

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
ANNOUNCEMENT OF PUBLIC MEETING AND NOTICE OF
PUBLIC COMMENT FOR A WATER QUALITY STUDY (TMDL)
FOR WOODS CREEK**

COMMITTEE MEETING: A community meeting will be held Wednesday, October 5, 2016 at 6.30pm at Maury River Middle School. This meeting will be open to the public and all are welcome. In the case of inclement weather, the meeting will be postponed until Tuesday, October 11, 2016 at 6.30pm. For more information, please contact Tara Sieber at Tara.Sieber@deq.virginia.gov or 540.574.7870.

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and its contractors, Virginia Tech's Biological Systems Engineering Department, will discuss population data for the development of a water quality study known as a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for Woods Creek. This is an opportunity for local residents to learn about the condition of these streams, share information about the area, and become involved in the process of local water quality improvement. A public comment period will follow the meeting (10/5/2016 – 11/7/2016).

MEETING DESCRIPTION: A public meeting will be held to introduce to the local community the water quality improvement process in Virginia, known as the TMDL Process, invite their participation and solicit their contributions, showcase the water quality studies done by local school students, and review next steps. 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.

DESCRIPTION OF STUDY: Woods Creek does not meet water quality standards for recreation due to an excess of bacteria. In addition, this stream does not host a healthy and diverse population of aquatic life, and subsequently was listed as impaired for the "General Benthic (Aquatic life)" water quality standards. The bacteria standard preserves the "Primary Contact (recreational or swimming)" designated use for Virginia waterways. Excessive bacteria levels may pose a threat to human health. This water quality study reports on the sources of bacterial contamination and recommends reductions to meet Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) 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, bacterial levels need to be reduced to the TMDL amount. Virginia agencies are working to identify sources of bacteria and will determine the pollutant cause of the benthic impairments as well as identify sources of this pollutant through a weight of evidence approach. Reductions and a TMDL for the cause of the impairment will be developed.

Stream	County	Impairment
Woods Creek	Lexington and Rockbridge County	Bacteria, Aquatic Life

HOW TO COMMENT AND PARTICIPATE: The meetings of the TMDL process are open to the public and all interested parties are welcome. Written comments will be accepted through November 7, 2016 and should include the name, address, and telephone number of the person submitting the comments. For more information or to submit written comments, please contact:

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