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RAPAHHANNOCK TRIBUTARIES BACTERIA TMDL STAKEHOLDER MEETING

PORT ROYAL FIRE DEPARTMENT
MAY 16, 2017
1:00 PM

Attendees:

Anna Reh-Gingerich – VADEQ	Jim Tate – Hanover-Caroline SWCD
Rebecca Shoemaker – VADEQ	Karen Snape – VADOF
Karen Kline – Virginia Tech Biological Systems Engineering	Michelle Carter – Three Rivers SWCD
Scutter Lee – Fort A.P. Hill	Marta Perry – Tri-County/City SWCD
John Bateman – Northern Neck PDC	David Nunnally – Caroline County
David Fridley – VDH	Jennifer Palmore – VADEQ
Lucee Kossler – NRCS	Kelley West – VADEQ
	Kaitlin Ranger – VADEQ

Meeting Goals

1. Introduce attendees to the TMDL project
2. Receive feedback on outreach strategies and public meetings for these areas
3. Identify areas for collaboration with data sharing and projects already in place
4. Initiate discussions about local area land use

Meeting Notes

- Welcome and Introductions
 - Anna introduced herself, Karen, and Rebecca as the main contacts for the project and thanked everyone for attending the meeting.
- Project Description
 - Maps were distributed to show the scope of the project. These Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for bacteria will cover watersheds along the Rappahannock River between two previously established TMDLs: one directly downstream, and one directly upstream. Details about the creeks and portion of the Rappahannock that initiated this project are provided in the handouts. Nonpoint sources are the most likely factor, but a bacteria source assessment will soon be conducted to assess what is contributing to elevated bacteria levels.
- Outreach Strategies
 - Anna asked for suggestions regarding the audience, good times, and locations for official kickoff public meetings. The meeting will largely be informational, but will also provide opportunities for citizens to join the Technical Advisory Committee in order to get their

feedback and start generating momentum for water quality improvement plans.

Suggestions included:

- § Holding a meeting on both sides of the river to account for citizen travel time
 - § Holding targeted meetings or taking advantage of existing meetings for the various audiences (farmers, property owners, etc.)
 - **ACTION ITEM: If aware of any scheduled meetings (i.e. this HOA meets next Wednesday), forward them to Anna so she can potentially present as an educator.**
 - § Making the meeting time for a Thursday night, or Friday late afternoon to get the most participation
 - § Potentially holding the meeting in Montross via the NNPDC
 - § Hosting booths at weekend festivals and farmers markets
 - § Reaching out to local newspapers, ag supply stores, HOAs, bait shops, and counties to post meeting info
 - § **ACTION ITEM: Send meeting flyers to the SWCDs, Cooperative Extensions, and NRCS to distribute as they see fit**
- Land Use/Source Assessment Input
 - Karen asked for initial feedback regarding land use and potential bacteria sources within the watersheds. The goal is to have the TMDL reflective of the actual contributions in the watersheds. The majority of the feedback suggests wildlife will be the main contributor due to the abundance of waterfowl, coyotes, beavers, etc. There is hunting with dogs that occurs in the area and quite a few people have pets (dogs, goats, etc.), so pet estimates may be necessary as part of the assessment. There are very few farms (only 1 dairy operation) within the project scope, and the majority of the farmers have already been implementing best management practices. Less than 10% of the area is pasture. Biosolids are used in this area. There are a few sand and gravel operations in Caroline County that are likely not contributing bacteria, but due to the public attention should still be addressed as “considered” within the final report. There are also few residence areas within the scope. **ACTION ITEM: VDH agreed to supply any information they had regarding failing septic tanks and straight pipes.** Fort A.P. Hill is the major permit holder that makes up a large portion of the project scope and has an extensive water monitoring program for their permitted WWTP. **ACTION ITEM: A.P. Hill agreed to share data from the monitoring programs to supplement the modeling.**
 - Larger satellite imagery maps with streets will be provided at the public meeting to help attendees identify sources and land uses.
 - The bacteria source assessment will likely be completed before the end of July. There will be another stakeholder/TAC meeting in August to review the numbers and contributions of each source and provide more feedback.
 - Other



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- The Rappahannock River Basin Commission is heading a Healthy Watersheds program and would be good to get in touch with.
- Friends of the Rappahannock would also be a good contact.
- Cost share grants have been reduced to “medium priority” in some of these HUCs due to the large amount of work that has already been done.
- It would be helpful to show all data to know what is supporting vs. what is impaired for context at the public meeting.