

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

Information Request:

DEQ would appreciate localities sending the information listed below. While we are seeking detailed information, any form or level of information would be appreciated.

- Stormwater BMP (GIS Layers)
 - Type of BMP (Detention (Dry) Basin, Retention (Wet) Basin, Bioretention, Infiltration Trench, Manufactured Units, Constructed Wetlands, Rain Gardens, Permeable Pavement, Riparian Buffers, Urban Landuse Conversion)
 - Location of BMP
 - Drainage Area of BMP
 - Age of System
- Sewage Disposal Practices (GIS Layers)
 - Sewer Lines
 - Housing/Building Layers (with age of houses)
- Street Sweeping Practices
 - Extent and Frequency of Sweeping
 - Amount of Debris swept
- Pet Waste Program Information
 - Pet Waste Station Locations (Existing and Proposed)
 - Any ongoing educational or outreach efforts
- Streambank stabilization projects
- Stream Restoration Projects
 - Location, Length and Cost of Project
- Grant Funding Opportunities
- Ongoing or Future Watershed Plans

QUESTIONS:

Sewage Handling and Disposal:

If present, ask VDH to give an overview of their activities/programs to correct straight pipes and failing septic systems locally.

VDH is not present at this meeting. A survey will be sent to Virginia Department of Health to get their feedback.

The TMDL assumed a septic system failure rate of **3%** (Dan River TMDL) of the total septic systems in the watershed.

- 1) *In order to appropriately quantify the number of new systems or connections to public sewer that address septic system failures, do we need to adjust the estimated failure rate?*

There has been no increase in sewer customer base.

- 2) *Should there be specific failure rates by locality/watersheds?*

No comments provided

Straight pipe estimates during TMDL development:

Tables 3-21: Estimates of the Number of Septic Systems and Straight Pipes					
Category	#Failing Systems	# People per Household	People Served	Flow (gal/day)	Daily Load (#cfu/day)
Septic Systems	189	2.47	464	34,837	1.3187E+10
Straight Pipe	421	2.47	1,034	77,561	3.0534E+12

- 3) *Does this number seem appropriate?* Straight pipe estimates during TMDL development were 421 (Dan River Bacteria TMDL). These estimates are based on a self-reported number from a question on the 1990 census. On the 1990 U.S. Census, people were asked what type of sewage disposal system that was associated with their home: sanitary sewer connection, septic system or “other”. During TMDL development, the census data is interpreted the “other” to mean straight pipes. The 2000 and 2010 Census did not ask questions about sewage disposal. The houses included in this category are assumed to be disposing of sewer directly via straight pipes if located within 200 feet of a stream (Figure 3-20 in TMDL document). Percent of Houses within each County on public sewer, septic system, and other means.

County	% Public Sewer	% Septic Tank	% Other Means
Danville	88	12	1
Halifax	14	77	10
Henry	34	63	3

Patrick	7	86	7
Pittsylvania	8	86	6

4) *Is it appropriate to assume that all new development that has occurred since approval of the TMDLs (Birch Creek 2004, Dan River 2008) has been connected to the sanitary sewer system in some areas? If so, what areas? More development around the existing urban areas. 90,000 gallons hauled to plant last month. What about Portable toilets? They transport to local facilities.*

- a. Representative from Pittsylvania County in this group? - Chris A.
- b. A lot of wastewater goes to Danville Water Authority, but many areas choose not to connect.
- c. About 90,000 gallons coming into the plant per month

5) *Are there certain communities, subdivisions, etc. that could be referenced in the IP that generally have a higher number of septic system failures?*

Westover Hills (annexed by Danville)

6) *Some counties in Virginia require homes within a certain distance of the sewer system to connect. Do localities in this area enforce this type of ordinance? If so, what is the distance to the sewer system that the ordinance addresses?*

The City of Danville requires a connection if within 500 feet of a sewer line.

7) *Is there a need/interest/capability to add sewer to any areas?*

There is perhaps a need in a new industrial park. WWTP capacity has plenty of room since all of the mills have shut down. The treatment plant is current permitted for 20 MGD and presently discharging 8 MGD.

