



## CHESAPEAKE BAY WATERSHED IMPLEMENTATION PLAN URBAN STAKEHOLDER MEETING

Meeting Minutes – June 24, 2019

### **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
Bryan Hofmann	Friends of the Rappahannock
Andrew Hopewell	Fauquier County
Richard Jacobs	Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District
Joe Rossetti	Virginia Department of Forestry
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](http://www.rrregion.org/chesbaytmdl.html).

### **RRRC's 2020 Draft Scope of Work**

*Michelle Edwards, Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission (RRRC)*

Ms. Edwards distributed copies of RRRC's draft Scope of Work for a 2020 PDC Locality Implementation Program contract with the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). DEQ requested that each Planning District Commission (PDC) within the Bay watershed submit a proposal for 2020 as part of their 2019 contract, with a deliverable date of June 30<sup>th</sup>. DEQ requested \$52,000 for each PDC as part of their annual budget request to the US Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Chesapeake Bay Program. There will be a \$13,000 match requirement, which can be in-kind. The new contract period would be October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2020.

Ms. Edwards explained that Activities 1-3 are primarily based on the activities in the 2019 contract, while Activities 4 and 5 are new. Continuing activities include:

- Outreach to stakeholders, coordination with other PDCs, and participation in various Bay committees.

- Developing/updating several outreach tools and providing grant writing assistance
- Assisting DEQ and other state agencies in BMP training webinars
- Assisting the Virginia Department of Health in developing a process to capture and track septic tank pumpouts.

New activities include assisting local governments in the region with implementing recommendations of the Healthy Watershed Forest Initiative, and beginning development of a watershed management plan for the Upper Rappahannock River. Both were strategies in the region's Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP). For the watershed plan, RRRC will work with the region's stakeholders to develop a scope for the plan, gather data and map the data in GIS where feasible. The goal of the plan is to better prioritize BMP implementation. Future phases may seek to fill data gaps by hiring a consultant to conduct stream assessments for example, but additional grant funds would need to be pursued.

Ms. Edwards mentioned that she has agreed to participate in the state's Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act (CBPA) Working Group, which will be exploring the possibility of expanding the CBPA westward to include all of the localities within Virginia's Chesapeake Bay Watershed. The workgroup's first meeting will be on July 11<sup>th</sup>. Bryan Hofmann added that he has also agreed to be on the working group. Attendees discussed how CBPA expansion might impact WIP implementation efforts. Ms. Edwards agreed to update the committee on the working group's progress during future meetings.

Stakeholders present were in favor of the draft Scope of Work as written. No changes were suggested.

### **Potential Grant Projects, Partnerships and Priorities for the Region**

*Michelle Edwards, RRRC*

Attendees were provided with updated copies of the table of Chesapeake Bay Urban Sector Grants (see attached). This version contains stakeholders' suggestions from the May 16, 2019 Land Use and Environment Committee meeting. The table contains basic grant information to be used for planning future projects.

During the previous meeting, stakeholders were asked to provide information on any Chesapeake Bay-related projects currently underway, applied for, or being planned. This would include stormwater, septic, stream restoration, nutrient management and tree planting projects on non-agricultural lands, both BMP and education/outreach projects. In addition to grant projects, relevant CIP/self-funded projects underway or proposed should also be included.

To facilitate submittal to RRRC, Ms. Edwards emailed a template with instructions to the group distribution list. Ms. Edwards stated that so far only Mr. Hofmann with Friends of the Rappahannock (FOR) has provided information, which she distributed to attendees (see attached). John Marshall SWCD and Rappahannock County responded that they have nothing to report.

Andrew Hopewell asked whether MS4 projects should be included. After discussion, Ms. Edwards responded that they should be included with a note to that effect. DEQ is looking for

non-MS4 project information as a contract deliverable from RRRC to bring cost information to the General Assembly for budget planning. However, RRRC wants all project information so this committee can determine where there are implementation gaps and potential for partnerships.

Kendall May stated she would coordinate with Culpeper County and Town of Culpeper staff to compile the project information. Andrew Hopewell stated he would coordinate with Fauquier County and Town of Warrenton staff, and Julie Bolthouse agreed to compile Piedmont Environmental Council's projects. Mr. Hofmann added that if localities have shovel-ready projects, it is much easier to assist them in developing a grant proposal and succeed in being awarded funding. Completed project tables and any questions should be sent to Michelle Edwards at [medwards@rrregion.org](mailto:medwards@rrregion.org).

Mr. Hofmann asked if RRRC can distribute FOR's letter to localities to sign onto in order to express interest in continued Stormwater Local Assistance Fund (SLAF) funding. FOR would then take the signed letter to the General Assembly to lobby for increased SLAF program funding. Ms. Edwards stated she can forward FOR's request to RRRC's Land Use and Environment Committee distribution list, so interested localities can respond directly to FOR.

### **BMP Data Reporting Gaps Discussion**

DEQ requested a list of urban BMP reporting gaps as part of RRRC's contract. Ms. Edwards distributed a list developed by attendees during the May Land Use and Environment Committee Meeting for review:

- Septic pump-outs and connections
- Tree planting, including but not limited to tree seedling sales
- VDOT impervious surface reduction
- Buffers installed by landowners as part of conservation easements
- Small-scale, voluntary residential stormwater BMPs
- Residential urban nutrient management
- Storm drain cleaning

Ms. May stated Culpeper County does not currently report trees planted as a result of an approved construction plan, but it does track them. Joe Rossetti stated that the Virginia Department of Forestry is developing a phone app for users to log trees planted, but verification by a trusted source is required and the Department will not be doing the verification. Mr. Hofmann suggested that Master Gardeners may be willing to verify trees planted, because they need volunteer hours to maintain their certification.

Richard Jacobs suggested adding street sweeping to the list. Ms. Edwards noted that DEQ removed the BMP from the region's WIP III urban BMP input deck, because it only removes sediment, not Nitrogen or Phosphorous. Nitrogen removal was the focus of the state's WIP process. More advanced forms of street sweeping do qualify. Attendees raised questions regarding the BMP standards and Ms. Edwards agreed to research the Bay Model's guidance on this BMP and report back at the next meeting.

Ms. May asked whether pet waste stations and pet waste removal conducted by companies

dedicated to it were included in the Bay model. It was suggested that pet waste is mainly a bacterial concern, which is dealt with through local TMDLs rather than the Bay TMDL. Ms. Edwards agreed to research the question to confirm.

### **BMP Training Needs Discussion**

Attendees raised the following training needs:

- BMP warehouse how-to with examples (Note: Attendees felt the recent DEQ training did not adequately fill this need)
- BMP maintenance training for County staff and HOAs
  - NC State's training could be brought to Virginia
- Landscaping workshop for HOAs
- Green infrastructure installation for homeowners
- Green infrastructure installation for engineers
- Introduction to stormwater and the Chesapeake Bay TMDL for elected and appointed officials
- Homeowner septic system maintenance
- Expansion of Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District's road maintenance training program
- Basic urban nutrient management for homeowners
- More nutrient management certification training sessions to meeting level of implementation called for in the WIP
  - Mr. Hopewell offered that the American Planning Association can publicize the training sessions and offer Continuing Education Credits; contact him for assistance

### **Next Committee Meeting**

Future WIP stakeholder meetings will be part of RRRC's Land Use and Environment Committee meetings, since there is considerable overlap between the membership of both groups. Stand-alone WIP implementation meetings will occur should the need arise. The next committee meeting is scheduled for August 15, 2019 at 10:00 am – 12:00 noon in the RRRC conference room. The final meeting for 2019 will be November 21.