

Mountain Run PCB TMDL Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting #1

Meeting Minutes

January 12, 2021

1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. via GoToMeeting

<https://transcripts.gotomeeting.com/#/s/bd39ce9166c7a4711b69b007b907b3873b1c0dc76cfefe789ca37bb2e3fbb319>

Participants:

DEQ: Rebecca Shoemaker, Mark Richards, Sarah Sivers, Bryant Thomas, Cathy Nicely, and Dave Evans
DEQ Contractor (BSE at VA Tech): Karen Kline, Brian Benham, and Emily Smith-McKenna

NGOs: Bryan Hofmann and October Greenfield (Friends of the Rappahannock); Maggi Bloomstom and Adam Gillenwater (Piedmont Environmental Council)

Local Government: Sam McClearen (Culpeper County) and Melanie Bayne (Town of Culpeper)

State Government: Joe Rossetti (VA DOF)

VPDES Permittees: Mark McGeechan, Melanie Bayne, and Jonathan Aklaku

VAMWA and VAMSA: Dick Sedgley (AquaLaw)

There were two unidentified phone call participants (however, it is possible that these callers were some of the people noted above)

Final TAC membership has not been established; it will be finalized at the end of the 30-day public comment period on February 16, 2021. However, the following entities notified DEQ of their intent to participate in the TAC prior to this meeting but did not attend this meeting:

Bill Graves	ENSAT Corporation
Jake Klitenic	Culpeper Recycling
Tom Gibbons	Culpeper Recycling
Karl Thornhill	Updike Industries
Todd Atkins	Superior Paving Corporation
Jennifer Bunting	Southern States Cooperative, Inc.
Deanna Crumbling	citizen
Greg Wichelns (NOTE: Mr Wichelns attended the public meeting on 1/13/21)	Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District
Michelle Edwards	Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission
Carl Stafford	Virginia Cooperative Extension
Sonal Iyer	Virginia Department of Health

Rebecca Shoemaker started with opening remarks, explaining that DEQ is currently holding public meetings virtually due to the Governor's State of Emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. DEQ hopes to hold future meetings in person in Culpeper; however, that will depend on the status of the pandemic. Rebecca noted that she did not receive contact information for people attending this meeting; therefore, if the participants had not previously received correspondence from Rebecca, they would need to provide their contact information to her (she provided her email address and phone number in the chat box). It was noted that there would be a public meeting on January 13, 2021, followed by a 30-day comment period, during which the TAC membership will be finalized. Membership is flexible in terms of expectations; there are no requirements and input can be as limited or extensive as the TAC members

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want. However, DEQ encourages everyone to participate because local input is helpful in completing TMDL projects.

Mark Richards introduced himself as the presenter for the DEQ slide presentation and explained the nature of his position, DEQ's continuous planning process, and Virginia's TMDL program, and background information relevant to the Mountain Run PCB TMDL project.

Joe Rossetti and Bryan Hofmann asked if people eat American eel, and why eel seems to have higher concentrations than other fish species that were analyzed for PCBs. DEQ Response: some ethnic groups commonly consume eel, including in sushi. Mature eels spawn in the Sargasso Sea and then juvenile life phases (including glass eels and elvers) migrate to Atlantic tributaries. They move upstream and spend much of their lives in small streams/tributaries (in some cases up to 30 years), so their life cycle results in bioaccumulation in areas that have PCB contamination. They are also a fatty (high lipid) fish.

Melanie Bayne asked about the inconsistency of sample size at the various stations, and inquired if that would skew results. DEQ Response: Analysis for PCBs is extremely expensive, so DEQ needs to plan sampling carefully to hone in on potential source areas, which is one component of the sampling design. Based on the relatively small size of the Mountain Run project area, the total number of samples collected represents a rich dataset. Modeling of PCBs, a second consideration for the sampling design, will incorporate the sample results to assist in determining the fate and transport once PCBs are in the system.

Bryan Hoffman asked if Culpeper Wood Preservers should be considered a Superfund site that is a potential source. DEQ Response: Only PCBs sources are being considered.

Karen Kline presented the Mountain Run PCB Model that is under development to support the TMDL. Bryan Hofmann noted that a NFWF grant awarded to RRRRC supports work for the 2018 High Resolution Land Cover data; this may be helpful to DEQ during TMDL development. The Rappahannock Rapidan Regional Commission would know more about the availability of this dataset.

Joe Rossetti asked about the diagrams showing the percentage of the various PCB homologs detected in samples and whether or not that info could be used to detect specific land uses/industries as sources. Mark explained that there was probably not correlation with specific types of industries (unless they had a really unique fingerprint), but noted that diagrams similar to those presented can provide information about the differences in the PCBs present in samples that are collected within certain areas of the watershed.

Mark concluded the presentation with a description of the TMDL implementation process and a summary of the proposed project schedule. He noted that DEQ hopes to conclude this project in late 2021. There will likely be either one or two additional TAC meetings. He reiterated that there is a public comment period through February 16.