8) *Are there any BMPs targeting undersized sanitary sewer or overflows (SSO's)?*

No. The City of Danville completes routine maintenance with flusher truck once every two years. Danville knows where most overflows occur.

9) *Is there a need for public sanitary sewer education?*

Yes, there is a definite need for public education to engage citizens. "Flushable" wipes have become a problem as well as oil and grease.

- 10) *If grant funds are obtained to cost-share on addressing straight pipes and failing septic systems which local agency/organization(s) would possibly be interested and best suited for this role? Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project (SERCAP), VDH, SWCDs, WPPDC, and/or DRBA? Do all of these have experience in managing grant funds?*
- a. SWCDs, municipalities, Planning Districts take on grants
 - b. There is a lot reporting and management
 - c. Who is best suited to take on funds? Usually SWCD and Planning districts for residential septic programs

Agricultural Programs and Implementation Locally:

*If present, ask NRCS/SWCD to give an overview of the **federal** agricultural programs that local landowners are utilizing (e.g., CREP, CRP, EQIP, etc.).*

No NRCS representative present

- 1) *What is the level of participation in these programs?* More interest than funds
- 2) *Is there adequate funding for these programs?* More funding is needed

*If present, ask the SWCDs to give an overview of the **state** cost-share program in their areas.*

- 1) *What is the level of participation in these programs?*

Interest is high; however, there is more interest than funding available

- 2) *What is the estimate of farmers not participating in federal and or state cost-share programs locally?*

There is not an accurate count for the number of farmers participating.

- 3) *How much cost-share funding does each District generally receive annually? Is there adequate funding for this program?*

\$200,000 is an average cost-share allocation for Pittsylvania SWCD. The district is unable to help everyone with limited funding.

- 4) *Are the Districts involved in tracking voluntary BMPs? Should voluntary BMPs be included in the IP (means we would list certain BMPs and targeted numbers that could be implemented at landowner cost (e.g., stream fencing) with or without an incentive). [CL: CCI-SE-1 is not an incentive to implement fencing. It is an incentive for a farmer to maintain voluntary fencing for 5 years and for cost-shared fencing practices coming out of the 10-year life span requirement to be maintained for an additional 5 years.]*

Pittsylvania SWCD is not tracking voluntary BMPs. They have limited staff.

5) *How was the sign-up for 100% cost share for stream exclusion?*

30-35 producers signed up. Roughly 20 left to fund

6) *How is participation in practices that would reduce loading through runoff?*

There is a good bit of participation in the SL-1 practice which converts erodible cropland to permanent hay or pasture.

Stormwater Programs (Urban Runoff)

1) *Are there any efforts underway through local stormwater programs that are addressing bacteria and sediment sources that should be referenced in the IP?*

- Drains to the river campaign on stormwater drains
- Latest VPDES permit- first time Danville has had to monitor outfalls for E. coli. Wildlife contributing to runoff passing through plant.

2) *Are there any existing illicit discharges along sewer lines in the urban areas (even if they have been addressed through corrective actions)?*

The City of Danville keeps track of illicit discharges. They are reported in Danville's MS4 Annual Report.

3) *Are there current stormwater BMPs that were constructed for runoff quantity control that could be retrofit for water quality improvement? Are there any existing designs and/or costs estimates for any of these BMPs?*

Danville has 10. Most are extended detention basins.

4) *Are there areas where streambank restoration projects could be or are being implemented?*

- Camilla Williams Park -There is opportunity on some tributaries.
- Working on a demonstration buffer at the YMCA
- Apple Branch that comes out at the Biscuitville.
- Timberlake Drive.
- Diesel spill off Falling Creek.
- The worst erosion is occurring where tributaries are coming into the Dan River.
- Rutledge Creek by Corning is a potential site for stream restoration.

