

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Workgroup to Study Issues Related to Mitigation and Nutrient Credit Programs
Draft Meeting Agenda

Thursday, July 7, 2022
Start Time: 9:00 A.M

Location: Bank of America Building, 1111 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia
3rd Floor Conference Room

Workgroup Directive: A letter from the Chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake, & Natural Resources requires DEQ to form a workgroup to study and report back on issues raised by several bills that were tabled during the 2022 Virginia General Assembly Session regarding mitigation and nutrient credit programs.

Welcome from DEQ Director

Supply/Demand of Mitigation Credits

1. Introduction to Supply/Demand for Mitigation Credits – DEQ staff
2. Around the Table Questions:
 - a. *Are there any additions to or comments on the Supply/Demand for Mitigation Credits?*
 - b. *What are your recommendations for legislative and regulatory changes to increase the supply of wetland and stream mitigation credits and reduce volatility in the price of mitigation credits in Virginia?*

Lunch Break (60 minutes)

Incentivizing Dam Removal Projects

3. Introduction to Mitigation and Geographic Service Areas in Virginia – DEQ Staff
4. Around the Table Questions:
 - a. *What methods are in place or could be developed for promoting the removal of obsolete dams and significant river obstructions by the private sector that maximize the input of private capital and minimize the need for public funding to facilitate the removal?*
 - b. *Is there published research in Virginia that might provide a scientific basis, from a water quality and fish benefit perspective, to expand existing service area limitations*

for mitigation credits generated by the removal of obsolete dams and significant river obstructions, above and beyond that of traditional stream mitigation projects? In other states?

- c. What are the potential impacts to local watershed and Chesapeake Bay water quality, ecological services, and fisheries as a result of the removal of such obsolete dams and significant river obstructions?*

- d. What innovative dam removal partnerships and incentives have been used or are still used in other states to incentivize the removal of dams by the private sector?*

Nutrient Credits

5. Introduction to Nonpoint Source Nutrient Trading Service Areas and the Conversion of Agricultural Lands – DEQ Staff

6. Around the Table Questions:

- a. What are the potential impacts of restricting the purchase of nutrient credits to within the same 8-digit HUC?*

- b. To what extent are nutrient credits being generated through the conversion of prime farmland? What are the potential impacts of restricting the generation of credits on any parcel of prime farmland acquired for generating credit?*

- c. Are there other changes in the nutrient credit trading regulations and/or underlying statutory authority to reduce the loss of prime farmland?*

Outcomes / Next Meeting

NOTE: All attendees may choose to wear face coverings at their own discretion.