

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

Agricultural Working Group October 3, 2005 Meeting Summary [DRAFT]

Group Membership

- The following individuals were present at the meeting: John Bauserman, Jay Branscome, Larry Dunn, Frank Horn, Arney Johnson Jr., Dennis Pearson, Byron Petrauskas, and Tom Turner

Implementation Plan Development Overview

- Reviewed items covered in 6/2/05 Agricultural Working Group Meeting
- Reviewed handout distributed in Government Working Group summarizing DEQ ambient monitoring in place and planned for the Carter, Great, Thumb and Deep Runs watersheds
 - As of August 2005 there is only one continual monitoring location in the four watersheds, station 3-DPR001.70 in Deep Run
 - Additional monitoring is scheduled for another station in Deep Run and three stations in Thumb Run during the period of 2007-2009, and monitoring locations in Carter and Great Runs would be rotated in during 2009-2011
 - Copy of handout requested by group members
- John Marshall SWCD to begin monthly coliscan monitoring for E.coli enumerations from 10/1/05 through 9/30/06 in Thumb Run watershed
- Monitoring discussion
 - Concerned whether location and frequency of monitoring was sufficient to evaluate progress, for instance, improvements below DEQ station on Thumb Run are not reflected in samples collected at station
 - Monitoring results can be used in educational program
 - It was suggested that monitoring be performed upstream and downstream of farm with substantial land in conservation practices, particularly on a tributary stream, knowing difficulty in isolating upstream bacteria contributions on main streams
 - Should monitoring be used to isolate contribution from Stafford County versus Fauquier County?

Best Management Practices (BMPs) Identification

- Potential practices listed in the Virginia Agricultural BMP Handbook with associated bacteria removal efficiency to be utilized during implementation to reduce livestock direct deposition and land-based loads were reviewed
- Suggested changes to SL-6A Small Acreage Grazing System
 - Group requests eligibility apply to horse owners not in agricultural production
 - Group requests cost-share be provided to participants in addition to tax credit
- Other BMPs and indirect strategies that may be considered were discussed
 - Chain harrowing pasture to break-up manure patties showed most promise

- Farmers typically perform after winter feeding where animals more confined
 - Group requests incentive (e.g., tax credit) to be provided for purchase of chain harrow
- BMP installation cost estimates to be reviewed by John Marshall SWCD

BMP Quantification

- Members reviewed maps identifying potential livestock access to continuous streams
- Discussed how intermittent streams were included in analysis
 - SL-6 requires fencing of intermittent streams while CREP does not
- Will translate potential livestock access areas to SL-6 Grazing Land Protection Systems using characteristics of previously installed systems
- Left maps with Tom Turner to review with John Marshall SWCD personnel and provide average BMP characteristics including costs

Education and Technical Assistance

- Provided handout with suggested education/outreach techniques to be utilized during implementation
- Technical assistance and educational outreach tasks required of personnel during implementation were provided in the handout
- John Marshall SWCD
 - Will take lead in agricultural technical assistance for Fauquier County
 - Education coordinator on staff, need to evaluate impact TMDL program will have on work load
- Tri-County / City SWCD
 - Will take lead in agricultural technical assistance for Stafford County
- Technical assistance quantified through evaluation of district's historic BMP designed per employee along with current district employees consultation

Potential Funding Sources

- Handout summarizing various state and federal funding sources that can be potentially used in the implementation phase was distributed
 - Working group members were asked to review funding information to ensure information is current, feedback at meeting will be incorporated
- Members stated Great Run watershed was designated as blue heron habitat and would be eligible for additional funding from U.S. Fish and Wildlife