Pet Waste

1) *What is going on locally to educate about and or control pet waste?*

- Danville has targeted pet waste disposal areas, but this is an area for improvement
- There is a spot on Danville's website devoted to pet waste.
- DEQ has worked with watershed roundtable organizations and will do projects like pet waste stations or education.
- Pet waste stations on the river trail in Danville. Danville will send DEQ the pet waste stations locations
- Angler Park, Visitors Center
- Education campaign may be more effective

2) *How receptive would residents in concentrated residential areas be to such a campaign?*

- a. Not very receptive
- b. More urbanized areas would be more receptive
- c. Have to make it convenient for people or they won't do it.
- d. Need trash receptacles for people to through away pet waste

3) *Who can help identify where there are existing pet waste disposal stations in the impaired watersheds?*

Localities know where they have installed pet waste stations.

4) *Are there some other dog walking areas where disposal stations and educational kiosks should be installed? (Parks, walking trails, etc.)*

Riverwalk Trail, county parks, etc.

5) *Are there hunt clubs, kennels, other boarding facilities where dogs are confined locally long-term or either seasonally? Should these be considered as a potential source issue to address in the IP?*

There is a new veterinary office being built. Veterinary offices are good starting places for educational campaigns.

- 6) *Which agency and or organization would be good to help with education to address this bacteria source? (VCE, Parks and Rec, veterinarians, others?)*

It was suggested that Virginia Cooperative Extension would be a good partner to assist with pet waste education.

Other Bacteria Sources

- 1) *Are there other potential sources of bacteria that have not been mentioned that should be discussed?*

None mentioned

Integration with Other Activities and Local Planning

- 1) *Are there existing or planned activities, studies, planning efforts that should be referenced in the IP since these could possibly help with meeting IP goals?*

Regulatory Controls

We are required to identify in the IP regulatory controls in place that could be used to promote implementation. These include the state's Agricultural Stewardship Act and VDH's Sewage Handling and Disposal Regulations.

- 1) *Currently no septic tank pump-out ordinances – any in the works?*

None

- 2) *Any sewer extensions anticipated?*

None

- 3) *Any programs in place to control wildlife? Any anticipated?*

None

- 4) *Any pet waste (pickup) ordinances?*

None

5) *Any stormwater regulations?*

Yes, the City of Danville is an MS4.

6) *Are there other relevant regulations and ordinances?*

None were mentioned

Other Topics:

1) *Government Working Group representative to the Steering Committee? Volunteer?*

2) *Other Plans have quantified Erosion and Sediment controls (and in some cases “enhanced” E&S); would you share, in general, your locality’s/entity’s approach to E&S control?*

Danville is its own VSMP Authority. Danville conducts plan reviews and inspections. The counties opted out. Their review is done through DEQ.

3) *With regard to street sweeping, are there opportunities to modify frequency?*

Danville street sweeping occurs on 24-hour shifts. Danville street sweeping vehicles have Automatic Vehicle Locator system. The road length swept can be determined utilizing the locator system. Danville maintains its own roads.

4) *What alternative funding sources are available?*

None were mentioned

5) *Are there any additional educational needs which should be addressed?*

More stormwater education. River City TV is a great educational tool.

6) *Would it be possible to use local municipal mailings (utility bills, tax bills) or space on municipals websites, or through various town registers as an avenue for education on watershed cleanup, septic education [operation, maintenance], pet waste education?*

Yes.

7) *Are there any additional or planned BMPs that we need to account for?*

None were mentioned

8) *Are there any upcoming opportunities for outreach (i.e. any large gatherings of businesses) that we could piggy-back the water quality message on to?*

- The month of May is “Make Danville Shine”
- River Festival
- Local running events
- Danville Science Center
- Wine/Beer Festivals
- Rotary Groups

It was suggested to include the Parks and Recreation Department on the mailing list for meetings.

Contact James Moneymaker if you are interested in representing the government working group on the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee will review the draft TMDL Implementation Plan before it is presented to the public. The Steering Committee will meeting next spring after a second round of agricultural and residential working group meetings.

James.moneymaker@deq.virginia.gov

(540) 562-6738

Meeting Adjourn