

# **Robinson River, Little Dark Run TMDL Implementation Plan Development**

Tuesday, June 15, 2010

7 P.M.

Madison County Volunteer Fire Company, Virginia

## **Public Meeting #1**

### **Attendance:**

Dave Allen, Madison County Board of Supervisors  
James Arrington, Madison County Board of Supervisors  
Robert Bair, Citizen  
Jenny Biche', Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Comm.  
Evan Blumenstein, Culpeper Soil & Water SWCD  
Leighton Brown, Citizen  
Ted Bullard, VA Department of Health, Fauquier Co. Office  
Oliver A. Campbell, IV, Citizen  
O. Campbell, Citizen  
Deirdre Clark, Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Comm.  
Douglas Coppedge, Citizen  
Sidney Coates, Citizen  
Jean Coates, Citizen  
Katie Conaway, VA Dept. of Environmental Quality  
Aerin Curtis, Madison Eagle  
Debbie Cross, VA Dept. of Conservation and Recreation  
Cynthia DeCanio, Rapidan Foundation  
Bonnie Dixon, Citizen  
Pete Elliot, Madison County Board of Supervisors  
Lynn Graves, Citizen  
Phil Hawkins, Citizen  
Waller Jenkins, Citizen  
Bill Jordan, Citizen  
Willie Lamar, Mayor, Town of Madison  
Jim Long, Citizen

Suzanne Long, Citizen  
Charles Lunsford, VA Dept. of Conservation and Recreation  
Gail Marshall, Citizen  
John Marshall, Citizen  
Isabel Mc Laughlin, Rappahannock Rapidan Regional Comm.  
Stephanie Mendlow, Citizen  
Paul R. Munson, Citizen  
Jennifer O'Reilly, VA Department of Environmental Quality  
Byron Petrauskas, Blue Ridge Environmental Solutions  
Jennifer Sisney, Citizen  
Shawn Sisney, Citizen  
Allan Spivey, Citizen  
Bob Slusser, VA Dept. of Conservation and Recreation  
Carl Stafford, VA Cooperative Extension, Culpeper  
Robbie Talbert, Virginia Department of Forestry  
Tommy Utz, Citizen  
Brian Wagner, Balzer Associates  
Sarah Weaver, Citizen  
Tom Weaver, Citizen  
Greg Wichelns, Culpeper Soil & Water Conservation District  
Frank Wilczek, Blue Ridge Foothills Conservancy  
Spencer Yager, Culpeper Soil & Water Conservation District  
Tom, Citizen

### **Introduction:**

- Mr. James L. Arrington, Madison County Board of Supervisors, welcomed attendees and encouraged their active participation in the TMDL-IP process. He noted that all involved should consider the constraints of the current economy in any recommendations made
- Mr. Lunsford clarified differences and similarities between the Chesapeake Bay and the Browns, Craig and Marsh Runs TMDL IPs:
  - The Chesapeake Bay TMDL IP focuses on reducing the loads of nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment from contributing streams, while the objective of the Robinson River, Little Dark Run TMDL-IP is reduction in bacteria.
  - The Chesapeake Bay TMDL IP will include two year milestones which, if not met, will result in as yet unidentified consequences mandated by EPA.
  - Practices and strategies identified in the Robinson River, Little Dark Run TMDL IP will guide the reduction of bacteria in these streams. With the exception of on-site sewage disposal practices, implementation of recommended practices is not required nor are there any mandated consequences associated with failure to follow the plan; and
  - The development of the Robinson River/Little Dark Run TMDL IP will result in eligibility for Federal and State grant funding opportunities.

**Project Summary:** Through the use of a power-point presentation, copies of which were provided to attendees, Mr. Petrauskas reviewed:

- The TMDL program background, phases of the TMDL IP process and steps to be followed in developing a water quality improvement plan;
- Details of the impairment histories of each stream, along with bacteria sources and reductions required to meet bacteria standards;

- Implementation actions including the identification of control measures, quantification of technical assistance needed, estimation of costs and determination of benefits; and
- Measurable goals and milestones, stakeholders and possible funding sources.

Mr. Slusser focused on the importance of on-going public participation throughout the TMDL-IP process by discussing:

- The roles of the Working Groups – agricultural, residential (including commercial interests), and governmental; and
- The composition and responsibilities of the Steering Committee.

The project timeline, including the number and type of meetings anticipated, was reviewed.

**Information Provided:** In response to questions from meeting participants, the following information was provided by project staff including Katie Conaway (VA DEQ), Byron Petrauskas (Blue Ridge Environmental Solutions, Inc.), Charles Lunsford (VA DCR) and Bob Slusser.

#### Questions -

- **Data indicates a significant decrease in pollutants from 2006 – 2008. How might this be explained?**
  - *The data is based on a five year period. Several factors may be at play including variations in rainfall. Bacteria levels may or may not be improving.*
- **The map of the Little Dark Run area indicates more cattle than are currently present. Please explain. Also, if the area has become more residential, wouldn't pets and wildlife be more responsible for impacts?**
  - *The study was completed five years ago and will be updated to include changes in the land use. Pets are a concern and are responsible for contributing to the pollution, as are wildlife. However, the state requires that localities focus on human induced pollution first. This includes livestock. After practices strategies are put in place to reduce human induced pollution, if the bacteria levels have not improved, then localities will focus on wildlife.*
- **How would localities manage wildlife?**
  - *The solution is not to increase bag limits on deer and other game. There are deer management plans for farmers, and education would be necessary so that people don't attract wildlife (geese, raccoons, etc) to their properties. Education on pet management is needed also.*
- **What types of bacteria are measured and studied?**
  - *The study just measures the amount of E.Coli. It does not identify the source of the bacteria, just the amount.*
- **If the bacteria source is unknown, how is the problem identified?**
  - *After identifying the measurements, scientists evaluate the surrounding area to identify possible sources.*
- **Is the Madison Sewer Plant part of the problem?**
  - *Madison Sewer Plant has a permit, which requires them to be DEQ compliant.*
- **What is the strategy for identifying straight pipe sources?**
  - *DEQ works closely with the Health Department to identify straight pipe sources.*
- **How much grant money is available?**
  - *There are grants available to help localities, but they do not cover 100% of costs.*

#### **What's Next?**

Attendees were invited to participate in either the Agricultural Working Group or the Residential Working Group meetings held immediately following the Public Meeting. They were encouraged to contact project representatives with comments or questions. Contact information was provided. It was noted that all documents, including meeting agendas, notes, maps, and presentations may be viewed on-line at [http://www.rregion.org/tmdl\\_hhr.html](http://www.rregion.org/tmdl_hhr.html). All working groups are scheduled to meet in August, 2010.

The thirty-day comment period on information presented at this meeting ends Thursday, July 15, 2010.