

Potomac Watershed Roundtable

Frying Pan Farm Park – Visitor's Center

2739 West Ox Road

Herndon, VA 20171

(for directions see <https://goo.gl/maps/YCTkEcyHJ2U2>)

Friday, January 8, 2016

9:30 Registration and Morning Refreshments Served Prior to the Meeting

(The Potomac Council will meet from 9:00 to 9:50)

10:00 Call to Order and Introductions – Hon. Penny Gross, Chair

Approval of the Minutes of the October 2, 2015 meeting at Claude Moore Recreation Center in Sterling, VA

10:15 Updates from the Chair

10:30 Update on the Accotink Creek TMDL

Bryant Thomas, Water Permitting Program Manager, Virginia DEQ-Northern Regional Office

Rebecca Shoemaker, TMDL Coordinator, Virginia DEQ-Northern Regional Office

Streams in the Accotink Creek watershed in Fairfax County are listed as not supporting the Aquatic Life Use and efforts to develop a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for these areas began in 2007. In July of 2013, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality committed to developing a replacement TMDL for Accotink Creek by 2016, after the flow TMDL established by EPA was remanded by the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia. Representatives from Virginia DEQ will provide an overview of the efforts to develop the replacement TMDL to date.

11:00 Demonstrating the Value of Retaining Forestland in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

Greg Evans, Mitigation Program Manager/Chesapeake Bay Program Lead, Virginia Department of Forestry

Forest cover is recognized as one of the best land uses for achieving Chesapeake Bay goals and outcomes. BUT - localities in the watershed say unless TMDL credit is given for retaining forestland, there is little local incentive for preserving forestland. The Virginia Department of Forestry, along with several partners, completed a pilot study in the Rappahannock River Basin to determine if forest retention actions by localities, private land owners and others will result in a decrease in actual load over the 2025 projected TMDL load allocation land cover. The results from this effort are being used to build a case for crediting forestland retention actions by localities in the TMDL model and through regulatory and policy changes at the federal, state and local levels. Discussion will be based on the following questions:

- *What is the most effective way to quantify and offset development impacts that go beyond the borders of one jurisdiction?*
- *What are the biggest challenges associated with designing TMDL credits resulting from forestland retention actions taken now that may result in reduced offset expenditures in 2025?*
- *What tools and policies do local governments need to encourage compact development patterns that conserve forestland resources, promote reforestation, and tree planting infill of RPA riparian buffer gaps?*
- *What are some good examples of incentives that could be used in land use policy and zoning situations to accurately identify and assign appropriate values to high conservation value forest lands and inform the development of a forest retention TMDL?*
- *What works and doesn't work?*

12:00 Lunch and Networking – \$15 in cash or check (made out to the Northern Virginia SWCD); receipts will be provided.

1:00 Chesapeake Bay Stakeholders Assessment

Frank Dukes, Ph. D., Distinguished Institute Fellow, University of Virginia-Institute for Environmental Negotiation

IEN conducted an assessment of stakeholder experiences with Phase I and Phase II Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs) developed by states and the District of Columbia as part of the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (Bay TMDL) accountability framework. Over 100 conversations with stakeholders informed answers to the following questions: What aspects of the Phase I and II WIP process facilitated implementation? What topics does the Phase III WIP process need to address more directly? How may Phase III WIPs and the oversight of implementation better engage local partners and accelerate the implementation of pollution reduction practices? How should information on pollutant loads, reductions, and/or implementation efforts be expressed in the Phase III WIPs so that stakeholders understand their share towards meeting Bay TMDL allocations? This assessment recommends improvements so that the forthcoming Phase III WIPs create effective blueprints for implementation through 2025. Read the Stakeholders Assessment: <http://bit.ly/1O7bpXm>.

2:00 Members Time and Announcements