

## DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and partners are currently developing a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Implementation Plan for the Little Calfpasture River in Rockbridge County. The Little Calfpasture River was listed on the 1996 303(d) TMDL Priority List and Report as impaired due to violations of the State's general (benthic) standard for aquatic life. This impairment extends for 0.82 miles from the Lake Merriweather Dam to the confluence with the Maury 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 expeditious implementation of total maximum daily loads when appropriate. 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 a benthic TMDL for the Little Calfpasture River in January 2009. The TMDL was approved by the Environmental Protection Agency in April 2010. The TMDL report is available on the DEQ website at:

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

A public meeting was held on August 2 at the Goshen Fire Hall to kick off the project and share background information on the river with the local community. The next step in the planning process will be to hold a series of working group meetings to discuss particular management strategies to address sediment coming from different sources in the watershed. The second of these meetings will be an ***Agricultural Working Group meeting, to be held on September 27th at 6:30 p.m. at the Rockbridge Baths Fire Hall (5024 Maury River Road, Rockbridge Baths VA)***. During the meeting we will discuss potential agricultural management strategies to help reduce sediment coming into the river from agricultural land, associated costs, and education and outreach strategies. Anyone who is interested in this topic is welcome to attend. The format of the meeting will be largely discussion based, focusing on collecting information and ideas from local agricultural producers and the partners who work with them in the area.

*For more information about this meeting, please contact:*

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