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RAPPAHANNOCK TRIBUTARIES BACTERIA TMDL Public Meeting

Westmoreland Fire Department
June 20, 2018
5:30 PM

Attendees:

Rebecca Shoemaker – VADEQ
Kelley West – VADEQ
Karen Kline – Virginia Tech Biological Systems Engineering
Jim Tate – Hanover Caroline Soil and Water Conservation District
Jimmy & Kathy Dove – Residents
Eglin Perry -- Resident
Suzan Gunsalus – Resident
Kathleen Harrigan – Friends of the Rappahannock
Danny Allensworth – Resident
Olivia Mills – Fort A.P. Hill
Stu & Mindy Ashton – Northern Neck Master Naturalists
Steve Waterfield – Northern Neck News
Charlie Knoeller – Virginia Department of Forestry
Lawrence Perry -- Resident

Meeting Goals

1. Present the findings of the Rappahannock River and Tributaries TMDL
2. Announce the 30-day public comment period
3. Train local residents as citizen monitors

Meeting Notes

The meeting began at approximately 5:30pm

Karen, from VT Biological Systems Engineering, presented background information about the scope and goals of the project. The majority of the presentation focused on the draft loadings and proposed reduction scenarios in order for water quality to reach the water quality standards again. Each creek had a different proportion of sources, so the total maximum daily and annual loads are specific to each creek.

The 30-day public comment period is also now active for the draft report. Please send any formal comments to Anna.Reh-Gingerich@deq.virginia.gov by July 20th, 2018. Informal comments are welcome anytime. The draft report is available here:

<https://www.deq.virginia.gov/Programs/Water/WaterQualityInformationTMDLs/TMDL/TMDLDevelopment/DraftTMDLReports.aspx>

The details of the presentation are available on the website at:

<https://www.deq.virginia.gov/Programs/Water/WaterQualityInformationTMDLs/TMDL/TMDLDevelopment/DocumentationforSelectTMDLs.aspx> (near the bottom of the page).

James Beckley finished the meeting with a citizen monitoring training for any interested attendees.

Q&A:

Q: Why are the impairments only in certain sections of the Rappahannock?

A: It is dependent upon how the stream segments are delineated, and which stream segments returned bacteria results higher than the allowed criteria. Creeks not highlighted in red are currently not impaired.

Q: Why are there some gaps in the data, and why isn't data available for every year for all of them?

A: Stations that have yearly results are part of the long-term ambient trend network. Those stations often have more parameters involved in each monitoring visit and are part of a larger, statewide network. For bacteria-specific monitoring, station visits are highly dependent upon available resources (funding and staff time). We aim to do a year of sampling in a specific area or watershed every five years, if it is feasible, to keep the data current.

Q: Have you looked into biosolids?

A: Yes, we have, and we determined that they were not a contributing factor.

Q: What happens next for implementation?

A: DEQ plans to combine the lower section of the Rappahannock where there is already a TMDL in place, also known as the Upper Rappahannock TMDL, and complete one large implementation plan for both watersheds together so that there is a larger area to identify locations that best management practices would be successful. After a round of citizen monitoring and DEQ's 2018 monitoring, we will have a better idea where to find those areas and can start work on an implementation plan, resources permitting.