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# RAPAHHANNOCK RIVER AND TRIBUTARIES BACTERIA TMDL TAC Meeting

Westmoreland Berry Farm  
August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017  
1:00 PM

## **Attendees:**

Anna Reh-Gingerich – VADEQ	Kathy Clarke – Northern Neck SWCD & Resident
Rebecca Shoemaker – VADEQ	Eglin Perry – Resident
Kaitlin Ranger - VADEQ	David Nunnally – Caroline County
Karen Kline – Virginia Tech Biological Systems Engineering	Richard Moncure – Friends of the Rappahannock
Marta Perry – Tri-County/City SWCD	Kathleen Harrigan – Friends of the Rappahannock
David Nunnally – Caroline County	Olivia Mills – Fort AP Hill
Kathleen Watson – Northern Neck SWCD	

## **Meeting Goal**

Review the draft Bacteria Source Assessment prepared by Virginia Tech Biological Systems Engineering and receive local feedback.

## **Meeting Summary**

*The meeting officially began at approximately 1:10 PM*

The meeting was formatted as a break-out session to go through the draft bacteria source assessment in detail. Two groups reviewed estimations regarding livestock, pet, household, and wildlife numbers within the watersheds of the project. Some highlights from the discussions:

- Overall, estimations are reflective of the watersheds. The methodologies used are also consistent with past TMDLs.
- Geese were brought up as a concern for tributaries along the Rappahannock, and current estimations for peak migratory seasons were described as too low. Additional animals, such as foxes and opossums, were suggested for consideration as well.
- One dairy operation in Westmoreland is outside of the project scope and should be removed.
- Citizen monitoring is still an interest for Peedee Creek. Discussions will continue through the fall to develop a potential 2018 plan.
- Producers should be separated out from general cropland, since no manure or biosolids are applied.



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### **Description of Project and Background Info**

The Clean Water Act (CWA) establishes uses, such as recreation, fish nurseries, and drinking water, to the navigable waters of the US. The CWA also requires permits for anyone that wishes to discharge into these waters. The permits give limits based on water quality standards established by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that are intended to keep the waterways meeting their designated uses.

The specific pollutant for this project is bacteria; specifically, enterococci for tidally-influenced waters, and E. coli for freshwaters. Several creeks along the Rappahannock River Basin have exceeded Virginia's bacteria standards in previous years of monitoring and are currently on the list of waters requiring a study, or Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), to determine what is needed to improve water quality. A TMDL is the daily amount of a pollutant a stream can handle and still recover to water quality standards.

The specific creeks are:

- Jetts Creek – King George County
- Mill Creek – Caroline County
- Portobago Creek – Caroline County
- Stillwater Creek – Essex County
- Baylors Creek – Essex County
- Elmwood Creek – Essex County
- Peedee Creek, fresh and tidal – Westmoreland County
- Rappahannock River segment, tidal – Westmoreland County & Richmond County