

Upper Goose Creek, Cromwells Run, and Little River Implementation Plan Public Meeting Meeting #1

June 21, 2016
Meeting Notes

Location: Wakefield School
4439 Old Tavern Road
The Plains, Virginia 20198

Start: 6:00 p.m.
End: 7:00 p.m.

Meeting Attendance:

May Sligh, VA Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Facilitator
Heidi Moltz, Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin (ICPRB), Facilitator
Kevin Jennings, Manager of Archwood Farms and owner of Kinloch Farm, Speaker
Jenny Biche, Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission (RRRC), Scribe
Rebecca Shoemaker, VA Department of Environmental Quality
Tim Mize, Virginia Tech Extension Agent
Tom Turner, John Marshall Soil and Water Conservation District
Neely Law, Center for Watershed Protection
Alston Horn, Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Deirdre Clark, John Marshall Soil and Water Conservation District
Kimberly Fogle, Director of Community Development, Fauquier County
Edward Fogle, Citizen
Scott Kaiser, Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin
Charlie Lunsford, VA Department of Environmental Quality
Jeff Sledjeski, Soil Tech, Inc.
Dave Manning, Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy
Maunette Makowski, 3E Consulting
Andrew Hopewell, Assistant Chief of Planning, Fauquier County Community Development
Jim McGuinness, Goose Creek Watershed Association
Jeff Millington, Citizen
Linda Millington, Citizen
Dawn Jennings, Kinloch Farm
Ben Shoemaker, Loudoun Water
Tim Ohlwiler, Virginia Tech Extension Agent
Tom Grizzard, Virginia Tech
Gem Bingol, Piedmont Environmental Council
Pat McIlvaine, Loudoun Soil and Water Conservation District

Meeting Minutes:

Attendees were welcomed and key staff from DEQ, RRRC and ICPRB were introduced. Heidi Moltz, ICPRB, presented an overview of the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Update and Implementation Plan elements through a PowerPoint presentation. Following ICPRB's presentation, May Sligh, DEQ, shared information on the TMDL Implementation Plan Public Participation Process through a PowerPoint presentation. Kevin Jennings, Manager for Archwood Farms, which is located on property surrounding the Wakefield School, shared his experience participating in various agricultural best management practices (BMP) cost share programs offered by DEQ along with the technical support provided by the John Marshall Soil and Water Conservation District (JMSWCD) and National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). Through a PowerPoint presentation, he shared pictures of the BMPs at various stages of installation and provided maps to show the entire system for watering the cows once they were excluded from entering the stream. After the presentations, the following "Questions and Answers" were shared:

- An inquiry was as to how much out-of-pocket expense Mr. Jennings incurred implementing the cost share programs and how long it took for him to recover those out-of-pocket costs.

Mr. Jennings replied that the BMPs were installed in three phases. For phase 1, the total cost exceeded the cap for the cost share program. The Landowner of Archwood Farms elected to utilize the maximum cost share program available, 75%, which required the exclusion fencing to have a 35 foot set back from the stream. The Landowner fronted the money for the cost of the project and once the practices were approved was reimbursed the 75% immediately. The total project took 4 years to complete. The return on investment to the landowner included improved water quality, improved herd health and 100% utilization of the pastures.

- A follow-up question was shared inquiring as to what specific examples there were for the recovery of out-of-pocket costs, such as less vaccines being used, etc.

Mr. Jennings replied that indeed less vaccines were needed, the weight of the herd increased, the herd grazed evenly across the fields which resulted in the distribution of the manure evenly throughout the field and improved soil and pasture overall. While the landowner lost 3-4 acres of pasture for grazing, the herd now had numerous water troughs available throughout the pasture due to the cost share program. They were able to utilize the entire pasture for grazing and spent less time traveling back and forth to the stream. They found that they did not need to have as many vet visits to the farm since

implementation of the BMPs, with hoof rot decreasing since the herd no longer stood in the streams. In the 35 foot set back the landowner chose to make the area into a wildlife habitat. Mr. Jennings said the return of investment was not immediate, and was not obtained in the first year, but over time.

Tom Turner, JMSWCD, stated that another farmer who participated in the cost share program indicated his herd gained 30 pounds per animal since implementing the BMPs. Mr. Jennings shared that he had heard from a dairy farmer that his cows increased their milk production after one year of installing a second water trough at the other end of their dairy barn through the cost share program. Mr. Turner also mentioned that animals that are not getting the bacteria from impaired streams are able to use the energy they would have had to expend to fight off parasites into producing more muscle.

May Sligh, DEQ, stated that an article on the effects of impaired waters on herd health written by large animal vet Dr. Scott Nordstrom was included among the handouts provided to attendees.

- Charlie Lunsford, DEQ, mentioned that sometimes landowners who lease their farmland can be less interested in participating in the cost share programs and asked what motivated the landowner of Archwood Farm to participate.

Mr. Jennings said that quite simply Archwood Property wanted to improve the water quality and saw the program as a win-win-win. The landowner wins by getting monetary assistance, the cattle win by becoming healthier and the environment wins by reducing the impairments.

Mr. Jennings also stated that the stream, Broad Run, that runs through Archwood Farm, flows north to Manassas, Fairfax and eventually into the Potomac River. By being good stewards of the environment in The Plains, he is able to prevent water quality issues to the north and to the Potomac River. He said that the landowner appreciates wildlife and was thrilled to participate. Mr. Jennings said a healthier herd, a herd that is not stressed, and a healthier environment was the motivating factor for the landowner. Since the loss of shade was an issue when the herd was fenced out of the stream, trees were planted in the pasture. The whole system cost went above \$50,000, which was the cap for the 75% cost share for the project. However, the system works beautifully and the gravity-fed water troughs ensure that the cows don't have to wait in line to get a drink. The engineering of the system was designed so that the water troughs refilled as fast as the cows drink it.

Following the "Question and Answer" Session, attendees were invited to take a short break, enjoy the refreshments, and then join either the Agricultural or Residential Working Group Session.

The next Agricultural and Residential Working Group meetings are scheduled for September 22, 2016 with the final public meeting tentatively scheduled for December 2016.

Comments on the proposal were requested to be submitted by July 21, 2016 and can be sent to:

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