



Government Working Group Fact Sheet

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

Why Do a TMDL Implementation Plan (IP)? A TMDL IP is a requirement of Virginia's 1997 Water Quality Monitoring, Information, and Restoration Act, which directs the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality to "develop and implement a plan to achieve fully supporting status for impaired waters". By developing an IP, a community has a better opportunity to receive state and federal grant funds and even other sources of funding to restore water quality.

How Can I Participate? The primary means of public participation in this TMDL IP process will be through one of three working groups; agricultural, residential and government. The working groups provide citizens a venue for active participation in the planning process. Each working group will report its results and suggestions to the steering committee for consideration to be included in the TMDL IP document. Strong public participation in these groups ensures a final implementation plan driven by local input and concerns.

What will the Government Working Group Address? The Government Working Group will address what resources local, state and federal agencies can contribute towards obtaining the water quality goals outlined in the Carter Run, Great Run, Thumb Run and Deep Run IP. The group will focus on the following tasks:

1. Identify funding sources and technical resources presently available
2. Evaluate additional programs/technical resources that would enhance implementation
3. Consider regulatory controls currently in place that could induce actions to improve water quality in the impaired watersheds
4. Discuss wildlife populations and management options to reduce bacteria loadings
5. Discuss monitoring component

Who Makes up the Government Working Group? Government working groups typically consist of local, state and federal agency representatives.

Comments/Questions raised in previous Government Working Groups

- The Agricultural Stewardship Act and how it is a regulatory control to address situations where there is a clear indication that an individual source is causing a water quality problem.
- VDH is responsible for dealing with problems where there is "sewage on the ground" caused by private sewage treatment systems connected to single-family homes. Often notification of the problem will motivate the landowner to correct the problem. Beyond notification, there is a long, drawn-out process of taking the owner to court. Currently, VDH addresses every complaint received, however, assistance with locating problems would be appreciated.
- VADEQ has responsibility for dealing with permitted point sources (e.g. wastewater treatment plants). Outfalls are monitored regularly for permit compliance.
- The VADEQ revolving loan fund could be used for giving low-interest loans to homeowners who are repairing or replacing septic systems. A local agency would have to administer the program.
- WQIA funds have been used in the past to offer 50% cost-share on repair or replacement of septic systems up to a total cost of \$50,000.
- VCES can assist with the education effort for the agricultural and residential programs.
- Role of local, state and federal agencies in carrying out the implementation plan and importance of all agencies endorsing the plan.