

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

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 West, Stephens and Crooked Run watersheds in Frederick, Warren and Clarke Counties. West and Stephens Runs 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 2010, while Crooked Run was listed in 2002. The creeks have remained on the 303(d) list for these impairments since then.

The impaired segment of West Run extends 6.12 miles from its headwaters downstream to its confluence with Crooked Run. The impaired segment of Stephens Run extends 0.95 miles from its confluence with an unnamed tributary to its confluence with Crooked Run. The impaired segment of Crooked Run extends 8.87 miles down from the Lake Frederick dam to its confluence with the Shenandoah 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 bacteria TMDLs for the Crooked, Stephens and West Runs in September 2014. The TMDLs were submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency for approval November of 2015. The draft TMDL report is available on the DEQ website at: <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/Programs/Water/WaterQualityInformationTMDLs/TMDL/TMDLDevelopment/DraftTMDLReports.aspx>

A public meeting was held on January 28, 2016 to kick off the development of this plan. During the meeting, participants broke out into smaller working groups to discuss strategies to address residential and agricultural contributions of bacteria to the creeks. A ***second residential working group meeting will be held on Thursday, April 7 at 5:30 p.m.*** at Lord Fairfax Community College in the American Woodmark Foundation Executive Board Room on the second floor of the Corron Community Development Center (173 Skirmisher Lane, Middletown, VA).

During the meeting, we will collect additional input on residential best management practices to include in the plan, along with associated costs, project partners, and an appropriate timeline for implementation.

For additional information on this project, contact: Nesha McRae, Department of Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 3000, Harrisonburg, VA, 22801; telephone (540) 574-7850; e-mail nesha.mcrae@deq.virginia.gov.