

## **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 Clinch River and Cove Creek watersheds. There are eleven (11) different impaired stream segments in this study area and include the following streams: Clinch River, Cove Creek, Stock Creek, Moll Creek, Valley Creek, Blackwater Creek, Copper Creek and North Fork Clinch River. All segments are located in Lee, Russell, and Scott counties and listed as impaired on Virginia's 303(d) TMDL Priority List and Report due to violations of the State's water quality standard for bacteria.

Ten of the segments were first listed as impaired in 2008 and have remained on the 303(d) list for bacteria impairments, one segment was listed in 2010. The Clinch River segment extends 9.69 miles from the Copper Creek confluence near Speers Ferry downstream to the Tennessee state line near Shelby. Cove Creek extends 6.94 miles from its confluence with Millstone Branch to the confluence with the Clinch River north of Starnes Slant. Stock Creek extends from stream mile 4.56 downstream to the Clinch River confluence at Clinchport. Moll Creek extends 4.20 miles from Copper Creek upstream, to a second tributary including Porter Hollow. Valley Creek extends 1.01 miles from near Farley Chapel to the confluence with Copper Creek. Blackwater Creek extends 2.11 miles from the East Fork Blackwater Creek confluence downstream to the Tennessee state line. Copper Creek extends 14 miles from the Grassy Creek confluence upstream through Dickensonville to stream mile 56.8. The North Fork Clinch River extends 11.01 miles from the Fraley Branch confluence downstream to the Cox Branch confluence. An additional segment of the North Fork Clinch River was listed in 2010 and extends 5.59 miles from the Cox Branch confluence near Fairview downstream to the Tennessee state line near Dona.

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 will provide measurable goals and the date of expected achievement of water quality objectives. The IP will also include corrective actions needed and their associated costs, benefits, and environmental impacts. DEQ completed bacteria TMDLs for the Clinch River and Cove Creek watershed in 2014. The TMDLs were approved by the Environmental Protection Agency in April of 2014 and by the State Water Control Board in June 2014. The TMDL report is available on the DEQ website at:

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

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality will host two public meeting to initiate the development of a TMDL Implementation Plan for the Clinch River and Cove

Creek watershed. Both meetings will be held on **Thursday, March 10 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

One meeting will be held at the Crooked Road Tech Center located at 372 Technology Trail Lane, Duffield, VA 24244. An additional meeting will take place on the same day and time at the Senior and Community Building at Keith Memorial Park in Nickelsville, VA. The Senior and Community Building is located at 163 Spartan Band Avenue near the Dollar General Store. ***In the event of inclement weather, the meetings will be postponed until March 17.*** Please call the number provided below to confirm postponement of the meeting.

A 30-day public comment period for the meetings will begin on March 10, 2016 and end on April 11, 2016. Written comments should include the name, address, and telephone number of the person submitting the comments and should be sent to Martha Chapman, Department of Environmental Quality, 355A Deadmore Street, Abingdon, VA, 24210, telephone (276) 676-4845 or e-mailed to [martha.chapman@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:martha.chapman@deq.virginia.gov).