioners was taken to help guide areas of interest of the Commission. The responses to that survey, the presentations from the Department of Public Utilities, and further meetings among the full Commission and its subcommittees have helped inform the topic areas of interest outlined below. The original results to the survey can be found in the appendix section entitled *Commissioner Survey Results*.

## Potable Water

The Water Utility Operations Subcommittee has identified several areas of interest it intends to focus on. First, the Commission wishes to be an engaged partner with the Administration while it begins to participate in regional water supply planning with other municipal water utilities. During this process, the Commission hopes to understand and advise City Council and the Mayor on long-term surface water supply issues. The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality plans to convene a stakeholder group regarding legacy surface water withdrawals that are statutorily-exempt from Virginia water withdrawal permitting, of which the City is a stakeholder. The Commission seeks to advise the City's participation in this effort, including the submission of responses to forthcoming information requests from the Department of Environmental Quality. Likewise, the Commission is also interested in any new sources of significant demand from the City's drinking water system, such as future data centers.

Second, the Commission seeks to research how the City may reinforce and expand its education of the lead pipe removal program to the public. Within the forthcoming public engagement survey articulated in the *Public Engagement* section, the Commission intends to measure the salience of the lead pipe replacement program. Understanding what share of the public currently knows of the program and how members of the public will be most receptive to outreach will provide the most valuable insight into how the City can accelerate the removal of lead pipes.

Third, the Commission will study how to ensure adequacy and integrity of the public water supply in light of the increasing housing resources in the City, particularly proximal to the Broad Street corridor. In doing so, the Commission will consider how water rates are expected to change as the City's population and density increases.

Finally, the Commission had considered researching PFAS issues in the City only to find out the City's municipal water supply is uncontaminated. Instead, the Commission may research how to engage the public on this matter to preempt any misguided concern about PFAS.

## Wastewater

The City is currently implementing its Interim Plan for this Combined Sewer System as required by the Virginia General Assembly. The Commission is interested in tracking the progress and success of the Interim Plan projects. The City recently received approval for its Final Plan to address the Combined Sewer System which includes partial treatment of combined sewage and stormwater in the Shockoe Retention basin before discharging to the James River. The Commission is interested in the funding and implementation of the Final Plan's projects, especially the construction of significant infrastructure in the floodway. The Commission is also interested in opportunities to better inform residents of combined sewer overflows events as well as sanitary sewer overflow events similar to the [recent pipe rupture](#) at the pipeline trail. [RVAH<sub>2</sub>O](#) has done work in this area, particularly around public education of combined sewer overflow events, and the Commission would like to leverage this work for future use.

Second, the Commission is interested in understanding what impact, if any, PFAS have on wastewater biosolid byproducts from the wastewater treatment process. Commissioners are aware this is a burgeoning topic around the nation, but are currently unaware if this is an issue for the City's wastewater utility. Dedicated research is required to determine if any recommendations to Council and the Mayor are required.

Finally, the Commission will study how the City might increase the efficiency of its street drainage to help mitigate flooding issues. The Commission wishes to research and make recommendations on how the City might prevent vegetative growth and sediment buildup affecting curb inlets and their drainage effectiveness.

## Stormwater

The City is currently implementing the third cycle of its Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System General Permit. The permit includes a special condition to address nutrient and sediment discharges from the system which contribute to impairment of the Chesapeake Bay. Under Virginia's Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan for the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load, the City will be required to achieve a sixty percent reduction in nutrient and sediment discharges. The Commission is interested in the forthcoming Total Maximum Daily Load Action Plan that the City will be submitting to the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. Through this plan the City is expected to demonstrate how it will achieve these reductions, including opportunities for public engagement and input regarding the draft plan and how potential projects are identified and evaluated.

