

**Total Maximum Daily Load Implementation Plan (TMDL-IP)**

**Upper York River Watershed**

Goldmine Creek (Louisa County),  
Beaver Creek, Mountain Run, Pamunkey Creek, Terry Run (Orange County),  
Plentiful Creek (Spotsylvania County)

**- First Residential Working Group Meeting -**

January 25, 2011- 7 PM

Louisa County Administration Building, 1 Woolfolk Avenue, Louisa, VA

**Attendance:**

Tommy T. Barlow, Louisa County BOS  
Deirdre Clark, R-RRC  
Katie Conaway, VA DEQ  
Mary E. Johnson, Thomas Jefferson SWCD  
Charlie Lunsford, VA DCR

Christopher Owens, Citizen  
May Sligh, VA DCR  
Richard Street, Spotsylvania County  
Scott Vogel, VA Dept. of Health

**Opening comments:**

- The role of the Residential Working Group (RWG):
  - Participants were informed that the RWG will focus on the identification and reduction of bacterial loads from human sources and pets. This will include:
    - Determining strategies to identify and eliminate straight pipes and failing septic systems;
    - Identifying the problems faced by landowners in remediating failing septic systems and straight pipes;
    - Identifying potential funding sources for remediation;
    - Identifying strategies to encourage landowners to come forward despite fear of regulatory action and unknown costs;
    - Identifying the type(s) of technical assistance needed and methods of delivery;
    - Identifying practical and appropriate educational tools; and
    - Identifying effective pet waste management strategies.
  - Typically, the RWG is made up of homeowners, citizen organizations, and representatives from state and local governments.
  - Participants were informed that their report, along with reports from the Agricultural and Government Working Groups, will be submitted to the Steering Committee for consideration for inclusion in the Implementation Plan.
  - RWG members may serve on the Steering Committee.

**Background Information**

- Information contained in the TMDL study requires updating.
- **Spotsylvania:**
  - Supervisors are skeptical of testing protocols, including timing and location;
  - Has a county-wide stormwater ordinance;
  - Will implement the plan county-wide;
  - Adopted drain field reserve requirements in 1995;
  - Home-owners'-association (HOA) information may be obtained from Spotsylvania's GIS Department.
  - Falls under Chesapeake Bay requirements; and
  - Residents apparently are not complying with Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act requirements.
- Plentiful Creek watershed in Spotsylvania County:
  - 6,000 of the 7,000 acres in the watershed are wooded;
  - The last building permit was issued in 2003;
  - Most development is the result of family divisions;
  - There are 207 lots with improvements of \$10,000 or more;
  - There are no dairy farms - last one ceased operation 15 years ago;

- Two farmers participate in BMP programs;
- Plentiful Creek is a major spawning stream; and
- Septic system issues are probable.
- **Louisa:**
  - Requires permits for repairs to septic systems;
  - Averages 5 or 6 repairs/replacements per year in Goldmine Creek.
  - Requires 100% reserve;
  - Wastewater discharge violations;
  - Treatment plant serves the towns of Louisa and Mineral, and portions of Louisa County;
- Goldmine Creek watershed in Louisa County:
  - Limited development.

### **Well, Septic, Sewage**

- Lake Anna residents' concerns:
  - Lake water intruding into ground water;
  - Possible well contamination from drain fields; and
  - Unexpected impacts to wells, septic systems and lake water quality as a result of year-round occupancy of what were expected to be seasonal homes.
- Regional population growth has resulted in increased demands on the Louisa sewage treatment plant.
- Increasing "suburbanization" of the region has generated speculation regarding future water and sewer needs.

### **Education/Outreach**

- Homeowners
  - Need to be informed of the function and limitations of septic systems;
  - Need information on the location of their septic system – this should be included at time of property transfer.
- Pet waste management:
  - Rural pet owners unlikely to manage waste;
  - The use of pet waste composters should be promoted;
  - HOAs may be helpful in providing information to dog owners;
  - No knowledge of commercial or hunt kennels in Goldmine Creek and Plentiful creek watersheds;
  - Dog walkers use Louisa's town park;
  - Education is needed to encourage pet waste management;
  - Seek funds to install kennel waste management program as pilot project; and
  - Consideration for a "clean kennel" award.

### **Discussion**

- Numbers representing reductions needed to de-list streams were derived from the water quality model;
  - All bacteria sources, as well as precipitation and runoff data, are integrated in the model
  - Removal of data input reveals reduction requirement for each category
- State regulations and standards need to be evaluated, agreed upon and uniformly implemented
  - Storm water regulations were cited as an example of requirements imposed while still in the refinement stage, resulting in confusion and compliance issues;
  - Contractors, developers and engineers shouldn't be expected to revise approved plans because of changes in regulations;
  - Requirements need to be simply stated, the review and approval process clearly described, and the approval action final with no revisions to follow;
- Funding for all projects is problematic;
- Concern that what is now "suggested" will become regulatory;
- There is not enough voluntary compliance to forgo regulation;
- Agency representatives are encouraged to avoid using acronyms;
- Concern for possible regulation as a result of the Bay TMDL.

Attendees indicated interest in continuing to participate as members of the Residential Working Group. They were encouraged to inform other residents of the watershed of the TMDL-IP and invite them to attend future meetings, including the second public meeting scheduled for January 26<sup>th</sup> in the Town of Orange. Participants will be notified of future meetings. Information about the project and meeting minutes may be accessed at [http://www.rregion.org/tmdl\\_york.html](http://www.rregion.org/tmdl_york.html)