



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

203 Governor Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219-2010
(804) 786-1712

June 30, 2011

The Honorable Raymond E. Graham, Chairman
Fauquier County Board of Supervisors
10 Hotel Street, Suite 204
Warrenton, Virginia 20186

Mr. Paul McCulla, County Administrator
Fauquier County
10 Hotel Street, Suite 208
Warrenton, Virginia 20186

Dear Chairman Graham and Mr. McCulla:

As you may know, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently approved Virginia's Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) for the cleanup of the Chesapeake Bay. Our plan was developed to meet EPA requirements for the reduction and capping of nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment loads into the Bay and its tidal tributaries. The WIP was accepted by EPA on December 29, 2010, and it was included in EPA's Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) with minor modifications. A full copy of the Virginia plan can be found at: <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/tmdl/chesapeakebay.html>. A copy of the TMDL documents released by EPA can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/chesapeakebaytmdl/>.

The next step in this 15 year TMDL process is the development of a Phase II WIP which will extend the reduction goals established for large watersheds to the local government level (96 Bay watershed cities and counties), and provide strategies for state and local action. We hope to work closely with local governments, Planning District Commissions (PDC) and Soil and Water Conservation Districts in this process so that together, we can identify pollution reduction strategies that can be maintained over time. The approach the State is using is one that facilitates the development of a plan that contains strategies that are both cost effective and locally appropriate.

To achieve the above objectives, DCR staff have recently provided your staff with the Chesapeake Bay Model information for your locality and offered our assistance in interpreting this information. We are asking your staff, assisted by the PDC or independently, to review this information, compare it with local data on those best management practices (BMPs) that currently

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exist and to identify BMP implementation scenarios and local strategies to reduce pollutant loads. The specific information we hope your staff can provide includes the following:

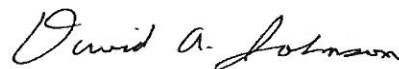
- Current BMP inventory – this information will be used to update implementation progress data in the Bay model.
- Evaluate the land use / land cover information included in the EPA Model and provide more accurate land cover information you may have – this will be of tremendous assistance in ensuring that Bay Model revisions made in the future will more accurately reflect land use information in your locality.
- Review the 2017 and 2025 BMP scenarios provided and develop preferred local scenarios that meet the reduction goals – identified local BMP scenarios will be aggregated and incorporated into the Phase II WIP.
- Develop strategies to implement the preferred BMP scenarios – strategies will be aggregated and used in development of Virginia's Phase II WIP.
- Identify any resource needs to implement the strategies and BMP scenarios – this information will be used in drafting Virginia's Phase II WIP and developing of cost estimates for the implementation of the WIP.

Localities are strongly encouraged to provide input by October 1, 2011, for inclusion in Virginia's draft Phase II WIP. Recognizing the short timeframe, however, there will be additional opportunity to provided input through February 1, 2012, for inclusion in the final Phase II WIP.

This approach is intended to allow flexibility for localities to use local information and existing program capacity to inform the development of Virginia's Phase II Watershed Implementation Plan. We will continue to work closely with the localities to assist and facilitate the process. We hope that you will seize this opportunity to fully engage and participate in this process, so that we may work together to achieve our common goals of improving the quality of local streams and the Chesapeake Bay.

If you have questions regarding this process, please do not hesitate to contact Christine Watlington, Policy and Planning Analyst, at (804) 786-5678.

Sincerely,



David A. Johnson

c: ✓ Mr. Jeffrey Walker, AICP, Executive Director, Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission