

Chestnut Creek TMDL IP 1st public meeting 9/23/2014 6:00PM-8:00PM

15 people present

Chris Burcher gives kickoff TMDL presentation

Karen Kline from Va Tech gives review of 2006 TMDL study presentation

Discussion:

1. What has changed? Tracy- since 2006 a lot of BMP's have been implemented. \$1,000's been spent to address ag: alternative water sources, PL566 specifically for Chestnut Creek similar to Equip. Tim Phipps- land management; more active rotational grazing played a big part in reductions.
2. Is there a VDH contact? Tracy- they are overworked but willing to be involved
3. Mark- status on sewer systems? City Engineer(CE)- city has been working on sewer system
4. Are there any people that can still connect to sewer system? Not convenient for the residents; 5 or 6 are still on septic
5. Martha- sampled near treatment plant every month in 2013 for ambient sampling
6. Tim Phipps- Anything done after 2006 get credit towards TMDL IP? Karen- we will look at it and determine, Karen will have a list to look over and maybe information from the city
7. CE- don't really have any information
8. Tracy- goal for tonight is to pinpoint areas of concern? Chris- we have ID's grazing, ad, and septic issues, what about other elements? Geese population? Farmers don't like certain type of activity we want to avoid? Other activities that attribute to sediment?
9. Tracy- pet waste system on trail would be a good idea; the city is good About it they have signage and equipment
10. How much of trail is horse accessible? It is not that much.
11. Tracy- Suggest when we do buffers, to get more interest from farmers would be to decrease that buffer from 35ft to 10 ft or 20 ft. There are smaller buffer for smaller cost share amount.
12. Farmers are interested in rotational grazing BMP's
13. Tim Phipps- mostly no-till crops; stream bank erosion is good but it has high cost
14. Karen- any places for waste storage facilities? Tim- there is some but got to the point that there is no reason
15. Martha- any dairies? Tim- yes one dairy
16. Chris- hunt clubs, forestry operations? What are the woods used for? Tim- game commission

17. Forest harvesting? Tim- there is some but where we are at, not much what there is do good BMP practices, they have to report when they move on a job, more strict; Tracy doesn't find that as an issue
18. Any other areas? Citizens? Ways to reach general public? Word of mouth
19. Tracy- meet at library IN Galax, we have better turnout when its IN Galax
20. Charlie- storm water loads? Ag and res? Using backyard digesters, composters, there is a pet load on residential land, BMP's like rain gardens, vegetative buffers to prevent mowing to edge of creek, maybe 10 ft wide buffer for residents; Galax opted in to storm water program. Adopted a utility fee for making improvements to storm water systems
21. Charlie- Have you thought any about any retrofitting? CE-we have a lot of storm water infrastructure that is failing due to old age; I think that is what we are going to key in on first; fair amount of erosion due to storm water; sink holes are occurring as well; some retention ponds are not being maintained and may be addressed
22. Karen- any plans in place? CE- priorities are in place, but need money and are trying to implement utility fee to address money issue
23. CE- utility fee would be determined by amount of impervious surface, can receive credit for rain garden, or other BMP implementation
24. CE- they are going to be using SLAF
25. Does Galax do any street sweeping? Yes but mainly salt from winter
26. Public works director Joyce? Responsible for putting gravel down and getting it up
27. 7,000 people living here, 20-30,000 shopping, etc
28. Provide opportunity for outreach, people are afraid to come forward, need some way to get people to come forward
29. Education is another way, in newspaper, flyer, etc
30. Charlie- stakeholder responsibility is important as well
31. Tracy- once there is a plan and example of septic pump out and money available, and word of mouth will get ball rolling