

Powell River and Tributaries IP
Residential Working Group: Big Stone Gap
1st Meeting

When: Tuesday, May 23, 2017, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Location: Big Stone Gap Town Hall Gymnasium
505 East 5th St South, Big Stone Gap, VA

ATTENDEES:

- Andrew Meador- Big Stone Gap Parks and Recreation
 - Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
 - Martha Chapman – TMDL Coordinator – SW Regional Office
 - Stephanie Kreps – NPS Coordinator – SW Regional Office
-

Meeting purpose: To discuss the residential aspects and ways to reduce the sediment and bacteria impairment in the Powell River watershed in Wise County; Engage the public in the development of the Implementation Plan (IP) (also known as a Water Quality Improvement Plan or Clean Up Plan).

Meeting goal: Collect information from residential stakeholders to inform the components of the Implementation Plan: landuse changes, best management practices, partnerships, potential funding sources, outreach/education; timeline and future plans that may contribute to IP goals.

Stephanie Kreps (DEQ) gave a brief introduction and set the context of the meeting. Handouts were provided and can be found on the DEQ website:
<http://bit.do/DEQPowell-ImplementationPlanProgress>.

The following was discussed at the meeting:

- 1) Big Stone Gap has ten town parks and the greenbelt (2.5 mile walking trail that will eventually connect to Town of Appalachia rail to trail) that they manage. Spearhead Trails is looking to connect an ATV trail between Appalachia and Pennington Gap.
- 2) Big Stone Gap Public Works fixed a streambank collapse (happened 2-3 years ago) at the South Fork and Middle Fork confluence. Need to follow up with Glenn Bishop for more information.
- 3) Big Cherry Reservoir is open for the public—there are plans to develop trails (bike, horse and ziplines). Need to follow up with Steve Lawson, Town Manager, for more details.
- 4) **Best management practices:**
 - a. The town mows and weeds the riverbanks for fishermen. Used to have more small mouth bass but they're decreasing (probably competing with trout that's being stocked). There's not a lot of public access on the Powell in Wise and Lee County: 1 public access point at Dryden (Yokum) and a second one near

Woodway on Rt 421. Could look at town park stream management and access point management to reduce sediment.

- b. Lots of ducks and geese at A.K. Fraley Park—could address runoff from park to reduce bacteria runoff. There are no pet waste stations at the park or Greenbelt—could install some to reduce bacteria runoff. There are trashcans. A lot of dogs can be found in the Greenbelt.
 - c. Is the carwash next to the Powell River, across from Frog Level an issue?
- 5) **Outreach/Education:** The best way to reach people +35 years old is the local newspaper, The Post (for Big Stone Gap) and Coalfield Progress (for Norton area), Powell Valley News (for Lee County). For people under 40, the best way to reach them is the Town of Big Stone Gap and BSG Parks and Recreation Facebook page. The Visitor Center is managed by Parks and Recreation (Jill Bullock). Rhonda at the Hallmark store also manages/advertises town events/news.
- 6) **Future plans:** A.K. Fraley Park (across from Glencoe Cemetery) will be building a disc golf course and will have increased traffic (a lot more people on the bank and feeding ducks in the park, therefore, probably more duck feces and trash). A dog park is going to be built near Bullit Park.