Birch Creek and Dan River Watersheds TMDL Cleanup Plan
Residential Working Group
October 3, 2017
Danville Regional Airport, Eastern Conference Room

The residential working group will discuss ways to reduce bacteria coming from human and pet sources. The principal objective of this working group is to identify obstacles to implementation of practical solutions to reducing bacteria. This group will focus on:

- Ways to address/identify and eliminate straight pipes and failing septic systems
- Identify potential means of funding
- Determine educational tools that are most likely to engage watershed residents
- Evaluate ways to reduce bacteria from pet waste

General Questions:

1) *How did you hear about tonight's meeting?*

2) *Are there individuals/organizations not present tonight who you think should be here?*

3) *Are there other ways that we could get the word out about meetings?*

Sewer Overflows:

1) *Are you aware of any sewered areas that may smell of sewage or show other evidence of a sewer leak/overflow, especially during heavy rain?*

On-Site Sewage Disposal:

1) *Are you aware of problems with straight pipes and failing septic systems in the area? Any particular areas?*

2) *If funds were available to assist residents with straight pipes and failing septic systems, what would be the best ways to notify people of such funds?*
- Mailings
- Newspaper
- Radio announcements
- Agencies, such as?
- Local civic groups, such as?
- Websites, such as?
- Local events, such as?
- Schools
- Churches
- Surveys
- Others

3) *Is there an ordinance in Halifax County, Pittsylvania County, Patrick County, City of Danville, or the Town of South Boston that requires septic tank pumpouts/maintenance? Possibly during property transfers?*

　　　o *How much does a septic system pump-out cost in this area? How many companies do this type of work?*

　　　o *Is there a need for alternative systems? What are the regulations associated with alternative systems?*

4) *Is there a need for education regarding the operation and maintenance of septic systems?*

5) *What are some local agencies and organizations best suited for this effort? Available programs?*

6) *How should education be offered?*
- Brochures
- Workshops/community meetings
- Public service announcements
- Neighborhood canvassing
- Other

Pet Waste Questions:

1) *Are you aware that pets (i.e. dogs) can be a significant source of bacteria entering surface waters in the state? (This is based on bacteria source tracking data collected by DEQ.) Are there hunt clubs, dog kennels, veterinary hospitals, boarding facilities that should be considered potential sources for pet waste bacteria?*

2) *Have you heard about the need to pick up and properly dispose of dog feces locally?*

3) *Are you aware of any localities in the watershed with a "scoop the poop" ordinance?*

4) *There are accessible pet waste disposal stations in the watersheds ? If so, where are they located? (parks, schools, subdivisions, public space) Are there areas where people tend to walk their dogs where such stations could be especially useful?*

5) *Are there any local education programs related to pet waste? (ASPCA, veterinarians, 4-H, kiosks, etc.)*

6) *How can we educate homeowners about the impact of pet waste? Would people use a pet waste digester?*

Stormwater Questions:

This Cleanup Plan will address the need for some stormwater Best Management Practices to collect and treat runoff from residential and urban land areas that contribute to bacteria from pets, failing septic systems, and illicit sewage discharges. These may include rain gardens, bioretention filters, infiltration trenches, vegetated buffers along streams, rain barrels, etc.

1) *Do you know of any areas where flooding consistently occurs during heavy rains?*

2) *Have you seen any areas of severe bank erosion within the watersheds? If so, where?*

3) *Do you feel that the term stormwater is recognized by most citizens?*

4) *Have any of you implemented stormwater BMPs on your property to deal with runoff? If so, what practices?*

5) *Are you aware of what riparian buffer zones are? How willing would your neighbors or other community members be willing to create or expand these zones?*

6) Are there any public areas where you know of stormwater BMPS having been implemented? What practices? Where?

Other Items for discussion:

1) *Are there any organizations or groups in the area that work on projects related to any of these issues (sewer overflows, sewage disposal, pet waste, stormwater management, stream restoration and cleanup) that aren't represented here?*

2) *Is there interest in a watershed tour?*

3) *What are some of the barriers to implementing water quality improvement projects in the watershed?*

4) Is there a considerable amount of recreation that happens on the Dan river (tubing, boating, canoeing, etc.)?