

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**  
**Notice of Public Meeting and Public Comment for Several**  
**Total Maximum Daily Load Studies in Waters**  
**in Northampton and Accomack Counties**

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality will host a Work Group meeting on water quality studies for Little Mosquito Creek and Assawoman Creek in Accomack County, and Nassawadox Creek with several tributaries located in Northampton County on **Thursday March 10, 2016**.

The meeting will start at **6:00 p.m.** in the Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission building (A-NPDC) located at 23372 Front Street Accomac, Virginia 23301. The purpose of the meeting is to provide information and discuss the final outcomes of the studies with community members and local government.

Little Mosquito Creek and Assawoman Creek were identified in Virginia's 2014 Water Quality Assessment & Integrated Report as impaired due to violations of the State's water quality standards for dissolved oxygen and do not support the Designated Use for Aquatic Life. Additionally, Nassawadox Creek and several tributaries have been identified as impaired since they do not meet the water quality standards for Shellfish or Recreation Uses due to elevated levels of bacteria.

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 and subsequent Water Quality Assessment Reports.

As a result of the studies, DEQ has developed a Total Maximum Daily Load 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, pollutant levels have to be reduced to the TMDL amount. The Virginia Departments of Environmental Quality, Conservation and Recreation, and Health, along with local governments, are working to identify the sources of pollution in the watersheds of these streams.

The public comment period on materials presented at this meeting will extend from March 11, 2016 to April 11, 2016. For additional information or to submit comments, contact Jennifer Howell in the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Tidewater Regional Office, 5636 Southern Blvd, Virginia Beach VA 23462, by phone (757) 518-2111 or by e-mail [jennifer.howell@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:jennifer.howell@deq.virginia.gov). Additional information is also available on the DEQ web site at [www.deq.virginia.gov/tmdl](http://www.deq.virginia.gov/tmdl).