



**CHESAPEAKE BAY TMDL PHASE III WATERSHED IMPLEMENTATION PLAN
URBAN STAKEHOLDER MEETING**

Meeting Minutes – September 21, 2018

Attendees:

Kendall May	Culpeper County
Julie Bolthouse	Piedmont Environmental Council
Steve Cook	Virginia Department of Health
Joe Costello	Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission
Michelle Edwards	Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission
David Evans	Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Kathleen Harrigan	Friends of the Rappahannock
Richard Jacobs	Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District
Ann Jurczyk	Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Patrick Mauney	Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission
Emily Melton	Fauquier County
Daniel Moore	Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Alex Perez	Van Metre Homes
Joe Rossetti	Virginia Department of Forestry
James Sawyer	Fauquier County
Michael Trop	John Marshall Soil and Water Conservation District
Barbara White	Virginia Department of Forestry

Welcome and Introductions

Michelle Edwards of the Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission (RRRC) welcomed attendees and introductions were made. All meeting handouts distributed to attendees will also be made available via email and on RRRC's Chesapeake TMDL webpage at www.rregion.org/chesbaytmdl.html.

Follow-up to Previous Stakeholder Questions

Michelle Edwards, RRRC and David Evans, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

Ms. Edwards began the meeting by sharing DEQ's responses to questions raised by participants during the previous Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) stakeholder meeting on

August 16, 2018 (see attached), with assistance from David Evans, DEQ. The following decisions were made based on the information:

- Since sewer connections on new construction projects can be counted toward the Septic Connection BMP, stakeholders agreed to include 3,401 systems, which was the amount in WIP 2. This represents an increase from the 500 systems agreed to during the previous meeting.
 - Ms. Edwards noted that Whitney Wright, Virginia Department of Health, is in the process of working with VDH Central Office staff to compile septic Best Management Practice (BMP) data for the region and provide estimates of what may be achievable for the remaining septic BMPs by 2025.
- Since all new development under the Construction General Permit should be reported under the Erosion and Sediment Control (ESC) 2 BMP and it is an annual practice, all of the region's ESC 1 BMPs were moved to ESC 2. This will provide more credit in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model.
- After discussion, stakeholders agreed to remove the Storm Drain Cleaning BMP from the region's draft urban BMP input deck, which was added during the last meeting, unless needed to reach the nitrogen goal. Even though big box stores in the region regularly clean out their storm drains voluntarily, the group felt the level of effort required to track the practice for credit in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model is more than private businesses would likely be willing to do if not required.

Urban BMP Input Deck Discussion

Ms. Edwards shared the nitrogen loads resulting from running the region's draft WIP III urban BMP input deck through CAST (see attached). Prior to running the scenario, she added the BMP amounts already on the ground in 2017, plus moved ESC 1 BMP amounts to ESC 2. She explained the results show that draft WIP III input deck's nitrogen loads are less than WIP 2's, therefore it currently meets the Local Area Planning Goal. If the group decreases the amounts of BMPs it will need to increase other BMPs in order to still meet the goal.

Copies of the Rappahannock-Rapidan Region's draft urban BMP input deck developed thus far were distributed to attendees (see attached). The spreadsheet also includes the 2017, WIP 2 and 2025 Available data previously provided to the group. Ms. Edwards led attendees in a discussion of the remaining urban BMPs (those without data entered in the WIP 3 column on the spreadsheet), beginning with the new BMPs added to the state Clearinghouse since development of the previous WIP. RRRC staff attempted to enter the data into CAST and run the scenario to determine whether the Local Area Planning Goal for Nitrogen was met, however the online tool was not working properly [the software glitch has since been resolved].

Ultimately, all remaining BMPs were discussed, and stakeholders reached consensus on the following 2025 implementation levels if given sufficient resources by the state or federal government:

