

Browns Run, Craig Run, and Marsh Run Water Quality Improvement Plan

AGRICULTURAL WORKING GROUP MEETING SUMMARY

September 28, 2010 at 7:00 PM (Cedar Lee Middle School; Bealeton, VA)

AWG Meeting Attendees

Debbie Cross (VADCR)	Daron Culbertson (Citizen)	Roger Flint (NRCS)	Howard L. Grove (Citizen)	Eugene Hankinson (Citizen)
James Messick (Citizen)	Byron Petrauskas (BRES)	John Schied (Farm Bureau)	Jim Stone (Fauquier Co. PC)	Tom Turner (JMSWCD)

Alton Willingham
(Citizen)

Introduction and General Information

Deirdre Clark with Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission welcomed attendees and introductions were made. Attendees were provided with minutes from the last public meeting and the Residential, Agricultural and Government Working Group Meetings. Material was reviewed and highlights of each meeting were provided by Deirdre Clark, Byron Petrauskas, and Charlie Lunsford. 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. Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for November 4, 2010 and final public meeting will be held on November 16, 2010, both at Cedar Lee Middle School. Attendees broke out into two Working Groups: Agricultural and Residential.

Agricultural Working Group Summary

Byron Petrauskas with Blue Ridge Environmental Solutions, Inc. led the facilitation at the Agricultural Working Group meeting. Attendees reviewed a handout prepared by BRES with existing livestock exclusion fencing, estimated exclusion fencing needed in each impairment, estimated control measures with unit costs needed to meet pasture and cropland bacteria load reductions, cost-share program funding examples, and targeted implementation stages for control measure installation. Methodology of BMP quantification was outlined. Tom Turner noted fencing reported in the VADCR BMP database is "streambank excluded", which accounts for one-sided or two-sided fencing, and an assumption that it represents all two-sided fencing should not be made. Roger Flint noted the CRP fencing practice is eligible for pasture, however, majority of the CRP practices are applied on cropland. Map illustrating potential livestock exclusion fencing locations was reviewed by attendees. Particular areas of interest in the watersheds were pointed out and updates to fencing estimates were marked on the map. Concern for fence maintenance in flood prone areas was talked about. Tom Turner pointed out JMSWCD has worked with farmers in similar circumstances and cost-share opportunities exist to provide effective conservation solutions in these areas. It was mentioned that the minimal flow of Craig Run in summer does not provide a water source for livestock and other precautions are already in place to provide water. According to attendees, two of the four dairies were converted to beef operations and were unsure of one of the remaining operations.