



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

Meeting Minutes – October 19, 2018

Attendees:

Matthew Aylor	Madison County
Kendall May	Culpeper County
Julie Bolthouse	Piedmont Environmental Council
Joe Costello	Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission
Garrey Curry	Rappahannock County
Michelle Edwards	Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission
David Evans	Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Lee Frame	Orange County
Kathleen Harrigan	Friends of the Rappahannock
Richard Jacobs	Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District
Patrick Mauney	Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission
Emily Melton	Fauquier County
James Sawyer	Fauquier County
Michael Trop	John Marshall Soil and Water Conservation District

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.rrregion.org/chesbaytmdl.html.

Urban Input Deck Status

Michelle Edwards, RRRC

Copies of the region's urban Best Management Practice (BMP) input deck developed during the previous two meetings were distributed to attendees (see attached). Ms. Edwards drew the group's attention to the alternative septic system estimates provided by Whitney Wright of the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) following the September meeting. These 2025 estimates are derived from existing septic system data provided by VDH's central office, and collectively are far lower than those from the Phase 2 Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP). While nearly 1000 systems of new septic BMPs have been added that were not in WIP 2, they fall far short of

making up for the difference in the Septic Denitrification - Conventional BMP, which went from 6,041 systems in WIP 2 to 185 in WIP 3.

Additionally, the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) central office staff again revised/clarified their earlier guidance on septic connections, stating that new construction projects cannot be counted towards this BMP, as the region's stakeholders originally presumed. Therefore, RRRC staff changed the septic connections BMP back to the 500 systems stakeholders agreed upon during the August meeting, rather than the 3,401 agreed to at the September meeting based on the previous guidance.

These two changes have significantly increased the Nitrogen load of the region's WIP 3 urban BMP input deck. Decreases to several other urban BMP amounts made during the previous meeting also increased the nitrogen load, but this effect was not evident at the time due to a CAST breakdown. Ms. Edwards discussed the Nitrogen Load spreadsheet provided to attendees (see attached). Currently, the working draft falls short of the nitrogen reduction goal (listed in the WIP 2 Baseline Edge of Tide Total) by nearly 60,000 lbs/year.

By running scenarios in CAST, RRRC staff determined that the WIP 3 BMP amounts would need to be increased by approximately 250% in order to meet the nitrogen goal. The amounts are listed in the urban BMP input deck spreadsheet provided.

Attendees agreed that the level of BMP implementation called for in the "WIP 3 + 250%" scenario is far from realistic, even if adequate resources were provided. Stakeholders observed that most new growth within their jurisdictions is being directed to sewer service areas due to their growth management policies. However, the Chesapeake Bay model appears to assume sprawling growth and a higher rate of development than the region is experiencing. Furthermore, the Growth Management BMP provides the region very little credit.

After discussion, attendees reached a consensus decision that the WIP 3 + 250% BMP scenario should not be submitted to DEQ. RRRC should instead provide:

- The WIP 3 urban BMP input deck stakeholders developed
- An explanation of why stakeholders believe it falls short of the goal, and
- A statement that it would take a 250% increase to meet the goal, which is unrealistic.

Implementation Strategy Discussion

Copies of the example Programmatic Actions developed by DEQ (see attached) and the BMP Co-benefits spreadsheet developed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (available at <http://cast.chesapeakebay.net/FileBrowser/GetFile?fileName=CoBenefits%2FImpactScoresToolvF.XLSM>) were distributed to attendees. RRRC staff also provided an initial draft of regional implementation strategies they developed by populating the template provided by DEQ with strategies stakeholders suggested during previous meetings and relevant flood prevention strategies contained in the 2018 Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan (see attached). Ms. Edwards also used the co-benefits spreadsheet as a starting point in populating the respective template column.

Stakeholders discussed the working draft, and made revisions and additions. (The result of the

discussion is attached as WIP III Strategies – Current Draft.) Many of the strategies involve tracking BMP implementation to ensure credit is received in the Bay Model for the good work being accomplished in the region. Education, program expansions, and planning activities were also plentiful, and include development of a watershed management plan for the Upper Rappahannock led by RRRC as a central part of the implementation effort. While some strategies are to be implemented by local governments, others would be implemented by non-profits and state agencies. Resource needs included staffing, grant and cost-share funding, and a few legislative or policy changes.

Public Comment

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

Next Stakeholder Meeting

Ms. Edwards informed attendees that DEQ changed the date of the final meeting of the region's WIP III process to December 6th at 9:00 am – 12:00 noon at the American Legion located at 11420 James Madison Hwy, Remington. This meeting will combine the agriculture and urban sectors from this region, as well as those from Northern Virginia Regional Commission, Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission, and possibly Commonwealth Regional Council. Staff of DEQ and the Department of Conservation and Recreation will facilitate. Assistant Secretary of Natural Resources Ann Jennings is scheduled to speak.