- Wetland Enhancement: 25 acres

- Wetland Rehabilitation: 25 acres
- Tree Planting – Canopy: 2.5% of the 2025 available amount of 114,172 acres, which equals 2,854 acres
 - A percentage was chosen, because attendees felt they could better envision this measure for this particular BMP and reach consensus
 - Fauquier and Culpeper County representatives noted that the localities require landscape bonds for development projects.
 - Department of Forestry (DOF) staff stated that the agency will be releasing a new smart phone app to make it easier to track and verify tree planting. The app is intended to encourage tracking of plantings not typically tracked, particularly those on existing residential lots. While anyone can enter data through the app, all plantings must be verified by organizations such as local governments. DOF will not be conducting the required verifications.
- Conservation Landscaping: 200 acres
 - This is a new BMP just added to the model/CAST, and was brought to Ms. Edwards' attention by Kathleen Harrigan of Friends of the Rappahannock. It is defined as converting managed turf grass to native perennial meadow systems.
 - Attendees noted that Virginia Conservation Assistance Program (VCAP), Friends of the Rappahannock's Backyard Rainscaping Program and Virginia Cooperative Extension's Master Gardeners are potential avenues for implementation of this BMP. Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) estimated they have installed 5 acres through VCAP in the last few years.
 - The question was raised whether Virginia Department of Transportation wildflower plantings in road medians can be credited under this BMP.
- Urban Nutrient Management: 20,000 acres
 - A table estimating the acres of non-residential turf for each county in the Rappahannock-Rapidan Region was distributed to attendees (see attached). The table includes parks, golf courses, schools, battlefields owned by trusts, airports and Montpelier. The total of 8,077 acres represents what RRRC staff consider the low-hanging fruit for nutrient management plans, some of which already have the plans. Therefore, RRRC staff estimate well over 30,000 acres of this BMP would need to come from private landowners to reach the amount included in WIP 2.
 - The question was raised whether not fertilizing could be credited within the model in place of an urban nutrient management plan. Ms. Edwards responded that she was told signed pledges to not use lawn fertilizers are required to claim credit in the Watershed Model when implementing RRRC's Backyard Rainscaping project through a National Fish and Wildlife Small Watershed Grant.
 - Friends of the Rappahannock's (FOR) Rainscaping program and Virginia Cooperative Extension's Green Grass Program both are used to implement this BMP on residential properties. Discussion concluded, however, the WIP 2 amount of 42,923 was not realistic and would involve a high number of larger rural residences less likely to

participate and less likely to result in actual nutrient reductions.

- Dirt and Gravel Road Erosion and Sediment Control - Outlets: 1000 feet
 - Richard Jacobs, Culpeper SWCD, had suggested this BMP would be worthwhile to include and requested RRRC conduct a GIS analysis to estimate the available stream crossings.
 - Using VDOT's 2017 unpaved roads GIS layer, Joe Costello explained that he identified approximately 500 miles (2.6 million feet) of dirt and gravel roads in the region rather than the 25,882 feet included in the "Available" amount provided by DEQ. He then created a 100-foot buffer and intersected the buffer layer with the stream shapefile to locate the available areas for the BMP, resulting in 64 miles of streams (see attached).
 - After discussion the group agreed that 1000 feet of this BMP was reasonable by 2025, if given the resources, which is greater than the WIP 2 amount of 196 feet.
- Urban Stream Restoration: 10,218 feet (WIP 2 amount)
 - Attendees noted 2000 feet of stream restoration has been done in Lake of the Woods gated community alone, and 300 feet has been done in the Town of Culpeper among others.
- Infiltration: 162 acres
 - The WIP II amount was 5,513 acres, but only 112 acres are currently in place as of 2017. Attendees stated that the practice is not popular in the region.
- Bio-Retention/rain gardens A/B soils: 2,884 acres (WIP 2 amount)
- Bio-Retention/rain gardens C/D soils: 500 acres
 - Now that DEQ has confirmed that new construction projects in non-MS4 areas can be counted toward this practice in the model, stakeholders present agreed to increase this BMP to 500 acres from the 20 agreed to during the previous meeting.
- Bio-Swales: 1,000 acres
 - Increased from the 500 acres agreed to at the previous stakeholder meeting, now that DEQ has confirmed that new construction projects in non-MS4 areas can be counted toward this practice in the model.
- Vegetated Open Channels – A/B soils: 500 acres
 - This is an increase from the WIP 2 amount of 145 acres.
- Forest Buffer: 50 acres
 - This is a decrease from WIP 2 amount of 344 acres.
- Forest Planting: 200 acres
 - This is an increase from WIP 2 amount of 85 acres.
- Impervious Surface Reduction: 200 acres
 - Stakeholders felt the WIP II amount of 1,899 acres was not achievable. While none are documented by DEQ for the region, attendees believe it is due to lack of reporting and

promoting this BMP. It was noted that VDOT does some paved surface reduction, and redeveloping older parcels often involves reduction of about 10% of past paved areas.

- Dry Detention Ponds and Hydrodynamic Structures: 3000 acres
 - This is a decrease from WIP 2 amount of 5,652 acres due to a decline in interest in this practice within the region and less development than DEQ/the model had predicted.
- Dry Extended Detention Ponds: 3000 acres
 - Attendees felt the WIP 2 amount of 10,744 acres was not achievable, due to a lack of interest in this practice compared to Low Impact Development practices within the region and less development than DEQ/the model had predicted.
- Filtering Practices: 500 acres
 - This is a decrease from 6,144 acres in WIP 2.

Public Comment

Ms. Edwards opened the floor to any additional comments from the public. None were made.

Discussion of Next Steps and Resources Needed

Ms. Edwards explained that the next stakeholder meeting will focus on developing the recommended strategies for implementing the region's urban BMP input deck, and a list of resources needed to carry out the strategies (i.e. funding, staffing, policies, authority, technical assistance etc.).

Next Stakeholder Meeting

After discussion, the next Urban Stakeholder Meeting was scheduled for October 19, 2018 at 1:00 – 3:00 pm in RRRC's conference room.