

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 on the development of a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Implementation Plan for the Hardware River watershed (North Fork Hardware and Hardware Rivers) in Albemarle and Fluvanna Counties. The North Fork Hardware River and the Hardware River were first listed as impaired on the Virginia's 303(d) TMDL Priority List and Report due to violations of the State's water quality standard for bacteria in 2006. The creeks have remained on the 303(d) list for these impairments since then.

The impaired segment of the North Fork Hardware River extends 10.42 miles from the headwaters downstream to its confluence with the South Fork Hardware River. The impaired segment of Hardware River extends 23.03 miles from its confluence with the North Fork downstream to its confluence with the James River.

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. In addition, Section 62.1-44.19:7.C of the Code of Virginia requires the development of an implementation plan (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. DEQ completed bacteria TMDLs for the Hardware River and the North Fork in July 2007. The TMDLs were approved by the Environmental Protection Agency on April 10, 2008. The TMDL report is available on the DEQ website at:

<http://www.deq.virginia.gov/Programs/Water/WaterQualityInformationTMDLs/TMDL/TMDLDevelopment/ApprovedTMDLReports.aspx>

Two public meetings were held in March and April of 2015 to kick off the development of this plan. During these meetings, participants broke out into smaller agricultural and residential working groups to discuss strategies to address these specific pollutant source sectors. A second round of working group meetings will be held in order to collect additional information on agricultural and residential best management practices to include in the plan, along with associated costs, project partners, and an appropriate timeline for implementation:

- ***Residential Working Group Meeting: Tuesday, June 2, 2015 7:00 p.m.*** at Walton Middle School (4217 Red Hill Rd, Charlottesville, VA)
- ***Agricultural Working Group Meeting: Thursday, June 11, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.*** at Walton Middle School (4217 Red Hill Rd, Charlottesville, VA).

The public comment period for the June 2nd meeting will end on July 2, 2015, and the comment period for the June 11th meeting will end on July 13, 2015. Written comments should include the name, address, and telephone number of the person submitting the

comments and should be sent to Nesha McRae, Department of Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 3000, Harrisonburg, VA, 22801, telephone (540) 574-7850 or e-mailed to nesha.mcrae@deq.virginia.gov.