

Browns Run, Craig Run and Marsh Run TMDL Implementation Plan Development

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

Cedar Lee Middle School, Bealeton, Virginia

Residential Working Group Meeting Summary

Attendance:

Jenny Biche	Oscar Garcia	Bob Slusser
Rich Buchanan	John Green	Whitney Wright
Toni Buchanan	Emma Johnson	
Deirdre Clark	Charles Lunsford	
Katie Conaway	Jennifer O'Reilly	

Overview

- ✦ Virginia Department of Health:
 - Assists in identifying failing septic systems, straight pipes and alternative treatment systems;
 - Administers cost share programs to pump out, repair or replace septic systems;
 - Maintains records of sewage disposal permits;
 - Assists homeowners in locating septic systems; and
 - Can provide information on the proper installation and function of all systems.
- ✦ Septic System Concerns:
 - Updated information needed is to determine the number of failing septic systems in the watershed;
 - Significant changes in land use and population have occurred in these watersheds since the TMDL study was completed;
 - Technical adequacy of private sector inspectors was questioned;
 - Agency cutbacks have impacted the availability of government staff; and
 - Alternative systems:
 - Costly to install, expensive to maintain, and often mechanically complex; and
 - Media disposal sites difficult to find and few in number

Education/ Outreach

- ✦ Homeowners
 - Need assistance in locating septic systems;
 - Should be educated in the function, proper use and maintenance of residential septic systems;
 - Pumping required every 5 years in Fauquier County; and
 - Education needed on the proper use of fertilizers and impacts of excessive application.
- ✦ Proper pet waste management education is needed:
 - Consider ordinance to require proper management
 - Encourage Home Owners' Associations, veterinarians, kennels, hunt clubs and pet stores to promote proper pet waste management by providing information on the benefits of the following:
 - Pet waste composters for homeowners;
 - Collection kiosks on walking trails and in parks; and
 - Basic clean-up plans on public and private properties.

Water Quality

- Characteristics of the public water supply concerns residents:
 - Unpleasant odor and taste;
 - Discoloration of laundry and bath fixtures;
 - Residents have investigated possibility of whole home filters; and
 - Residents encouraged to contact Fauquier County Water and Sewer Authority to discuss problems in detail
- Amount of bacteria generated by different animals can help prioritize target areas when looking for solutions to reduce bacteria concentrations.