

ANNOUNCEMENT OF PUBLIC MEETINGS FOR THE INITIATION OF A WATER QUALITY RESTORATION STUDY (TMDL) IN THE PAMUNKEY RIVER MAINSTEM AND TRIBUTARIES IN SPOTSYLVANIA, HANOVER, NEW KENT, AND KING WILLIAM COUNTIES

PUBLIC MEETINGS: Meetings are offered at different two convenient locations within the watershed. Two meetings will be held on Wednesday February 20, 2013 at the Central Rappahannock Regional Library – Snow Branch located at 8740 Courthouse Road in Spotsylvania, VA, 22553 at 2pm and 6pm. Two meetings will also be held on Thursday February 21, 2013 at the Town Hall of Ashland located at 101 Thompson Street in Ashland, VA, 23005 at 2pm and 6pm. All meetings are open to the public. Meeting materials and presentations are identical in terms of content. In the case of inclement weather, please contact Margaret Smigo at (804)527-5124.

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and consultant, MapTech Inc, are presenting preliminary data for the initiation of a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) study to restore water quality at four public meetings (identical content), an opportunity for the public to share their knowledge of the watershed, and a public comment period following the meetings (2/22/13 – 3/25/13).

MEETING DESCRIPTION: Public meetings on a study to restore water quality along the Pamunkey River and tributaries (see table below) will feature preliminary information gathered for the watershed including land use, water quality monitoring, and suspected cause(s) of impairment. Those attending are invited to ask questions and to contribute their knowledge of the watershed. Presentation will be posted on the DEQ website following the meetings at:

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

DESCRIPTION OF STUDY: Virginia agencies have been working to identify sources of the bacterial contamination in the waters of the Pamunkey River and its tributaries in the following impaired waterways:

Stream	County/City	Length (mi.)	Impairment
Northeast Creek	Spotsylvania	2.74	Bacteria (Primary Contact / Swimming Use / Recreation Use)
Little River	Louisa	4.01	
Beaverdam Creek	Hanover	8.47	
Little River	Hanover	10.77	
Mill Creek	Caroline	4.39	
Pamunkey River	Caroline, Hanover, King William	12.26	
Kersey Creek (trib to Crump Creek)	Hanover	2.76	
(XJC) Crump Creek UT	Hanover	1.79	
Pollard Creek (UT to Crump	Hanover	4.06	

Creek)			
Crump Creek	Hanover	10.08	
(XDW) Pamunkey River UT	King William	5.51	
UT (XDX) to UT (XDW) to Pamunkey River	King William	3.85	
Pamunkey River	Hanover, King William	0.305 sq miles (estuarine - tidal)	
Jacks Creek and Tributaries	King William	21.05	
(XID) Harrison Creek UT	King William	0.16	
Harrison Creek	King William	2.80	
Harrison Creek	King William	0.048 sq miles (estuarine – tidal)	
Pamunkey River	King William, New Kent	3.634 sq miles (estuarine – tidal)	

These streams are impaired for failure to meet the *Primary Contact (Recreational or Swimming)* designated use because of bacteria standard violations. This standard is meant to indicate excessive bacteria levels which may pose a threat to human health if bodily exposure to these waterways by recreation, such as “primary contact” or swimming, occurs. The study reports on the sources of bacterial contamination and recommends total maximum daily loads, or 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.

HOW A DECISION IS MADE: The development of a TMDL includes 2 sets of public meetings and comment periods; one to initiate the study and another to present the final draft TMDL report. This meeting is the first for the Pamunkey River and tributaries project. After the final public meeting and all public comments have been considered and addressed, DEQ will submit the TMDL report to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and 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 the name, address and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by DEQ during the comment period, which will begin on Friday February 22nd and end on Monday March 25, 2013.

CONTACT FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

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