

Watershed Implementation Plan for Fairview Beach (Potomac River) in King George County
May 6, 2014
Smoot Memorial Library, 1:00-3:00 pm
Government Working Group Meeting

Attendees:

Tommy Thompson, VDH
Chris Thomas, KGSA
Charlie Lively, TCCSWCD
Katie Wallet, TCCSWCD
Jim Howard, KG Supervisor
Steve Valentine, VDH
Sheryl Stevens, Draper Aden (consultant to KGSA)
Heidi Moltz, ICPRB
Rebecca Shoemaker, DEQ
May Sligh, DEQ

The meeting began at 1pm. May Sligh welcomed attendees and explained that since this was a “work session” there would be no formal presentation. Rather, the group would use the projected spreadsheet to evaluate load reduction strategies already included and consider others that may have merit. May explained that the group would follow the 5 tasks identified in the Government Working Group fact sheet: identify funding sources and technical resources presently available, evaluate additional programs/technical resources that could enhance implementation, identify lead agencies for business and residential implementation support, consider regulatory controls currently in place or needed that could induce actions to improve water quality in the impaired watersheds, discuss monitoring component. For the most part, meeting comments followed the spreadsheet categories in bold (below). As well, a large map of the community was used to identify possible BMP locations (color coded dots were used).

Infrastructure:

- How many septic? It is unknown. Even those that are hooked to sewer may still have tank; it is possible that sewer lines were drilled through tanks.
- Is it possible to require info about septic abandonment when sewer connection is made? If not, it may be a good idea so that there is a record of old tanks. This is not a state requirement – it is by locality. They’d need a new ordinance.
- **Chris Thomas can provide the names of all sewer connections.**
- Smoke test offered through a supplemental environmental project, but it was rejected by DEQ b/c fixing all the house connections could not be included. (May – there is cost-share funding to connect malfunctioning septic systems or straight pipes to public sewer)
- VDH – trailer park (TP) drain field may be in a large field, which may feed to the drainage way that is problematic (violations after storm events). The TP was identified on the map. VDH said the septic tanks were underneath some of the trailers on the south side of park.
- VDH said that the folks in TP have to pump out their tanks often, more than should be required
- Trailers are largely owned by one person; there is a maintenance person that is the liaison between the owner and the community (Mike Shrewsbury). The trailer park has been re-zoned for townhomes (since 2009). When redeveloped, sewer connections will be required.

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- A dye test could easily be done for the TP clean-outs that are most suspect
- Jim Howard mentioned that Jack Green, KG Planner, said there were no records of pump outs from the TP (for their CB Act 5 year pump out requirement)
- KGSA will take the septic waste at WWTP, but only if from KG
- May have to go with the band-aid approach with TP rather than hook up because of the possibility that property owner may redevelop area for townhomes
- Also houses on septic that are closer to sewer may be added too
- Is it possible to help with the connection fees? They are about \$11K. (May has checked since the meeting and yes, construction and tap fees are included in the cost share program but there are caps for the different cost share rates: 50%=\$4500, 60%=\$5400, 70%=\$6300, 75%=\$6750.
- VDH – there are funds to help with fixing the marina pump-out; pump-out is connected to the sewer, but it is not being used. If it is fixed, it will need to be treated as a septic due to extra chemicals that may be included in boat treatment systems. KGSA will evaluate this issue.
- It may be possible at some point to have a mobile pump-out unit in the area to handle special events and high-use weekends. Preston Smith with VDH may be able to assist with this.

Education:

- VDH can provide some info about basic septic maintenance; how to best disseminate info to trailer park? Possibly through the TP maintenance staff
- Citizen mentioned that only 1/2 of the folks in Fairview Beach are members of FBHA, but they can still place materials on the website
- Stores can distribute educational flyers
- The leash bag stations are fine but this area not suitable for the dog waste composters
- Attendees were fine with all other programs suggested in the spreadsheet

Pasture:

- There is some equestrian activity to the west of Fairview Beach
- There are a small number of goats in the upper Fairview Beach watershed

Monitoring:

- VDH monitoring will end this year; we can get grant funding to continue monitoring as part of BMP pre and post. However, we also want to do monitoring to mimic what VDH has been doing – can our grant money go to VDH so that they can continue the monitoring? Since this is the best way to evaluate whether bacteria levels are safe for swimming, efforts will be made to incorporate this type of sampling too.
- VDH said they'd seen progress last year (2 closures) and hope to see again in 2014

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Runoff Reductions:

- Where can we add rain gardens? Chris Thomas suggested drainage way at trailer park; drainage way between 6th and 7th streets.
- May needs to look into implementation of BMPs on private land – does the area fall under an easement on the deed? DEQ would handle this with a “Transfer of Responsibility of Installed BMPs” form, obligating new owner to maintain the BMP. May will check further on the deed restrictions.
- Charlie Lively stated that it may be best to do a BMP such as a rain garden on common area so that residents can see how they work and to create interest in implementing BMPs on residential land. The goal would be to do that first.
- Who owns the land up on the top of the bluff? May will check with FBRA on these details. All roads are maintained by the state. VDOT will address the bank erosion that occurs in their right-of-way. There is more erosion with each big storm.

The next item on the agenda was to select an individual for the Steering Committee. The representative from the Government Working Group is Charlie Lively, TCCSWCD. This group will assist with reviews of the draft document, working group ideas and presentation materials for the final public meeting, which is expected to be in **August**.

May Sligh will advise attendees of the links for presentation materials as soon as they are posted on the DEQ website. She will also advise of any future planned meeting dates. May thanked attendees for assisting with the spreadsheet updates and additions to the map.

Questions or information requests should be addressed to May Sligh with the DEQ-Northern Regional Office by phone at (804)450-3802 and by e-mail at may.sligh@deq.virginia.gov.