

Carter Run, Great Run, Thumb Run, and Deep Run TMDL Implementation Plan Development

Government Working Group Report to Steering Committee

January 12, 2006

Working Group Members

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Jeffrey Walker, Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission

Meeting Dates

Thursday, June 2, 2005, 3:00 – 5:00 PM
Monday, October 3, 2005, 2:00 – 4:00 PM

Goal and Tasks

The primary responsibilities of the Government Working Group (GWG) are the following: 1) identify funding sources, 2) identify available technical resources, 3) identify appropriate “measurable goals” and timeline for achievement, 4) identify regulatory controls in place, and 5) identify potential parties to be responsible for agricultural and residential implementation.

Key Topics and Recommendations

The following key topics and recommendations resulted from the two GWG meetings:

Local/State/Federal Programs that Address Bacteria Pollution Sources

- On-Site sewage Disposal Systems:
 1. County ordinance requires an annual inspection of alternative waste treatment systems.

2. New homes are required to have a minimum of 1,000 square feet of land available for a replacement drainfield.
 3. All homes built after 2003 must have the septic tank pumped once every 5 years.
- Pet Waste:
 1. There are no County restrictions or ordinances that deal with the disposal of pet waste. The Town of Warrenton has a pet waste ordinance.
 2. Most practicable approach to attain allocations in TMDLs would be staged implementation by focusing on education of pet owners regarding need for proper disposal of pet waste; inventorying the number of hunt clubs, pet training facilities, boarding facilities and grooming operations to get a number of such businesses and locations by watershed, and work with a selected few to initiate several demonstration projects for properly disposing of pet waste with the concept of following up with cost-share control measures.
 3. BMPs such as rain gardens and vegetative buffers on residential land are the preferred control measures with structural BMPs (i.e., retention ponds, infiltration trenches, bioretention filters, etc.) a last resort based on implementation costs and maintenance.
 4. Educational signage and pet waste disposal stations on public lands in the four watersheds are recommended.
 5. GWG believes that Fauquier County is better suited to take on the responsibility of implementing the pet waste component of the IP with technical assistance from DCR, JMSWCD, and VDH.
 - Agriculture:
 1. USDA Conservation Reserve and Enhancement Program has been a popular program in the County. Other USDA programs utilized locally include EQIP, Wetland Reserve Program and Grassland Reserve Program.
 2. Lack of fencing contractors in the County is somewhat of a problem (only 7 or 8).
 3. Number of non-bovine livestock types in the watersheds and most do not have a concept of clean water.
 4. The SL-6A practice (Small Grazing Management System) is a tax credit only practice for landowners that are not in agricultural production. Consideration should be given to making this a cost-share practice with TMDL cost-share funds.

- Wildlife:
 1. VA DGIF's position is that increasing kill limits or bag limits for deer will not control overpopulations of deer in the County. There is not enough public land to hunt and the lack of access to private land is a significant issue that contributes to a lack of hunters to manage deer populations. Land use changes and the way residential landscapes are currently designed are contributing to increasing numbers of deer in residential areas.
 2. Canadian Geese are protected as a migratory waterfowl. Federal government tells DGIF how many can be killed, current limit 5 geese/per day. Vegetation along farm ponds would discourage geese access.
 3. GWG recommends that educational materials be prepared to help landowners understand why wildlife populations are increasing and the various options that are available to landowners to manage wildlife populations on their land. Educational funds made available during implementation phase should be directed at wildlife sources and management options, DGIF is interested in helping to develop educational materials.

Regulatory Controls

- Sewage Handling and Disposal Regulations and Agricultural Stewardship Act will be mentioned in the implementation plan.
- Local ordinances pertaining to the maintenance and operation of on-site sewage disposal systems will be referenced in the implementation plan.

Monitoring

- The GWG members expressed to DEQ staff at the October 3rd working group meeting the desire to have at least one continual monitoring station in each of the four watersheds beginning in 2006 to measure implementation progress. A request via letter was forwarded to Bryant Thomas with the DEQ Woodbridge Office on November 28.
- John Marshall SWCD has been funded by DEQ to conduct monthly coliscan monitoring for *E. coli* from 10/05 through 9/06. Station description and locations will be included in the implementation plan.

Primary Funding Sources

- Engineering Concepts, Inc. prepared a handout that summarized the various state and federal sources of funding that could be potentially used in the implementation phase.
- Local sources of funding have not been identified.

Integration with Other Activities in the County

- Other activities that have been identified that need to be referenced in the IP and discussion on their integration are as follows:
 1. Fauquier Riparian Easement Program Solutions (FREPS) Initiative
 2. Fauquier County Water Resources Management Plan
 3. Chesapeake Bay Nutrient and Sediment Reduction Strategy for the Rappahannock River Basin.

Milestones/Timeline

- Engineering Concepts, Inc. will develop implementation-based timelines (e.g., percentage of various BMPs/control strategies by source category to be implemented on an annual basis for a 5-year period) and some water quality based timelines (e.g., percentage reductions of bacteria standard violations) to be presented to the Steering Committee.