Additionally, the Commission is interested in the upgrades being implemented on the Combined Sewer System. It is one of the largest single utility projects in the City with

significant legal considerations and requirements. The Commission hopes to work with the Administration to understand these upgrades, and additionally aid in crafting requests for State and Federal assistance. At present, the Commission recommends that both current and future City Council members and Mayors continue advocating for grant funding that lessens the financial burden of this project on residents.

## Gas

The Natural Gas Utility Operations Subcommittee identified several areas of interest during its preliminary meeting with City Staff. First, the Commission seeks to understand the monetary effect that distribution system leaks impose on consumer rates and to what extent consumer rates compensate for infrastructure deficiencies in the City's gas distribution system. Understanding the impacts of leaks on customer bills will require working with the Administration to quantify the City's distribution system's leaks. A related but ancillary topic that the Commission wishes to research are the induced costs these leaks impose on the General Fund – for example, the costs incurred by deploying the fire department to gas leaks.

Second, the Commission wishes to understand the capital expenditure required to mitigate those leaks through modernization and repair of the gas distribution system. Modernizing the City's gas infrastructure will require a large upfront investment that, in the absence of external funding, will increase the rates the City's gas customers pay.

Third, the Commission intends to research the expenditures necessary to comply with federal regulation stipulating the removal of leak prone pipes from service by the year 2032. In doing so, the Commission seeks to obtain an inventory of the remaining leak prone pipes operating within the City's service territory, the estimated investment required to comply with federal regulation, and what external funding is available to the City. To date, the City has received \$49 million in funding through the National Gas Distribution Infrastructure Modernization Grant Program. The Commission will research the terms of this grant funding such that it can advise the Mayor and Council on expenditures of these funds.

Fourth, the Commission will research the existing rate structures for gas customers to determine if any alternative pricing could be more equitable for our residential, commercial, and industrial rate classes. In doing so, the Commission seeks to review how fixed and variable charges are distributed among ratepayers today and the existing contracts between the City and its industrial gas customers. The Commission additionally hopes to gain a thorough understanding of the rate setting procedure so that it may educate the public and advise City Council and the Mayor accordingly.

Fifth, the Commission wishes to investigate the numerous reports on both the personal and environmental health impacts of direct gas usage in buildings. The Commission is aware of multiple national and global reports about the health impacts of direct gas usage, and intends to advise the Mayor and Council on this issue further with the help of the Richmond / Henrico Health Districts.

Finally, the Commission seeks to understand the costs and benefits of maintaining and modernizing our gas infrastructure into the future while also considering the ensuing Energy Transition. The Commission will study the increased prevalence of renewable energy and its impact on global and local energy markets to inform the Commission's recommendations. The Commission will search for pathways to effectively phase out the City's reliance on natural gas to the best interest of City ratepayers in accordance with Sec. 2-1202.7(a) of the Ordinance. In researching this shift, the Commission will work alongside the Department of Public Utilities and the Office of Sustainability while engaging with union leadership and ensure valuable City staff are prioritized during an equitable clean energy transition; it will research the terms of both present and future grants to help determine financial pathways for achieving the transition; it will consider alternative revenue models for the City, and by extension, the payment in lieu of taxes to the General Fund; it will investigate Virginia State Law to determine how the City is able to accomplish our shared goals; and, it will consider the costs and benefits to ratepayers of different approaches the City may undertake to achieve its stated transition goal. The Commission wishes to make recommendations on this challenging topic so that Council and the Mayor may act proactively and with a plan, not reactively amid chaos. The Commission hopes to facilitate a well-planned transition that preserves the City's financial well-being, its unionized workforce, and the needs of City residents.

## Public Engagement

The Commission seeks to engage the public to inform its recommendations to Council and the Mayor. In doing so, the Commission will invite different stakeholders to discuss various issues; it will invite union leadership to speak about developing and retaining our workforce; and it will work with the Department of Public Utilities, the Department of Public Works, and the Office of Sustainability to survey the public about the City's services and utilities. Such a survey may explore topics such as measuring the public's knowledge of existing utility programs (like the lead pipe replacement program) in order to gather and, importantly, consider the public's input pursuant to the Ordinance. Lastly, the Commission seeks to iteratively develop its recommendations to Council and the Mayor alongside the public.

