

**Department of Environmental Quality**  
Notice of Public Meeting and Public Comment for the Development of a  
Water Quality Improvement Plan for  
The Gulf, Mattawoman, Barlow, Jacobus and Hungars Creek in Northampton County, VA

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) will host a public meeting on a water quality study for The Gulf, Mattawoman, Barlow, Jacobus and Hungars Creeks, located in North Hampton County, on Thursday February 27, 2014.

The meeting will start at 6:30 p.m. at The Barrier Islands Center, 7296 Young Street, in Machipongo, VA 23405. The purpose of this meeting is to provide information and discuss the study with interested local community members and local government.

Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act and §62.1-44.19:7.C of the Code of Virginia require DEQ to develop Total Maximum Daily Loads for pollutants responsible for each impaired water contained in Virginia's 303(d) TMDL Priority List and Report and subsequent Water Quality Assessment Report.

The Gulf, Mattawoman, Barlow, Jacobus and Hungars Creeks were identified in Virginia's Water Quality Assessment Integrated Report as impaired for not supporting fecal coliform criteria for shellfish waters. The impairment is based on water quality monitoring data reports of sufficient exceedances of Virginia's Water Quality Standard for bacteria.

The water quality or implementation plan follows Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) studies completed by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and approved by Environmental Protection Agency in 2010. The TMDL study can be found on the DEQ website:

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

The bacteria sources identified to these impairments include failing septic systems, discharges of untreated human waste, pets, wildlife and agricultural practices in the area. The meeting will review final TMDL for The Gulf, Mattawoman, Barlow, Jacobus and Hungars Creeks and the Implementation Plan (IP) process.

The IP is developed to provide a cleanup plan that will lead to attainment of the water quality standards. Public participation and stakeholder involvement are necessary in order to develop an effective and reasonable IP. This meeting will present the findings of the TMDL study and the necessary steps in the IP development. The workgroups and Steering Committee will be formed in order to provide detailed information during the IP process.

The public comment period on materials presented at this meeting will extend from February 28, 2014 to March 31, 2014. For additional information or to submit comments, contact John McLeod, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Tidewater Regional Office, 5636 Southern Blvd., Virginia Beach Virginia 23463, by phone (757)518-2196 or by email [john.mcleod@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:john.mcleod@deq.virginia.gov).