

## **Yeocomico River Watershed Implementation Plan – Residential Working Group Meeting**

Northumberland Public Library, Heathsville, VA

Feb. 2, 2017 6:00-8:00 p.m.

### **Attendees**

Kate and Harrison Daniel, Stuart McKenzie, Nancy Demarest, John and Gail Sigler

*Recommendation that next meeting be held at the Ice Cream Parlor in Kinsale or AT Johnson.*

#### **Q: Do you think many homeowners are aware of septic system maintenance needs?**

A: Northumberland County sends out pump-out letters. Westmoreland County – residents have to show proof of pump out to get a building permit.

#### **Q: What are some ways we could reach people with information about properly maintaining their septic systems?**

Shoreline is predominantly owned by weekend residents. The interior are primarily all-year lower-income residents who can't afford pump-outs. The Northern Neck PDC applies to DEQ for money to assist homeowners with septic pump-out money. They have done it in 4 counties the last 5 years and will probably apply again. A match is required though and residents can't afford their share. Pumpouts should be 100% grant to be a safety net for the Chesapeake Bay.

#### **Q: Is there a considerable amount of recreation that happens on the river (tubing, boating, canoeing, etc.)?**

Yes, there is recreational use. Boat ramps in Kinsale and Lodge Creek. There is recreational fishing, canoes/kayaks, some water sports, aquaculture near the mouth, Bevans Oyster Company has cages near the mouth. However, use is light compared to Annapolis and similar areas and has been dropping since 2000. On a weekend will maybe see 3-5 boaters. Kinsale Marina once had 100 boats but is down to 10-15. Jet Ski and kayak use has increased but is not heavy. Workgroup believes that recreational use is decreasing due to the recession (cost of gas, slip, etc. and people are downsizing boats.) Marinas are struggling in the area; there are more waterman than recreational boaters.

#### **Q: Are there locations that would benefit from a pet waste station (e.g. public parks)?**

No parks or leash law, so people don't really "walk" their dog. Let the dog run free out of their back doors. Kinsale Town Square – we could put one there but it wouldn't do any good, although they do recognize that they all at least no someone who picks up after their dog. Education is important. We need to stress public health (e.g. raccoons will eat dog waste because of the protein and no one wants to attract a potentially rabid raccoon.) Public school is the best opportunity for education. There are hunt clubs and kennels so we could try education there. Pet waste stations at vet offices might be useful. When educating the public, people want to do the right thing but need to know what that is.

Education outreach opportunities – schools, radios, churches, Master Gardeners, Master Naturalist.  
Post office is main area for posters.

Businesses in the watershed include Bevans Oyster Company, Potomac Lumber, and a trailer company.  
Reaching the waterman/aquaculture communities would be helpful because it directly influences them.  
TOGA is the main group. Margaret Ransone is a local politician and works for Bevans.

**Q: Would we have better luck with composters rather than pet waste stations?**

Possibly but still not very optimistic. Kennels tend to hose off the dog waste rather than pick it up.