

Buffalo River TMDL Implementation Plan

First Public Meeting

October 8, 2019, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Amherst County Administration Building, 153 Washington Street, Amherst, VA

Attendees: James Moneymaker, Paula Main, Lucy Baker, Ashley Wendt (Virginia Department of Environmental Quality); Karen Kline (VT BSE); Gary Smith, Becky Cash, Gary Williams, Frederick Adams, Sara Carter (Town of Amherst); Kelly Hitchcock (Central VA Planning District Commission); Dean Rodgers, Bob Hopkins (Amherst County); Galen Creekmore; Don Yancey (USDA NRCS); Jonathan Wooldridge (Robert E. Lee SWCD)

- James Moneymaker introduced himself and purpose of the meeting.
 - Review original TMDL information:
 - Human health and livestock concerns with too much E. coli in streams
 - Multiple sources of E. Coli including humans, wildlife, livestock and pets
 - TMDL study conducted back in 2013 for bacteria and sediment
 - Goal is to delist waters from “dirty waters” list
 - Two TMDLs conducted for Bacteria and Sediment; Nelson County section (DEQ Valley Regional Office) has completed watershed plans
 - Bacteria and sediment reductions are needed for a delisting these streams
 - TMDL tells us what we need to do and IP process tells us how
 - Discussion on where monitoring plans were located
 - What about drought years?
 - We capture at least 12 data points (monthly or bimonthly) and do not account for weather
 - What is in a TMDL Implementation Plan
 - Goals are to reduce pollutants to levels in TMDL
 - Some state requirements for IPs date of expected WQ improvements including:
 - Measurable goals
 - Different types of BMPs
 - Request for applications for partners to apply for funding to get BMPs on the ground after IP is approved by EPA and the Virginia State Water Control Board
 - Will request data from stakeholders: failing septic systems
 - Following this meeting working groups will be held to solicit information from government, agricultural, and residential
 - Responsibilities for these groups include identifying potential constraints and review implementation practices
 - Steering Committee reviews documents
 - How do we pay for practices? Work with partners to obtain money

- Good news is that we have implemented multiple BMPs in Buffalo Creek and Rutledge Creek since 2008
- Timeline: 1st working group meetings before December 2019 and 2nd working group meetings Feb. 2020

Questions and comments:

- Town of Amherst is committed to improving the quality of water because the Buffalo River is their water source
- Concerns with sediment in the Buffalo and how it effects the Tye River
- Do you know where the straight pipes are?
 - No, we work with VDH to identify where these are and use the U.S Census to estimate how many there are for modeling purposes.
- Is there a correlation between sediment and nutrients and bacteria? Can BMPs be used for both? Impacting visual aspect (sediment) is valuable. How can these be accounted for in the Chesapeake Bay WHIP?
 - Yes, programmatically we are looking at BMPs and what they can achieve. Using BMPs that can address multiple pollutants (i.e. fencing out cattle, planting trees) will be prioritized.
- Robert E. Lee SWCD terminated a collaborative program that protected waterways between Town, County and Service authority. JRA is interested in continuing partnership. Can JRA apply for 319 money?
 - Yes, organizations can but individuals cannot.
- Would you be interested in making a presentation to JRA at their meeting?
 - Sure, but we would also want them to be involved in these meetings as well.
- Who implemented the BMPs in the last 10 years?
 - SWCD

Contact James Moneymaker if you are interested in being on a working group or have any questions:
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