# Problem Statements and Recommendations

## Issues Attaining Quorum

The Commission is allocated thirteen appointed voting members, with eight members being appointed by City Council and the remaining five being appointed by the Mayor. As of writing this report, three of the five seats appointed by the Mayor remain vacant. Those three vacancies have contributed towards issues attaining quorum for the Commission which has impeded the Commission's work and progress. The role of Commissioner is a volunteer position with time requirements that frequently overlap normal business operating hours. Therefore, Commission meetings often conflict with Commissioners' employment engagements and obligations. This issue is illustrated by the number of meetings necessary to adopt a virtual participation policy for the Commission – its first meeting occurred in June 2024, but the Commission was unable to adopt this policy until October 2024 partly because of the inability to attain quorum.

Additionally, it is possible that the current members of the Commission may resign or be removed in the future. It is crucial that there is an effective and appropriate policy in effect to ensure that we have, as much as possible, a full, working Commission.

Issues attaining quorum wouldn't be entirely solved by having a fully staffed Commission, but they would be modified. Our recommendation to the current or future Mayor is to fully exercise the mandated ability to appoint members to the Commission. Commissioners have made recommendations to the Mayor for the current vacancies, and would happily meet to discuss those recommendations further.

## Issues Staffing the Solid Waste Subcommittee

The lack of a fully appointed Commission not only impacts the ability to attain quorum, but it also has resulted in the Commission's inability to operate the standing Solid Waste Utility Operations Subcommittee. At the time of writing, this subcommittee is staffed by a single Commissioner and has not yet met. This issue may be alleviated in the short term by ensuring the Mayor has fulfilled the allocation of five appointments, of which only two have been made as of this Report. In the future, the Commission intends to review and provide recommended amendments to the Ordinance which will address these topics.

## Securing Funding for the Combined Sewer Overflow Project

In the 1800s, parts of Richmond's sewer system were designed as a combined sewer system. These pipes were made to transport both wastewater and stormwater. Today, more than one hundred fifty years later, these pipes are still in use. During heavy rains or melting snow, sewer flows exceed capacity and the overflow goes into the local waterways – including the James River.

Richmond's combined sewer system has a drainage area of 19 square miles with 25 outfalls. While Richmond has spent more than \$300 million since 1988 with assistance from the State to reduce over 3 billion gallons of combined sewer overflow per year, additional funding is needed to capture, convey and treat up to 5 billion gallons per year – which represents more than 90% of stormwater.

In 2020, the Virginia General Assembly passed Senate Bill 1064, which required the City to develop Interim and Final Plans to further improve water quality in the James River. The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and the City then amended the 2005 Special Order by Consent to incorporate Senate Bill 1064.

- **Interim Plan** – Submitted on time and includes 10 projects to reduce 182 million gallons of combined sewer overflow volume per year at a cost of \$33.3 million. These projects were approved by the State for completion of construction and related activities by July 1, 2027.
- **Final Plan** – re-evaluate the remaining 2005 Special Order by Consent projects and identify system-wide improvements to incorporate Senate Bill 1064. According to the State, Richmond made a timely submission of the Final Plan by July 1, 2024. After reviewing Richmond's Final Plan, the State has determined the plan complies with requirements identified in the 2005 Order, 2020 Amendment, and the 2020 CSO Law. Completion of construction and related activities will be July 1, 2035.

Without grant funding, the average monthly residential wastewater bill will increase substantially, which would be unaffordable for all but one census tract in Richmond. The Commission advises current and future elected officials to continue working with the General Assembly and other external partners to source and secure funding for this project.

