

Looney Creek TMDL Implementation Plan
Agricultural/Residential Working Groups – 2nd Meeting
Buchanan Town Council Chambers: June 13, 2007

DRAFT MINUTES

Attendees

Tom Wilbow, citizen
Eddie Wells, RVARC
Charlene Oliver, MCSWCD
Kati Stuller, MCSWCD
Charles Montgomery, citizen
Wanda Drake, business owner
Greg Whitt, citizen

Mark Hollberg, DCR
Charlie Lunsford, DCR
Tim Ward, Botetourt County
Carol Linkenhoker, Botetourt County
Sky Preece, citizen
Wanda Smith, citizen

Meeting Summary

The meeting began with a review of the discussion from the first agricultural and residential working group meetings that took place on January 22 and 23, 2007, respectively. The first hour of the meeting addressed agricultural issues.

Charlie Lunsford (VA Dept. of Conservation and Recreation) distributed a handout titled, "Looney Creek Stage I and Stage II BMP Tables, June 1, 2007". This handout was prepared by MapTech, Inc. in Blacksburg, Virginia, the consultant working with DCR to develop the TMDL implementation plan. Comment was made that the \$11,200 cost per unit for the grazing land protection system BMP (SL-6) seemed too low and the cost per unit for the stream protection system BMP (WP-2T) seemed too high. It was suggested that the agricultural sinkhole protection BMP (WQ-11) be included in the plan due to karst topography in the watershed. This practice provides 75% cost-share and a 25% tax credit to remove and properly dispose of all foreign materials and debris dumped in and around sinkholes, for associated structural and agronomic measures to provide adequate vegetation for filtering and sediment trapping, and for fencing in order to provide livestock exclusion.

There was discussion whether the operating dairies in the watershed have adequate manure storage and loafing lot management systems. Mark Hollberg followed up on this topic following this meeting and has recommended that the estimated cost for one dairy waste storage facility and one dairy loafing lot management system be included in the plan.

During the agricultural working group meeting there was concern expressed by several citizens regarding water quality conditions in the area, in particular Back Creek and whether someone would come out and test for bacteria in areas where children are playing in the stream. Tom Wilbow discussed the Coliscan monitoring that is ongoing and some of the recent results. Coliscan monitoring in addition to the DEQ ambient monitoring will be used to identify areas where bacteria loadings coming into the watershed are elevated, and also to measure progress as implementation proceeds.

The second hour of the meeting pertained to discussion regarding the residential control measures. It was mentioned that the effluent from a septic tank pumpout would have to be hauled to Roanoke because the local sewage treatment is unable to handle the septic waste. There was mention that some straight pipes may be identified in the Town of Buchanan that need to be corrected. It was pointed out that the residential cost-share funding program administered by DCR to remove straight pipes and repair/replace failing on-site sewage disposal system is designed for homeowners and businesses are only eligible based on "hardship cases". The cost-share funding is available for individual residences to connect to public sewer and does not fund the extension of sewer lines to provide services to unsewered areas.

It was discussed that the pet waste bacteria reductions required by the TMDL will be addressed through a pet litter education program including educational materials, signage and pet waste disposal stations in public areas. In addition to this program, it is proposed that pet waste composters be promoted as a low cost corrective measure for homeowners to collect and treat canine feces on-site. A handout was provided for the Hueter Toledo Doggie Dooley model \$45.99 as a market example. It was mentioned by Carol Linkenhoker that the James River Roundtable may be an organization that could be responsible to administer the pet litter education program with grant funds.

The last part of the meeting focused on the next steps in the plan development. A Steering Committee needs to be formed and at the first meeting of this group the agricultural, residential, and government working group reports will be presented. Also, the draft implementation plan and the draft presentation for the second public meeting will be reviewed. A location and date for the public meeting will also be decided.

Working group attendees who would like to represent a working group and make the report to the Steering Committee please notify Charlie Lunsford. If you would like to be a Steering Committee member please let Charlie know as well.