

APPENDIX 3: DEVELOPMENT OF PHASE I WATERSHED IMPLEMENTATION PLANS AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

3.1. Webinars and Public Meetings

Webinars

The EPA hosted a webinar on October 2, 2009 to introduce the Chesapeake Bay TMDL process to stakeholders in the Commonwealth of Virginia. More than 400 people participated, either in person at six Virginia Department of Environmental Quality offices or on online, in the October 2 orientation meeting. They heard EPA and state officials discuss efforts to develop a Chesapeake Bay TMDL report and implementation plan. EPA and state staff answered questions and received comments from attendees.

Starting in February 2010, EPA hosted seven webinars on roughly a monthly basis. These webinars were open to the public throughout the bay watershed. Virginia staff presented an update of their efforts in the February session.

Public Meetings

During the week of December 14-17, 2010, more than 600 people attended Virginia meetings held by the EPA to address the Chesapeake Bay TMDL process. Meetings were held at the following dates and locations:

- December 14 —Falls Church, VA
- December 15 —Chesapeake, VA
- December 15 —Williamsburg, VA
- December 16 —Penn Laird, VA
- December 17 —Fredericksburg, VA

3.2. Expert Panels

As a part of developing components of Virginia's Phase I WIP, state agency staff convened expert panels comprised of subject matter and program delivery experts in three sectors: agricultural conservation, urban stormwater, and onsite/septic to develop Virginia's Enhanced Program Implementation Levels (EPIL). The EPIL was the first attempt to develop a Watershed Model scoping run and was used as a starting point or straw proposal with the Stakeholder Advisory Group and other stakeholder groups.

During panel meetings, the members were presented information on Chesapeake Bay Program Watershed Model structure, calibration, scenarios, segmentation, and outputs. Members were presented the available land for implementing a pollution mitigating BMP, and the current treatment level for that practice by source sector.

Individual panel members were asked to review each practice and associated information to determine, based on their professional experience, how much implementation for each practice could increase. Use of the panels revealed the need for additional BMPs not currently utilized in the Watershed Model for agriculture and onsite/septic.

Although the draft allocations demanded that much higher rates of implementation be considered, this initial process was beneficial in several ways. The EPIL served as an outreach tool to engage stakeholders and illustrated the opportunities and barriers across programs and pollution source sectors. It provided an initial state level pollution reduction strategy allowing a better understand of the ability to meet draft pollution targets. It also provided a framework for distributing Virginia's bay drainage WLA and the Load Allocation (LA). Lastly, it provided sector interest groups and others a clearer understanding of accomplishments needed to meet the Chesapeake Bay TMDL pollutant targets.

3.3. Stakeholder Advisory Group

Late in 2009, the Virginia Secretary of Natural Resources, with input from DCR and DEQ, established the SAG. This group provides a forum for discussion during the development of the Chesapeake Bay TMDL and the WIP. The current administration continued and expanded the SAG to provided additional representation from key stakeholders. The SAG includes representatives from local government, regional planning districts, conservation groups, academia, and other special interests. It offers new, creative approaches to meeting the milestones established in the Chesapeake Bay TMDL. An outside facilitator was contracted to keep the group on task during the meetings and encourage the balanced participation of SAG members.

In its initial meetings the SAG reviewed and evaluated the work of the expert panels. They have also advised on sector pollutant load reductions and the sector allocations that will be used to meet the interim and final goals. They commented on current programs' abilities to meet these allocations and evaluated program expansion or new program development needed to meet current and future pollution reductions by sector. It is anticipated the SAG's will also play a role in Phase 2 in addressing allocations at a more local scale

SAG Members:

VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPAL WASTEWATER AUTHORITIES	CBP LOCAL GOVERNMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE VA MEMBER
VIRGINIA MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION	VIRGINIA SEAFOOD COUNCIL
NAVY – DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE	VIRGINIA WATERMEN’S ASSOCIATION
HOMEBUILDERS OF VIRGINIA	VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS
VIRGINIA MUNICIPAL STORMWATER ASSOCIATION	CHESAPEAKE BAY COMMISSION
JAMES RIVER GREEN BUILDERS COUNCIL	CBP CITIZEN’S ADVISORY COMMITTEE VA MEMBER
VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSIONS	CBP SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE VA MEMBER
VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE	CDM
VIRGINIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	PBS&J
FOUNTAINHEAD ALLIANCE	WETLAND STUDIES AND SOLUTIONS
VIRGINIA AGRIBUSINESS COUNCIL	CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION
VIRGINIA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION	JAMES RIVER ASSOCIATION
VIRGINIA POULTRY FEDERATION	FRIENDS OF THE RAPPAHANNOCK
VIRGINIA STATE DAIRYMEN’S ASSOCIATION	SOUTHERN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CENTER
VIRGINIA SMALL GRAIN PRODUCERS	SHENANDOAH RIVERKEEPER
VIRGINIA FORESTRY ASSOCIATION	WETLANDS WATCH
NRCS	VIRGINIA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE
RIVANNA RIVER BASIN COMMISSION	VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES
	RAPPAHANNOCK RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

The SAG met on December 17, 2009 and February 26, June 15, August 24, and November 16, 2010. In addition to these meetings of the entire group, three sector working groups held multiple meetings in July. A steering committee comprised of the chairs of those sector work groups met twice in August. The sectors covered by the working groups were agriculture, wastewater treatment, urban/suburban stormwater and onsite/septic.

In addition to SAG members, working group membership was supplemented with additional individuals with particular sector experience and expertise. They evaluated additional scoping scenario inputs and model results and discussed and proposed various approaches to further address the allocations for agriculture, urban sources, septic systems and wastewater. Their findings were evaluated by the SAG steering committee and presented to the full group for consideration during their Aug. 24 meeting. For more details on the SAG go to http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/soil_and_water/baytmdlsag.shtml.

3.4. Websites and Technology Based Outreach

Three main Web sites have been developed to inform stakeholders and the public of the Bay TMDL:

EPA's Bay TMDL Web site: <http://www.epa.gov/chesapeakebaytmdl/>

DCR's Bay TMDL Web site: http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/soil_and_water/baytmdl.shtml

DEQ's Bay TMDL Web site: <http://www.deq.state.va.us/tmdl/chesapeakebay.html>

The sites provide information on upcoming meetings and meeting recaps after the fact. They also feature numerous EPA guidance documents and pages explaining elements of the planning effort including:

- The planning timeframe; and the revised timeframe
- The announcement of draft loading targets
- The EPA "consequences" letter
 - Identification and explanation of the tidal water segments

These websites serve as the primary information portal for the process in Virginia. However, since websites are such a passive form of communication, several more interactive informational tools were developed.

In September 2009, DCR developed a Virginia Bay TMDL listserv to help inform stakeholders of nonpoint source related elements of the TMDL and WIP process. DCR staff pulled together and supplemented existing constituent e-mail lists to develop a listserv of more than 600 names.

To be added to the listserv, interested parties can write to VABAYTMDL@dcr.virginia.gov.

To better elicit comments and feedback on drafts and concepts to be used in the allocation distribution process and in developing the WIP, DCR also worked with the Chesapeake Watershed Network to develop a private VABAYTMDL group discussion area. The group area was created in March.

All members of the VABAYTMDL listserv were notified of the group site and encouraged to join. The discussion area is private from the rest of Chesapeake Network. While everyone on the VABAYTMDL site can see everyone else's comments, the existence of the group nor its

discussions are visible to any other Chesapeake Network members. Initially 125 signed up for the group discussion area.