# Appendices

## Appendix 1: Commission Meetings to Date

Group Name	Date
Public Utilities and Services Commission	October 25th, 2024
Bylaws Subcommittee	October 22nd, 2024
Public Utilities and Services Commission	October 18th, 2024
Public Utilities and Services Commission	October 7th, 2024
Bylaws Subcommittee	September 12th, 2024
Natural Gas Utility Operations Subcommittee	September 9th, 2024
Concurrent Water, Wastewater & Stormwater Utility Operations Subcommittees	September 5th, 2024
Public Utilities and Services Commission	August 29th, 2024
Public Utilities and Services Commission	July 29th, 2024
Public Utilities and Services Commission	June 17th, 2024



## Appendix 2: Commission Terminology

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
ARPA	American Rescue Plan Act
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CSS	Combined Sewer System
CSO	Combined Sewer Overflow
DEQ	The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
DIP	Ductile iron pipe
EPA	The Federal Environmental Protection Agency
MS4	Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System
PFAS	Polyfluoroalkyl substances
PVC	Polyvinyl chloride
USC	United States Code
VAC	Virginia Administrative Code
PHMSA	The Federal Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration
DPU	The Richmond Department of Public Utilities
DPW	The Richmond Department of Public Works
OOS	The Richmond Office of Sustainability

## Appendix 3: Commissioner Survey Results

Prior to the PUSC meeting held on August 29, 2024, Commissioners were presented with a survey (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PUSCsubcom>) in which they could list particular concerns they hoped the Commission's committees could address. Those survey responses are listed below.

### Water Utility Operations Subcommittee

- Understanding the cost to make drinking water / public awareness. Then it's connection to pay rates
- Drinking water quality and safety associate with tap water / public awareness
- The provision of sufficient safe and clean water to residents
- Removing lead pipes from the grid
- Promoting Heat pump water heaters. Removing old, outdated combustion heaters.
- Safe, sustainable, and affordable water supply including lead pipe replacement.
- High quality, efficient operations
- Facilitating conservation
- Accurate billing
- Electrify fleets
- Ensuring water quality and maintaining efficiencies in meeting increased demands.
- PFAS [Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances - widely used, long lasting chemicals, components of which break down very slowly over time]
- Rates
- Financial viability

### Stormwater Utility Operations Subcommittee

- Education on stormwater runoff implications and programs to reduce it on a small (homesites) and large-scale (commercial and public utility projects)
- The safe removal of stormwater to ensure no damage to personal or municipal property
- Removing combined sewer storm water systems
- Meeting its MS4 obligations and exploring the best sites for projects even if not on city owned properties
- Facilitating minimum run-off, efficient operations, minimizing pollution reaching the James
- Maintaining stormwater management efficiency(ies) from inlets to discharge points.
- CSO, keeping the James River clean

### Wastewater Utility Operations Subcommittee

- Increase visibility on the CSO program, timeline, challenges, etc.
- The safe removal of wastewater to ensure no damage to personal or municipal property
- Efficient treatment facilities

- Complying with CSO consent order and General Assembly deadline
- Minimizing sanitary sewer overflows from the collection system and better informing the public of bacteria risks in the James River
- High quality treatment
- Efficient operations
- Minimizing pollution reaching the James River
- Morale and safety
- Electrifying fleets

### **Solid Waste Utility Operations Subcommittee**

- Overall understanding of its operations / public awareness
- What happens to recyclables?
- Where does the waste go to?
- Capacity and long-term plans
- Optimization of trash & recycles collection frequency (Do we generate more recyclables than trash? This happens in our home, but the frequency of collection does not match that. Could customers opt for a smaller trash bin?)
- The safe and reliable provision of solid waste removal and disposal from residential, municipal, and commercial establishments in a manner that protects residents, local waterways, the James River and our city
- Recycling plants
- Outreach
- Waste diversion
- Maximizing recycling, composting, and reusing
- Electrifying fleets
- Composting
- Recycling

