

Browns Run, Craig Run and Marsh Run TMDL Implementation Plan Development

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

7 P.M.

Cedar Lee Middle School, Bealeton, Virginia

Public Meeting #1

Attendance:

Melissa Allen, John Marshall Soil and Water Conservation District
John Baker, Citizen
Jenny Biche', Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission
Rich Buchanan, Citizen
Toni Buchanan, Citizen
Deirdre Clark, Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission
Katie Conaway, VA Dept. of Environmental Quality
Ben Cooper, Fauquier Farm Bureau
Jeannie Costello, Citizen
Debbie Cross, VA Dept. of Conservation and Recreation
Daron Culbertson, Citizen
Earnest Dodson, Citizen
Rick Dorkey, Citizen
Virginia Dorkey, Citizens for Fauquier County
Michael H. Dwyer, Citizen
Roger Flint, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Kimberly Fogle, Fauquier County Department of Community Development
Oscar Garcia, Citizen
John Green, Citizen
Howard L. Grove, Citizen
Marsha Hamilton, Citizen
Eugene Hankinson, Citizen
Walter P. Hodge, Citizen
Jennifer R. Hoysa, John Marshall Soil and Water Conservation District
Emma Johnson, Citizen
Sue Keller, Citizen
Charles Lunsford, VA Dept. of Conservation and Recreation
James Messick, Citizen
Ronald Messick, Citizen
Paul Neale, Citizen
Terry Nyhous, Chair, Fauquier County Board of Supervisors
Jennifer O'Reilly, VA Dept. of Environmental Quality
Frank Ott Jr., Citizen
Morgan Ott, Citizen
John Schied, Fauquier Farm Bureau
Gary Seavers, Citizen
Mary Sherrill, Fauquier County Dept. of Community Development
Bob Slusser, VA Dept. of Conservation and Recreation
Jim Stone, Fauquier County Planning Commission
Chester Stribling, Fauquier County Board of Supervisors
Altwon R. Wellingham, Citizen
Whitney Wright, VA Department of Health

Introduction:

- Mr. Chester Stribling, Fauquier County Board of Supervisors, welcomed attendees and introduced Byron Petrauskas, Blue Ridge Environmental Solutions, Inc., and Charles Lunsford, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation.
- 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 Browns, Craig and Marsh Runs 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 Browns, Craig and Marsh 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 Browns, Craig and Marsh Runs 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, Charles Lunsford, Byron Petrauskas, Whitney Wright, Melissa Allen and Bob Slusser:

- Re-evaluation of the data used to create the Browns, Craig and Marsh Runs TMDL is needed to take into consideration changes in the land use and census data;
- Water flow levels are considered when measuring the bacteria concentrations;
- Due to limited funds, some of the data is based on small sample size and collected only every two years; and
- Detecting trends in bacteria concentrations is difficult with such a limited data set; however, each stream is identified as impaired for bacteria since more than 10.5% of the samples are above the water quality standard.

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.rrregion.org/tmdl_bcm.html. All working groups are scheduled to meet in July, 2010.

The thirty-day comment period on information presented at this meeting ends June 4, 2010.