

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

Government Working Group, June 2, 2005 Meeting Summary - Final

Attendees

Deirdre Clark, Fauquier County Community Development; Gray Coyner, John Marshall SWCD; Tony Hooper, Fauquier County Administration; Ron Hughes, VA Dept. of Game & Inland Fisheries; Jennifer Krick, John Marshall SWCD; Charlie Lunsford, VA Dept. Conservation & Recreation; Byron Petrauskas, Engineering Concepts, Inc.; Rex Rexrode, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service; Jim Sawyer, Fauquier County Community Development; Charles Shepherd, VA Dept. Health; Mary Sherrill, Fauquier County Community Development; Mary Lou Trimble, John Marshall SWCD; Tom Turner, John Marshall SWCD; BJ Valentine, Fauquier County Community Development; Jeffrey Walker, Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission.

Review of bacteria TMDLs

- Overall nonpoint source load allocations for each of the four impairments were discussed.
- Load allocations are found in the TMDLs for livestock access to streams, upland agricultural loads, human sources from on-site sewage disposal, pets, and wildlife.
- Implementation will be based on a staged approach.

Public Participation Process

- Public participation process was discussed which consists of (2) public meetings; meetings of government, agriculture, and residential working groups, and a steering committee.

Primary Role of the Government Working Group

- Roles of the government working group were presented and discussed.

Implementation Plan Components

- Requirements from the Virginia Water Quality Monitoring Information and Restoration Act of 1997 were discussed.
- Requirements of the EPA 319 Program (9) eligibility criteria in order to receive TMDL implementation funding were discussed.
- Implementation Plan will be written to address state and federal requirements mentioned above.

Overview of Programs in Fauquier County that Address On-Site Sewage Disposal Systems, Pet Waste, Agriculture and Wildlife

On-Site Sewage Disposal Systems

- Fauquier County local ordinance requires an annual inspection of alternative waste treatment systems.

- New homes are required to have a minimum of a 1,000 square feet available for a replacement drainfield.
- All homes build after 2003 must have the septic tank pumped once every 5 years.

Pet Waste

- There are no local restrictions or ordinances that deal with the disposal of pet waste.
- Group discussed that to address load reductions necessary in TMDL the most practicable approach would be education and to have appropriate disposal materials at public park areas in the watersheds.
- There was mention that in some areas of the state with a significant pet bacteria loading a number of dog kennels are present. May need to inventory dog kennels on the impaired streams.

Agriculture

- USDA Conservation Reserve and Enhancement Program has been a popular program in the County.
- Lack of fencing contractors in the County is somewhat of a problem (7 or 8).
- Number of non-bovine livestock types in the watersheds and most do not have a concept of clean water.
- 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.
- Other USDA programs that were mentioned included EQIP, WHIP, Wetland Reserve Program and Grassland Reserve program.

Wildlife

- Increased kill limits or bag limits is not what is needed to control overpopulation of deer in the County.
- There is not enough public land to hunt on and the access to land for hunting is a significant issue as more and more landowners for various reasons deny access for hunting. Lack of hunters contributing to overpopulations.
- Land use changes and the way residential landscapes are currently managed have increased deer populations in residential areas.
- 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.
- “Earn A Buck Program” was mentioned, must kill (2) does in order to kill a buck.

Regulatory Controls

- Sewage Handling and Disposal Regulations and Agricultural Stewardship Act will be mentioned in the implementation plan.
- Any other regulatory controls (i.e., local ordinances) that could assist in implementing the plan need to be identified.

Monitoring Component

- DEQ ambient monitoring program will help to validate progress during implementation of plan.
- DEQ will be asked to present an update on-going monitoring on the (4) impaired streams and future monitoring schedules at the next government working group meeting.
- It was mentioned that DEQ had not monitored in Thumb Run since 2002 and that a number of livestock operations were no longer operating and a number of BMPs had been implemented since 2002.
- Plan needs to address any on-going citizen monitoring efforts and whether citizen monitoring should be utilized.

Next Meeting

- Volunteer(s) requested to report on topics discussed at upcoming Steering Committee meeting; date, time and location t.b.a.
- Next Government Working Group meeting to be held in early September