### **Natural Gas Subcommittee**

- Rate fee structure
- Sustainability aspects
- Potential transition to renewables
- The provision of safe and reliable natural gas service to the residents and businesses of Richmond at a reasonable and accurate rate
- Repair and retrofit existing systems
- Leak detection and elimination
- Public safety
- Long-term economics of the methane business
- Transitioning the City off methane
- Facilitating customers' energy conservation
- Accurate billing
- Gas utility infrastructure operational integrity and efficiency.
- Fiscal integrity
- Phasing out Richmond's reliance on gas in accordance with the Climate Emergency Resolution
- Pollution resulting from the distribution system

- Managing leak prone pipe remediation in a financially responsible way

During the October 7 meeting of the PUSC, several commissioners noted difficulty accessing the survey and offered the following additional points to add to the above list:

- Lead pipe replacement program (for potable water)
- Effective community education
- Cost of combined sewer overflow project
- Regional water supply planning – with nearby jurisdictions
- Avoiding conflicts of interest when engaging outside experts
- Effects of commission work on City employees and their labor union
- Gas utility's eventual phasing out in order to comply with Council's climate emergency declaration, logistical concerns and the subsequent effects on employees and city finances
- Project selection process for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) and Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) action plans
- WW: interim and combined plans for combined sewer overflow (CSO), funding, process of state approvals

## Appendix 4: The List of Commissioners and their Terms

Member Name and Address	Date Appointed	Term	Commence	Terminate
Kevin Cianfarini	02/12/2024	First	02/12/2024	02/11/2027
Patrick Fanning	02/12/2024	First	02/12/2024	02/11/2026
Christopher Rashad Green	02/12/2024	First	02/12/2024	02/11/2027
Andrew Grigsby	02/12/2024	First	02/12/2024	02/11/2026
Jacquelyn Johnson	02/12/2024	First	02/12/2024	02/11/2027
Trieste Lockwood <b>Mayoral Appointment</b>	02/22/2024	First	02/22/2024	02/21/2026
William Nickerson	02/12/2024	First	02/12/2024	02/11/2027
John Russell	02/12/2024	First	02/12/2024	02/11/2027
Tracey Thayer	02/12/2024	First	02/12/2024	02/11/2026
Adriano Vieira <b>Mayoral Appointment</b>	07/02/2024	First	07/02/2024	07/01/2025
(Vacant) <b>Mayoral Appointment</b>				
(Vacant) <b>Mayoral Appointment</b>				
(Vacant) <b>Mayoral Appointment</b>				

April Bingham  
Director – Department of  
Public Utilities

Torrence Robinson  
Deputy Director, Department  
of Public Works

Dawn Olesky; Energy  
Manager, Office of  
Sustainability

Cindy McKelvy;  
Environmental Health  
Manager, Richmond Henrico  
Health District

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Wayne Stevens  
Interim Director  
(Goochland DPU)

Matt Longshore  
(Hanover DPU)

Bentley Chan  
(Henrico DPU)

Joyce Davis

## Appendix 5: Water Utility Operations Subcommittee Meeting Resources

- The following websites contain valuable information about all services rendered by the Department of Public Utilities:
  - [www.rva.gov/public-utilities](http://www.rva.gov/public-utilities)
  - [www.richmondgasworks.com](http://www.richmondgasworks.com)
- Attached is a “one-pager” highlighting facts about the utility, including regulatory oversight. The online version can be found via this link:
- <https://www.rva.gov/public-utilities/news/richmond-gas-utility-overview>
- DPU invites the PUSC members to follow us on social media. Here’s where you can find us!
  - **Twitter/X:** @RichmondDPU and @DPUStreetNews
  - **Facebook:** RichmondDPU
- Attached are copies of the latest customer letters. A new letter is generated and distributed to gas and water customers quarterly. Letters date back to March 2023. They all contain valuable information and are housed on the [www.rva.gov/public-utilities](http://www.rva.gov/public-utilities) website.
  - September 2024
  - June 2024
  - March 2024
  - January 2024