

## **Steering Committee Meeting**

July 22, 2015

Meeting Notes

**Location: CE&H Ruritan Hall, 8881 Eclipse Drive, Suffolk, VA 23434**

**Start:** 10:00 am

**End:** 11:15 am

### **Meeting Attendees:**

Dana Gonzalez- DEQ/TRO, Jennifer Howell-DEQ/TRO, Dinah Oliver-DEQ/TRO, Jim Winters-NRPA, Mike Reiss-NRPA , Melissa Lindgren-Isle of Wight, David A. Kuzma-Isle of Wight , Kim Hummel-Isle of Wight, Ed Heide-City of Suffolk, Stewart Lassiter-Suffolk DPU, Mike Kelly- Suffolk Parks & Recreation

### **I. Agenda Item: Best Management Practices (BMPs), Timeline, Proposed Responsibilities, and Costs**

DEQ representatives presented actions proposed in the implementation plan as well as the implementation timeline, responsibilities, and expected costs. Questions that were brought up regarding the presentation included:

- Concern over the number of pumpouts listed and how many would be provided for when writing a grant application. DEQ representatives clarified that the pumpout number was watershed specific, not city/county-wide. In addition, they explained that the number of septic pumpouts was determined based on the total number of septic systems in the watershed.
- There was a question about how practice RB-4 and RB-4P differ. DEQ representatives explained that the RB-4P practice incorporated a pump and stated that they would follow up after the meeting to send the specifications from the TMDL Cost-share Manual.
- There was an inquiry about funds to help homeowners hook up plumbing within their houses when connecting to the sewer system when they are unable to afford it. DEQ representatives noted that it might be worth contacting the Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project to see if funding is available to help with plumbing.
- A suggestion was made to include two pet waste stations in Lone Star Lakes Park. There are two paths of different lengths (2 mile and 3 mile), and each path could use a pet waste station.

### **II. Agenda Item: Comments on Draft Plan**

DEQ representatives requested that all feedback and additional written comments about the draft plan be provided by August 5<sup>th</sup>. In addition, they asked for any comments that meeting attendees had during the meeting. Those comments were as follows:

- Pg 14: Change phrasing from "City officials identified..." to "additional neighborhoods." This is because the residents have to petition the city to add sewer infrastructure into a neighborhood.
- Pg 15: Make city pumpout program wording more general
- Table ES-2: The percent reduction required by the TMDL (96%) seems very high; it might be good to break that large reduction up into more manageable parts. There was a discussion about recreational vs. shellfish water quality standards and if the phases could be broken up to meet these different standards throughout implementation. It was also noted that in the public meeting it would be good to specifically explain the difference between consumption and recreational standards

- Concern was expressed about clarification of TMDL Action Plans and the path moving forward. Specifically, how will progress be measured and why are all of the VDH sample stations not evenly impaired. DEQ representatives explained that stations downstream may not be impaired because they are more frequently flushed during tidal cycles.
- It was noted that in Isle of Wight septic pumpouts now cost \$350, not \$300. DEQ representatives stated that they would look into increasing the price included in the plan if they are able to.
- It was noted that Lone Star Lakes park should be referred to as a City or local park
- Attendees noted that the City of Suffolk offices are now located at 442 W. Washington Street, Suffolk, VA 23434; this address should be edited at the end of the IP document