



**CSPDC Chesapeake Bay TMDL  
 Watershed Implementation Plan  
 Organizational Meeting**  
 March 18th, 2020, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.  
 Via Conference Call - 832-831-2424  
 Conference ID - 157686#

**Meeting Summary**

In attendance:

Sandra Stuart, NBSWCD	Barbara Walsh, RACC
Sara Bottenfield, DEQ- Harrisonburg	Genevieve Goss, VCC
Anita Riggleman, HRRSA	John Ware, Town of Bridgewater
Rebecca Stimson, City of Harrisonburg	John Reeves, Citizen of Rockingham Co.
Keith Thomas, City of Harrisonburg	Hunter Moore, CSPDC
Tom Roberts, City of Buena Vista	Rebecca Joyce, CSPDC

**Welcome and Introductions**

- Hunter Moore welcomed everyone and thanked them for joining the call during such a crazy time and hoped everyone was staying healthy and safe. She then introduced herself, Rebecca Joyce and did a roll call using the registration list to record who was participating in the call.

**WIP III Update**

- Hunter reviewed the timeline handout to give a brief overview of the WIP process thus far. She also reiterated the PDC’s role in the WIP plan and the stakeholder group’s purpose.
- Hunter asked the group if anyone could give an update on the agriculture sector with WIP and asked if anyone might know of what is going on in that area? Sarah Bottenfield said that she could check with the Richmond DEQ office and follow up.



- Genevieve Goss also mentioned the Upper James Watershed Roundtable group is ahead of the curve because of their Ag BMPs.

## **2020 WIP Deliverables Discussion**

- Hunter explained that the deliverables handout is the PDC's 2020 scope of work, and she reviewed the optional deliverables that CSPDC staff had chosen to work on. She asked for feedback on the chosen deliverables or other deliverables on the list.
- Rebecca Stimson asked about task 3c (septic reporting). Hunter mentioned that the coastal communities are implementing a pilot program and that the other Chesapeake Bay WIP communities are waiting to see how the pilot program goes. Sarah Bottenfield said she could also follow up on the pilot program.
- Hunter asked the group to mention any additional options for programs that might be good partnership opportunities. i.e. stream clean-ups and grant writing.
- Tom asked about item 4f; he has a high school student that wants to do a tree-planting project (10 trees) on City owned land near the river. Hunter said she would follow up with Tom to see how the PDC could assist with the tree planting project.
- Sarah suggested that the PDC make a connection with the round table groups such as the Pure Water Round table about stream clean-up events.
- Genevieve mentioned that the Upper James has an energy star industry in Roanoke that has a clean-up. Maybe there are industries in our region that the PDC could partner with for a clean-up event.

## **Public Education Events & Materials**

- Hunter asked the group for guidance and ideas for education materials for the PDC's booth for public/outreach events. She also asked the group to send her dates for future events that would be appropriate for WIP education.
- Rebecca Joyce pointed out the PDC could purchase materials that localities could use. She asked if there is anything that the PDC could purchase that would be useful for them?



- John Ware explained that in the past, Soil and Water Conservation Districts have put on rain barrel workshops. The PDC could partner with them in the future. The PDC could also purchase the rain barrels - about \$75 a piece and/or host the workshop.
- Genevieve mentioned that with the current situation concerning outreach, if we can't reach people in person, maybe we can do a video workshop or have the information on a website and people could stop by and pick-up the materials. For example, creating an instructional video or website for how to set up a rain barrel.

### **BMP Workshop Ideas**

- Hunter asked the group what BMP training they would like to see for future PDC WIP meetings? She mentioned having Dave Hirschman as a potential guest speaker and asked for other suggestions.
- Rebecca Stimson discussed a potential workshop for homeowners on tree-planting in urban areas with topics such as what types of trees to plant and avoiding utilities. The PDC could give away trees at the workshop. She also mentioned a workshop for homeowners on how to design rain gardens and site them on their property.
- Hunter explained that she will be working with other PDCs on a potential BMP workshop for businesses / residents. Ideas for BMP topics include tree-planting, nutrient management, and how to upgrade or maintain BMPs.
- John Reeves discussed a detention/retention basins workshop on maintenance or how to convert to an automatic facility. Many basins are not kept up or clean and this could also be a good educational opportunity to involve JMU students.
- John Ware mentioned that businesses aren't always aware that they even have a BMP on site, and they don't understand their maintenance responsibilities and that includes in-ground systems.
- Hunter mentioned that in past meetings, the group discussed having an inventory done to identify all these business BMP sites that need maintenance or upgrades.
- Genevieve mentioned targeting different sectors in the ways that they can be best reached. For example, small landscaping companies won't come to a workshop, but they need instruction on proper BMPs and information on invasive species to not plant. She also mentioned that places like Highland and Bath Counties, because organizations are so far upstream from the Chesapeake Bay, they aren't so concerned about WIP issues. Hosting a workshop in these areas would be beneficial. Reaching out to septic installers in Bath and Highland Counties is another idea.



## Grant/Funding Opportunities

- Hunter shared information on upcoming grant opportunities. She shared a table (on the powerpoint) for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's grant programs. Planning grants are due in April.
- Hunter asked if anyone had any new information on upcoming SLAF funding. Rebecca Stimson confirmed that there will be \$50 million available for SLAF in 2020-2021.
- Sarah shared information on 319 funding. More information is coming in June. The focus is supporting BMP implementation of projects that support the approved TMDL watershed plans.

## Community Updates

- Hunter asked the group if anyone would like to share any BMP projects that communities are currently working on or share any WIP related business.
- Sarah mentioned that DEQ is accepting citizen nominations for monitoring surface waters. Localities can also use this process if there is an area that they would like to have monitored by DEQ in 2021. Sarah will send the information to Hunter to distribute.
- Hunter mentioned two upcoming conferences; however, one is cancelled due to COVID-19 concerns and the other she suspects will also be cancelled or postponed.

## VIII. Adjourn

- With no other discussion, Hunter adjourned the conference call meeting and shared the following meeting dates for 2020:
  - June 18th
  - September 16th
  - December 10<sup>th</sup>

All meetings will be held at 9:00 a.m. at the BRITE Transit Facility in Fishersville.



### Follow – Up Information:

- Agriculture sector news: Nutrient management and livestock exclusion legislation introduced in the General Assembly (See HB1422 and SB702). The budget also has exciting news for the Ag Sector with significant funding for DCR's Agricultural Cost-Share Program.
- For septic systems, the Health Department is continuing work to evaluate the possibility of taking responsibility for Bay Act septic pump administration from the local governments (pilot study in the Middle Peninsula, Northern Neck and Eastern Shore).
- [Here](#) is the link to the DEQ citizen nomination webpage,
- DEQ has created an [interactive Story Map](#) for the Phase III WIP. Check it out and share with others.