

**MINUTES**  
**Powell River and Tributaries IP**  
**Industrial Working Group Meeting- Big Stone Gap**

**When:** Monday, May 22, 2017, 3:00pm- 5:00pm  
**Where:** Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy office  
3405 Mountain Empire Road, Big Stone Gap, VA

**ATTENDEES:**

- Brad Kreps- The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
- Frank Kibler- LENOWISCO Planning District
- James Scott- Coal Mining Engineering
- Joey O'Quinn- VA Department of Mines, Minerals & Energy (DMME)
- Kenny Jesensky- VA Department of Mines, Minerals & Energy (DMME)
- Matt Hepler- Appalachian Voices
- Tim Miles- Daniel Boone Soil and Water Conservation District (DBSWCD)
- William Neff- VA Department of Forestry (DOF)
- Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
  - Martha Chapman – TMDL Coordinator – SW Regional Office
  - Kristy Woodall- TMDL Data Coordinator- SW Regional Office
  - Stephanie Kreps – NPS Coordinator – SW Regional Office

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**Meeting purpose:** To discuss the industrial aspects and ways to reduce the sediment impairment in the Powell watershed in Lee and Wise County; Engage the public in the development of the Implementation Plan (IP) (also known as a Water Quality Improvement Plan or Clean Up Plan).

**Meeting goal:** Collect information from industrial stakeholders to inform the components of the Implementation Plan: land use changes, best management practices, partnerships, potential funding sources, outreach/education; timeline and future plans that may contribute to IP goals.

Joey O'Quinn (DMME) and Stephanie Kreps (DEQ) gave a brief introduction and set the context of the meeting. Martha Chapman (DEQ) gave a brief overview of what has changed since the TDML was completed. Handouts were provided and can be found on the DEQ website: <http://bit.do/DEQPowell-ImplementationPlanProgress>.

The following was discussed at the meeting:

1) **Land use:**

- a) Active discharge into the Powell is down 50% from when TMDL done- not a lot needs to be done to monitor active discharge. DMME issues discharge permits for mining activities. Active mining is decreasing. In the April Blue Book Report, find tonnage for each mine. Only mine producing is near Pardee (Red River Coal).
- b) Abandoned Mine Lands (AMLs) are still a significant impact and still have work to do (approximately 26 AML projects in the Powell watershed have been done with \$4 million, so a high priority).
- c) Forestry activities are about the same since the TMDL (or maybe even slowing down).
- d) It may be necessary to add natural gas wells as a potential source of sediment (wasn't considered in TMDL development)—do these cause disturbance that could impact the

watershed (question for MapTech)? Possibly their access roads? Joey O'Quinn mentioned that gas well locations should be available via DMME's map service. In the Levisa/Garden Creek IP, gas well access roads were part of the offset program.

- e) Clarification that Best Management Practices (BMPs) are necessary anywhere within the TMDL area was explained by DEQ (doesn't have to be directly next to the impaired segments).

2) **Best management practices:**

- a) DMME currently implementing BMPs (and should continue to do) :

On the AML, Barren and Disturbed Forest areas:

- **Regrading and Revegetation on critical areas (main one)**
- Vegetated Stream Buffer
- Reforestation of Erodible Land
- Re-mining Abandoned Mine Land
- Haul road stabilization

- b) A number of companies now paving haul roads so could add this to BMP list

- c) There are AMD wetland projects in Lee County

- d) There's nothing different at Pardee's nested site (VAS-P17R\_POW03C14) for BMP implementation. Joey O'Quinn (DMME) and Matt Hepler (Appalachian Voices) will look into any potential AMLs around Pardee that can be reclaimed.

- e) It was mentioned that pollution reduction targets are being met on mining lands but there's still reductions needed from other land uses.

- f) Forestry- there are no mandatory BMPs. Streamside Management Zones are encouraged to leave 50% of timber but not required by law. Seeing more pre-harvest plans being done with (pre-planning that helps avoid big problems later on). Also, seeing more chippers on harvested areas not leaving woody material behind to stabilize ground. (4 whole tree chippers in 3 county area). [Forestry Best Management Practices Manual](#) good source of options to address sediment (if these are being done on a forestry job than there shouldn't be any runoff). Main BMPs are: road stabilization, seed+mulch >10% grade, stream crossings, non-erodible haul roads). Not seeing as many clearcuts as before.

- g) There are landowners within the Powell watershed willing to do restoration/reclamation on AMLs; yet at the same time, landowners and mining companies are not the same and can cause constraints. For forestry, getting homeowner to go back and address harvested areas is not likely.

- 3) **Partnerships:** Main partnerships are DOF, DMME, gas companies, Upper Tennessee River Roundtable, The Nature Conservancy, Appalachian Voices, Clinch-Powell Clean Rivers Initiative, Daniel Boone SWCD, NRCS, Town Government, County, economic development organizations

- 4) **Funding:** 319(h), WQIF, Abandoned Mine Land Fund, RECLAIM funding, Riparian Tax Credit with DOF, Forest Stewardship Program (FSP), [PL-566](#) specific to NF Powell River, others from Straight Creek Implementation Plan?

- 5) **Timeline:** 10 year, staged plan is realistic.

6) **Future plans:**

- a) Division of Gas & Oil increasing well development (will need to follow up with them on the extent). Are there particular BMPs that need to be done?

b) [Clinch-Powell Clean Rivers Initiative](#) has some studies/data that may be informative.

**General:**

- 1) Other sediment sources may be road construction and bridge replacement (contact VDOT);  
Spearhead Trail ATV trails (contact Shawn Lindsey or Chris Sturgill)
- 2) Would be good to have more coal industry and landowner representatives in this discussion.
- 3) Joey O'Quinn (DMME) will represent this group on the Steering Committee.