

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF PUBLIC MEETINGS FOR DRAFT WATER QUALITY
IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (IP) FOR THE CHICKAHOMINY RIVER AND TRIBUTARIES
IMPAIRED FOR BACTERIA IN HANOVER, HENRICO, CHARLES CITY, NEW KENT
COUNTIES & CITY OF RICHMOND**

PUBLIC MEETING: Mechanicsville Branch Library, 7461 Sherwood Crossing Place, Mechanicsville, Virginia 23111. Public meetings will be held on Thursday, February 7, 2013 at 2pm and 6pm. Both meetings are open to the public. Afternoon and evening meetings will cover the same material. In the case of inclement weather please contact Margaret Smigo at (804)527-5124.

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality is announcing a draft Implementation Plan (IP) for the Chickahominy River and its tributaries, which are impaired for the primary contact or swimming use due to water quality standard exceedances. The sources of bacteria and reductions necessary to meet the water quality standard and restore the impaired use, were detailed in the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) study, which was approved by EPA in September 2012. The TMDL is available on the DEQ website here:

<http://www.deq.virginia.gov/portals/0/DEQ/Water/TMDL/apptmdls/jamesrvr/chickec.pdf>. The implementation plan is based on the reductions to bacteria identified in the TMDL.

MEETING DESCRIPTION: Public meetings provide an opportunity for the public to share their knowledge of the watershed and learn about pollution affecting community waters. Meetings will feature a summary of information from the draft implementation plan, the Best Management Practices (BMPs) identified for reducing bacteria from sources, and the estimated costs of implementation. Those attending the meeting are invited to ask questions, contribute their knowledge of the watershed, and to provide feedback during the public comment period.

DESCRIPTION OF STUDY: Virginia agencies have been identified sources of bacteria in the waters of the Chickahominy River and it's tributaries. The impaired waterways are:

Stream	County/City	Length (mi.)	Impairment
Stony Run	Hanover	0.21	Bacteria (Primary Contact / Swimming Use)
Beaverdam Creek	Hanover	6.69	
Chickahominy River	Henrico, Hanover	7.54	
Boatswain Creek	Hanover	3.76	
Collins Run	Charles City County	4.50	

These streams are impaired for failure to meet the *Primary Contact (Recreational or Swimming)* designated use due to exceedances of the bacteria water quality standard. The TMDL study reported on the sources of bacteria and recommended total maximum daily loads, or TMDLs. 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. The Implementation Plan (IP) utilizes

the source information and reductions identified in the TMDL and recommends a series of watershed measures, known as Best Management Practices (BMPs). BMPs can be implemented throughout the watershed in order to meet the TMDL bacteria reduction goals. The development of an IP requires the participation of watershed stakeholders at “working group” meetings to evaluate BMPs for the watersheds and the participation of a steering committee, made up of working group members, to guide the process. After the initiation of the IP development in May 2012, a government, residential, and agriculture workgroup each met to evaluate potential BMPs and costs in order to meet reduction goals set by the TMDL. The meeting minutes and handouts used during implementation planning are available on the DEQ website here:

<http://www.deq.virginia.gov/Programs/Water/WaterQualityInformationTMDLs/TMDL/TMDLImplementation/TMDLImplementationProgress.aspx>. The draft implementation plan will be available on the DEQ website one week prior to the public meeting here:

<http://www.deq.virginia.gov/Programs/Water/WaterQualityInformationTMDLs/TMDL/TMDLImplementation/TMDLImplementationPlans.aspx>.

HOW A DECISION IS MADE: After the public meeting and all public comments have been considered and addressed, DEQ will submit the final TMDL report to the State Water Control Board for approval.

HOW TO COMMENT: DEQ accepts written comments by e-mail, fax or postal mail. Written comments should include your name, address and telephone number and be received by DEQ during the comment period, which will begin on Friday February 8th and end on Monday March 11, 2013.

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