

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF PUBLIC MEETINGS FOR DRAFT WATER QUALITY RESTORATION STUDY (TMDL) AND IMPLEMENTATION PLANNING FOR THE JAMES RIVER AND TRIBUTARIES IMPAIRED FOR BACTERIA IN HENRICO, PRINCE GEORGE, CHARLES CITY, AND SURRY COUNTIES**

PUBLIC MEETING: Charles City Government School Board Administration Building Auditorium 10900 Courthouse Road, Charles City, VA 23030. Public meetings will be held on Wednesday June 26, 2013 at 2pm and 6pm. Both meetings are open to the public. Meetings will cover the same content.

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality is announcing a draft Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) study to restore water quality and the initiation of the Implementation Plan (IP) for waterbodies mentioned above.

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 TMDL, including watershed land use, water quality monitoring, suspected sources of bacteria, and the reduction of source bacteria required to meet water quality standards. It will feature an introduction to Implementation Planning (IP) for the watershed. Those attending the meeting are invited to ask questions, contribute their knowledge of the watershed, and participate in the working groups as part of the IP phase.

DESCRIPTION OF STUDY: Virginia agencies have been working to identify sources of bacteria in the James River and it's tributaries:

<b>Stream</b>	<b>County/City</b>	<b>Length (mi.)</b>	<b>Impairment</b>
Crewes Channel	Henrico	3.19	Bacteria (Primary Contact / Swimming Use)
Western Run	Henrico	1.85	
West Run	Charles City	1.86	
Wards Creek	Prince George	8.47	
Upper Chippokes Creek	Prince George, Surry	5.61	
James River (mainstem)	Prince George, Charles City, Surry	3.76 (sq. miles)	

These streams are impaired for failure to meet the *Primary Contact (Recreational or Swimming)* designated use, due to high concentrations of bacteria. The study reports on the sources of bacteria and recommends total maximum daily loads, or TMDLs, for 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. The draft TMDL report will be available at <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/Programs/Water/WaterQualityInformationTMDLs/TMDL/TMDLDevelopment/DraftTMDLReports.aspx> approximately one week prior to the meeting for review. The Implementation Planning (IP) phase utilizes the source information and reductions identified in the TMDL to devise one

scenario of watershed measures, or Best Management Practices (BMPs). BMPs can be implemented throughout the watershed in order to meet the TMDL bacteria reduction goals. The IP phase requires the participation of watershed stakeholders at “working group” meetings to evaluate BMPs for the watershed. A steering committee, made up of working group members, is designated to guide the process.

**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 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the State Water Control Board for approval. When the IP is complete following working group & steering committee meetings and a final public meeting and comment period, the document will be sent 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 name, address and telephone number and be received by DEQ during the comment period, which will begin on Thursday June 27th and end on Monday July 29, 2013.

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