

**Rush River, Hughes River, and Hazel River TMDL
Implementation Plan Development**

**Steering Committee Meeting #1
February 23, 2009
Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission**

Attendees

Tim Bondelid, RappFLOW
Parker Bullard, VA Dept. of Health
Deirdre Clark, Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission
Katie Conaway, VA Dept. of Environmental Quality
Debbie Cross, VA Dept. of Conservation and Recreation
Bev Hunter, RappFLOW
Laura Loveday, Culpeper County
David Massie, Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District
Byron Petrauskas, Engineering Concepts, Inc.
Lisa Robertson, Madison County
Jim Schaberl, National Park Service, Shenandoah National Park
May Sligh, VA Dept. of Conservation and Recreation
BJ Valentine, RappFLOW
Greg Wichelns, Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District

Meetings to Date

- First public meeting – September 16, 2008
- Agricultural Working Group meetings- September 16, 2008; November 18, 2008; January 12, 2009
- Residential Working Group meetings – September 16, 2008, November 18, 2008
- Government Working Group meeting – January 12, 2009

Working Group Reports

- **Residential** – Thirteen individuals participated in the two Residential Working Group meetings. Mr. Timothy Bondelid, RappFLOW, summarized key recommendations made by the members of the Residential Working Group and expanded upon them by describing specific management practices and implementation strategies. The following issues were reviewed:
 - The use of Low Impact Development to moderate the impacts of construction on hydrology;
 - The value of riparian buffers;
 - Basic eco-friendly land management practices;
 - Recognizing non-bovine livestock (horses, et al) as contributors to water quality problems;
 - The importance of education as provided to students in schools and to home buyers by realtors.Clarification is needed regarding:
 - Phasing of the construction of the wastewater plant in Washington and delivery of service to residents;
 - Locations of confined canine facilities.
- **Agricultural** - Thirty-one individuals participated in the three Agricultural Working Group Meetings. Mr. Petrauskas, Engineering Concepts, Inc., reviewed the group's recommendations. The following issues were discussed:
 - The need for a 10 year implementation timeline;
 - The importance of pursuing private funding sources and non-government funded implementation options;
 - The continuing concern by landowners that recommended practices will become mandatory;
 - The need for flexibility in practices and funding to encourage participation in BMP programs;
 - The fact that agriculture as a land use is valued by all residents of the region.
- **Governmental** – Twenty-one individuals participated in the Governmental Working Group meeting. Mr. Greg Wichelns, Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District, presented the group's recommendations. In discussing

issues associated with on-site sewage treatment systems, concern was expressed regarding currently proposed legislation that would limit a locality's ability to regulate alternative treatment systems in any way. Possible limitations of cost share funds in the installation of these systems were discussed. Information was provided to the group regarding:

- The role of the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services;
- Other funding sources including NRCS;
- Private funding would be needed to provide shade structures for livestock.

Clarification is needed to determine whether pump-out funding might be available to citizens in Washington should systems fail prior to the availability of public sewer.

Questions/Comments/Concerns

- Group members questioned whether the entire upper Hazel watershed should be included in the TMDL-IP. All agreed that logic would suggest that it be included.
 - If the decision is made to include the whole watershed, should priority be given to the current IP area for the implementation of practices?
- Ground-truthing of livestock exclusions is part of the technical assistance offered by the Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District.
- The National Park Service does not monitor for bacteria, but will make their monitoring data available. In addition, they welcome groups in the park to conduct coliscan monitoring. The continuation of NPS' monitoring program depends upon funding.

What's Next?

- The next Steering Committee Meeting will be held on March 30th, 2009 at the R-RRC office in Culpeper.
 - The public document prepared by Engineering Concepts for the Public Meeting will be available for review.
 - The power-point presentation prepared for April 23rd's Public Meeting will be reviewed.
- The Public Meeting will be held on April 23rd, 2009 at the Firehouse in Washington, VA.