

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING AND PUBLIC COMMENT

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) seeks written and oral comments from interested persons regarding the development of an Implementation Plan (IP) for fecal bacteria and sediment Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for: a 14 mile length of Chestnut Creek from the upstream city limits of Galax downstream to the confluence with the New River (bacteria and sediment impairments) and; a 3.68 mile length of Chestnut Creek, from the confluence with Coal Creek downstream to the Galax raw water intake (bacteria impairment only). Chestnut Creek is contained within the counties of Carroll and Grayson, includes the City of Galax, and the extreme headwaters are located in North Carolina. The TMDL studies for these stream impairments were completed in October 2006, and can be found in the *Total Maximum Daily Load Development for Chestnut Creek: Fecal Bacteria and General Standard (Benthic)* study reports on DEQ's website at:

<http://www.deq.virginia.gov/portals/0/DEQ/Water/TMDL/apptmdls/newrvr/chestnut.pdf>

Section 62.1-44.19:7.C of the Code of Virginia requires the development of an IP for approved TMDLs. The IP should provide measurable goals and the date of expected achievement of water quality objectives. The IP should also include the corrective actions needed and their associated costs, benefits, and environmental impacts.

The initial public meeting to discuss the development of the IP for the bacteria and sediment TMDLs will be held on Tuesday, September 23, 2014 at the Department of Forestry office off route 58 west of Galax, 106 Matthews Lane from 6-8 PM. At this meeting, the TMDL requirements will be reviewed, IP planning process will be explained, and the public will be informed about the public participation opportunities during plan development. Citizens will be able to offer input and ask questions about the plan.

The 30-day public comment period on the information presented at the meeting will end on Thursday, October 23, 2014. A fact sheet on the development of the IP is available upon request. Questions or information requests should be addressed to Dr. Chris L. Burcher, Nonpoint Source Pollution Coordinator with the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. Written comments and inquiries should include the name, address, and telephone number of the person submitting the comments and should be sent to Chris Burcher, VA Department of Environmental Quality, 355 Deadmore Street, Abingdon, VA 24210, email address: chris.burcher@deq.virginia.gov, phone # (276) 676-4803.