

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

Tuesday, September 28, 2010

7 P.M.

Cedar Lee Middle School, Bealeton, Virginia

Residential Working Group Meeting #2

General Attendance (Agricultural and Residential Working Groups):

Jenny Biche', Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission
Rick Buchanan, Citizen
Toni Buchanan, Citizen
Deirdre Clark, Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission
Debbie Cross, DCR
Daron Culbertson, Citizen
Rick Dorkey, Citizen
Virginia Dorkey, Citizen
Roger Flint, USDA, NRCS
John Green, Citizen
Howard Grove, Citizen
Eugene Hankinson, Citizen
Charles Lunsford, VA Dept. of Conservation and Recreation
James Messick, Citizen
John Schied, Fauquier Farm Bureau
Byron Petrauskas, Blue Ridge Environmental Solutions, Inc.
Bob Slusser, VA Dept. of Conservation and Recreation
Bryant Thomas, VA DEQ
Alton Willingham, Citizen
Whitney Wright, VA Department of Health

Introduction and General Information Provided:

- Attendees were welcomed and introductions were made. Attendees were provided with minutes from the last Public, Residential, Agricultural and Government Working Group Meetings as well as various hand outs on the Browns, Craig and Marsh Run TMDL-IP. The material was reviewed and high-lights of each meeting were noted.
- Information on the role and responsibilities of the Steering Committee was presented; attendees were invited and encouraged to sign up to be on the Committee.
 - The Steering Committee, comprised of representatives from the Agricultural, Residential and Government Working Groups, will meet on November 4, 2010 at 7pm at Cedar Lee Middle School.
 - Those interested in participating as part of the Steering Committee should contact Deirdre Clark (contact information listed below).
- The final Public Meeting will be held on November 16, 2010 at 7pm at Cedar Lee Middle School, at which time the draft TMDL-IP will be presented for public comment.
- Supervisor Stribling forwarded his regrets for being unavailable for the meeting. He was working with others in the community, dealing with the aftermath of the Livestock Auction fire in Marshall.
- Attendees broke out into two Working Groups: Agricultural and Residential.

Residential Working Group

Attendance:

Jenny Biche', Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission
Rick Buchanan, Citizen
Toni Buchanan, Citizen
Deirdre Clark, Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission
John Green, Citizen
Charles Lunsford, VA Dept. of Conservation and Recreation
Bob Slusser, VA Dept. of Conservation and Recreation
Bryant Thomas, VA DEQ
Whitney Wright, VA Department of Health

Discussion Points:

- Homeowners commented on the quality of the public water supply:
 - Continual need to replace appliances due to calcium build up from the hard water;
 - Discoloration of bathroom fixtures;
 - Damage to glassware; and,
 - Citizens were informed that their concerns, as previously noted, had been passed along to Supervisor Chester Stribling. They were encouraged to contact Supervisor Graham and request appropriate action from decision makers.
- In response to citizens' questions regarding the validity of TMDL testing techniques and sample results, DEQ provided the following explanation of testing protocols and procedures –
 - A stream is listed as “impaired” if 10% of the samples exceeds the bacteria standard single sample maximum of 235 colonies per 100 mL of water;
 - Over a two year period, samples are taken at a public access point (bridge crossings) every other month to capture the variability of weather patterns and flow conditions;
 - Generally 12 samples every two years are collected: if 2 out of 10 samples exceed the bacteria standard, the stream is placed on the “Impaired Waters” list
- Citizen monitoring:
 - Beneficial because it helps identify areas that need additional testing; and
 - EPA does not accept coliscan monitoring results for the listing or de-listing of streams, only DEQ ambient monitoring results are used for that purpose.
- The term “watershed” was clarified and a map of the three watersheds in question distributed.
- In response to a question regarding the testing of seasonal streams, it was noted that DEQ’s testing takes into account all types of streams and weather conditions within the watershed.
- The availability of funding for additional water quality testing, TMDL-IP monitoring, and BMPs was discussed. Potential government and private sources were identified (se Action Chart).
- Impacts to water quality were discussed:
 - Agricultural and residential activities, along with pet waste are the principle contributors of bacteria;
 - Wildlife adds to the bacterial load, but generally in amounts secondary to those sources listed above;
 - Testing for the impacts of fertilizers and other chemicals, including pesticides, can be done; however, it is not cost effective and done only when necessary, as in the case of extensive fish kills, etc.;
 - Most fish kills are due to low dissolved oxygen, the effect of excessive nutrients;
 - Biologists are included in the stream-assessment team; and
 - Attendees were referred to the Action Chart (attached) which identifies source issues, corrective actions, potential funding and agencies to assist with remediation.
- On-site sewage disposal:
 - Failing septic tanks and straight pipes are illegal in Fauquier County;
 - The method used to estimate the number of failing systems was described;
 - The Health Department representative indicated that more failing systems can be repaired as opposed to a replacement;
 - Alternative systems;
 - are costly to install and maintain,
 - increasing in numbers due to small lot sizes and poor soil quality,
 - New laws will require homeowners to have an operator to run and maintain the system and maintain a log documenting yearly inspections and sampling.
- Pet waste digesters:
 - Recommended as a BMP cost share program for homeowners;
 - Not practical for homeowners with several acres;
 - Biodegradable bags and pet waste kiosks are more useful in common areas. These areas will need to be identified and facilities maintained.

What's Next?

Attendees were encouraged to sign up participate as part of the Steering Committee by contacting Deirdre Clark or Byron Petrauskas before the scheduled Steering Committee meeting on November 4, 2010. All meeting notes, maps and presentations, as well as the draft document, may be viewed on-line at http://www.rregion.org/tmdl_bcm.html

The final public meeting will be held on November 16, 2010 at 7:00pm at Cedar Lee Middle School in Bealeton, VA.

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