

# **Sand Branch Benthic Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Study**

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## **Seventh Technical Advisory Committee Meeting**

April 25, 2024

Meeting Summary

**Location:** Brambleton Public Library, Meeting Room A  
22850 Brambleton Plaza  
Brambleton, Virginia 20148

**Start:** 10:00 A.M.

**End:** 12:00 P.M.

### **Meeting Attendance:**

See attached sign-in sheet for list of meeting attendees (provided as an attachment to the PDF).

### **Meeting Materials:**

The meeting agenda is provided as an attachment to the PDF.

The meeting was conducted with the assistance of a MS PowerPoint presentation. Detailed information in the presentation (provided as an attachment) is not repeated in these summary notes; instead, highlights from each general topic section of the meeting are summarized along with the questions and discussion held during the meeting.

### **Meeting Summary:**

DEQ opened the meeting by welcoming the participants and going over safety and convenience items. Next, a round of introductions were done followed by a discussion of objectives for the meeting and a review of where we are in the TMDL process.

### Permit Updates:

- Model Updates
  - Nomenclature designation change from pasture to fallow.
  - Reviewed in-channel process in HSPF.
- Revisions to Point Sources
  - Updates to active construction general permits in the watershed
  - Announced official closure and VPDES permit termination for Loudoun Composting Facility (VA0091430)

### Total Phosphorus (TP)

- TMDL for TP not being pursued.

### Total Suspended Solids (TSS)

- Reviewed TMDL equation and AllForX approach to endpoint development.
- Presented and discussed existing TSS Loads
- CGP Discussion
  - Discussion: Is it representative to have 54.5 acres of active construction assumed on an annual basis with the watershed.
  - Based on TAC discussion it was suggested to look at historical records for construction general permits for subsets of time to assess if the current average is appropriate.
  - Several TAC members discussed that the rate of growth in the surrounding counties would suggest full or near full build out and re-build.
  - TAC members requested clarification of shifting of any additional CGP acreage into impervious numbers rather than into forested.
  - TAC members suggested that DEQ look at the largest parcel left un-developed in the watershed. DEQ responded that the goal is to develop an average annual disturbed acreage and not making assumptions that there will be developed but making an educated assumption based on current status.
  - WSSI reminded TAC members that we are not developing a strict threshold but instead developing an expected annual average.
  - There was consensus among the TAC members that 54.5 acres annually is too high but that more information should be considered regarding past construction rates and future growth potential before deciding on a more appropriate number.
- Discussion Slide:
  - Requested that VDOT and Loudoun County follow up on preference of being aggregated or not. DEQ and MS4 to discuss and make sure that the appropriate drainage/regulatory areas were used.
  - TAC members expressed and discussed the need for the development of water quality standards that are more appropriate for urbanized streams. Several stakeholders agreed with this but also acknowledged that we are bound by the current regulatory framework. DEQ noted that the 2024 Draft 2024 305(b)/303(d) Water Quality Assessment Integrated Report is currently in public comment period, and that might be a good avenue for stakeholders to get these concerns on the record.

### Stakeholder Presentation

- Eddie Hoy, John Brooks, Karen Bennett, and David Moore (over Teams) of Chantilly Crushed Stone, LLC, gave a PowerPoint presentation. In the discussions below, the presenters will be referenced as “CCS representation”. Detailed information in the presentation (provided as an attachment) is not repeated in these summary notes.

○ Discussions

- Members of the TAC had questions regarding the stream assessment that was referenced. CCS representation indicated that the stream assessment can be provided to the TAC.
- TAC members asked questions regarding the pump and discharge system and how that can affect the perenniality of the stream. CCS representation indicated that they have installed a newer pump on a sump and that outside of working hours the water is allowed to rise to higher levels. CCS representation noted that Department of Energy (referred to as DMME) regulations require that the 100-year storm be contained within the quarry pit. TAC members questioned if flow metering or other flow monitoring has been done or is occurring.
- Discussion occurred regarding the Triassic Basin and the potential influences on existing conductivity levels.
- TAC members discussed what the appropriate time frame is for benthic macroinvertebrate sampling. DEQ responded that the sample dates fell within the acceptable spring and fall sampling windows per DEQ's biological monitoring QAPP.
- A discussion of pollution vs pollutants occurred. DEQ indicated that it is considered during the Benthic Stressor Analysis (BSA) process.
- During the presentation and in subsequent discussion, CCS representation noted that they did not agree with the listing and categorization of Sand Branch on the 303d list. DEQ noted that the public comment period for the draft 2024 305(b)/303(d) Water Quality Assessment Integrated Report is currently on-going and would be an appropriate avenue to submit these comments.

Project Timeline and Next Steps

DEQ began the meeting wrap-up with an overview of next steps. DEQ noted that the next TAC meeting is anticipated to be held Summer 2024 to follow up on discussions from this meeting and to share and solicit feedback allocation scenarios along with margins of safety and future growth. Feedback on stakeholder information and presentation by TAC members is anticipated during this time period as well.

DEQ thanked attendees for the conversations and feedback and noted that this is a stakeholder driven process and that while there are different parts of the process we are moving towards decision points.

DEQ requested any follow up feedback be sent as soon as possible and thanked all for attending.