

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
ANNOUNCEMENT OF PUBLIC MEETING AND NOTICE OF  
PUBLIC COMMENT FOR A WATER QUALITY STUDY (TMDL)  
OF CROOKED RUN, STEPHENS RUN, WEST RUN, HAPPY  
CREEK, MANASSAS RUN, WILLOW BROOK, BORDEN MARSH  
RUN, AND LONG BRANCH**

**PUBLIC MEETINGS:** A meeting will be held Tuesday, September 23, 2014 at 6.30pm at the North Warren Fire Hall at 266 Rockland Court, Front Royal, VA 22630. This meeting will be open to the public and all are welcome. In the case of inclement weather, please contact Tara Sieber at (540) 574-7870.

**PURPOSE OF NOTICE:** The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), its contractors, Virginia Tech's Biological Systems Engineering Department, and the Technical Advisory Committee comprised of local landowners and interested parties, will present the results of a water quality study known as a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDLs) for Crooked Run and its tributaries, including Stephens Run and West Run, Happy Creek, Manassas Run, Willow Brook, Borden Marsh Run and Long Branch. This is an opportunity for local residents to learn more about the water quality study and find out how they can help. A public comment period will follow the meetings (9/23/2014 – 10/24/2014).

**MEETING DESCRIPTION:** A public meeting will be held to introduce to the local community the water quality improvement process in Virginia, known as the TMDL Process, review the work of the Technical Advisory Committee, solicit the input of the community, and review the next steps. Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act and §62.1-44.19:7.C of the Code of Virginia require DEQ to develop TMDLs for pollutants responsible for each impaired water contained in Virginia's 303(d) TMDL Priority List and Report.

**DESCRIPTION OF STUDY:** Several streams in the Shenandoah River watershed do not meet Virginia's water quality standards due to excessive bacteria and have been placed on the 2006, 2008, and 2010 303(d) TMDL Priority List and Report as impaired. The bacteria standard preserves the "Primary Contact (recreational or swimming)" designated use for Virginia waterways. Excessive bacteria levels may pose a threat to human health. This water quality study reports on the sources of bacterial contamination and recommends reductions to meet Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for the impaired waters. A TMDL is the total amount of a pollutant a water body can contain and still meet water quality standards. To restore water quality, bacterial levels need to be reduced to the TMDL amount. Virginia agencies are working to identify sources of bacterial contamination in the tributaries to the Shenandoah River, which will include the following waterways:

<b>Stream</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Length (miles)</b>	<b>Impairment</b>
Crooked Run	Frederick/Warren	8.87 mi	Bacteria (E. coli)
Stephens Run	Frederick	0.95 mi	
West Run	Frederick/Warren	6.12 mi	
Happy Creek	Warren	8.42 mi	
Manassas Run	Warren	9.15 mi	
Willow Brook	Warren	3.95 mi	
Borden Marsh Run	Clarke/Warren	9.46 mi	
Long Branch	Clarke	3.63 mi	

In addition, Happy Creek does not host a healthy and diverse population of aquatic life, and subsequently was listed as impaired for the “General Benthic (Aquatic life)” water quality standard. This water quality study (TMDL) reviewed all data collected and determined the cause of the benthic impairment to be excess sediment. Reductions and a TMDL for sediment were developed as part of this water quality study.

<b>Stream</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Length (miles)</b>	<b>Impairment</b>
Happy Creek	Warren	8.42 mi	Aquatic Life

HOW TO COMMENT: The public comment period for these public meetings will end on October 24, 2014. Written comments should include the name, address, and telephone number of the person submitting the comments and should be sent to:

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**PO Box 3000**  
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