

**2<sup>nd</sup> Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes**

**4/5/2022**

**Franklin County Public Library, 355 Franklin Street, Rocky Mount VA 24151**

**10:30 am**

**Attendees:** Department of Forestry (DOF), Wetland Studies and Solutions Inc. (WSSI), Pittsylvania SWCD, Blue Ridge SWCD, Peaks of Otter SWCD, Friends of the River, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

Introductions of TAC members

Lucy Smith (DEQ) presented a brief overview of the project and DEQ's water quality planning process. There were no questions or comments on the stressor identification report.

Thomas Shubert (WSSI) presented the modeling approach and land use calculations for the impaired watersheds. Besides forest, pasture and cropland were the dominant land uses in the watersheds. There were no comments or questions on the land use or cover distributions in the impaired watersheds.

Thomas then reviewed the permitted sources in the watersheds. There are two domestic sewage permits and one VPDES permit in Beaverdam Creek watershed. There are no permits in the other impaired watersheds. No construction general permits were identified in any of the watersheds. Thomas presented the existing Best Management Practices (BMPs) that are within the watershed. There were no questions or comments on the permitted sources or BMPs in the watershed.

Thomas explained the TMDL equation components and the process used for developing the reduction target since there is no water quality standard for sediment. The AllForX process involves selecting a suite of watersheds that may or may not be impaired and are similar to the watersheds of interest. The multiplier for this project was 5.46 and called for reductions in the watershed between 15.7%- 70.3% with Fryingpan Creek requiring the greatest reductions.

The next stage of the project will be to calculate the allocation scenarios and begin Implementation Planning.

Question: What is the age of land use data? Some land use has changed since 2016.

- Land use data is 2016. Thomas will follow up with SWCD for changes in land use in the impaired watersheds.

Question: Are there any proposed solar farms in these watersheds? DOF has observed large amounts of sediment running off from these areas and has observed some solar farms installed in these counties.

-No, none came up in permit search

Discussion: The group had a discussion on how to get people to participate in BMP programs. Suggestions were made to restructure programs so that they are more competitive with other cost-share sources. Word of mouth seems to be a powerful tool as well as informing potential participants on other sources of funding that could meet their needs (i.e. clean water financing). Some past complaints from farmers are the amount of paperwork, timing in receiving funds, and a complicated process.

## Pigg River, Fryingpan Creek, Poplar Branch and Beaverdam Creek TMDL

- The suggestion was made to provide pamphlets on funding opportunities for the Pigg River Ramble (June 3-5). Lucy will compile these sources and send to Bill Tanger for distribution.

Question: Are vegetated buffers required in cattle exclusion practices? It seems like for some watersheds cattle exclusion won't be enough to stabilize banks but they would also need to have trees on the bank.

- No it isn't required that trees are planted on the buffer area, in fact many farmers prefer to not have trees because that means more maintenance.
- There are some practices that require plantings- FR3
- We can prioritize vegetated riparian areas in the IP for greater bank stability