



**CSPDC Chesapeake Bay TMDL  
Watershed Implementation Plan  
Stakeholder Meeting**  
June 17, 2021, 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.  
Via Zoom Video Conference Call  
**Meeting Summary**

In attendance:

Kevin Tate, SVCC	Hunter Moore, CSPDC
David Brotman, Friends of the North Fork of the Shenandoah River	Rebecca Joyce, CSPDC
Christa Hall, Town of Dayton	Olivia Raines, CSPDC
Dale Chestnut, JMU	Morgan Shrewsbury, Augusta County
Jeff Johnson, City of Staunton	Tom Roberts, City of Buena Vista
Peter Kesecker, City of Staunton	Sara Bottenfield, DEQ
Rachel Winter, Headwaters SWCD	Nesha McRae, DEQ

**Welcome and Introductions**

- Hunter Moore welcomed everyone and thanked them for joining the call. She asked the group to introduce themselves through the video call or in the chat box.

**WIP Update**

- Ms. Moore gave a summary of recent WIP activities. Activities include the NFWF application that was submitted in April and interim reports due to DEQ at the end of June.
- She also mentioned upcoming work on deliverables such as the water quality policy toolbox, WIP model language for comprehensive plans and updating environmental sections, and septic pumping education and reporting templates.



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## **Friends of the North Fork of the Shenandoah River Presentation**

### **- David Brotman, Executive Director**

- David Brotman, Executive Director of the Friends of the North Fork of the Shenandoah River (FNFSR), gave a presentation about the organization and their efforts.
- David discussed their overall mission of education, advocacy, science and stewardship. The FNFSR is also working on access to the river.
- To help educate and raise awareness to those in the North Fork watershed, FNFSR plans to promote watershed communities.
- David also discussed challenges with the pandemic and how the organization kept moving forward without social connections.
- The FNFSR hired a volunteer coordinator and program coordinator. The program coordinator will focus on education and science areas.
- They are currently working on a GIS tool for their webpage titled, “what is my watershed address” which ties in with community awareness.
- The Riparian Buffer Support Program that promotes implementation to riverside landowners was also discussed. This program works with volunteers and SVCC.
- With growing awareness and volunteer base, they hope to have a “adopt a stream” approach in the future and coordinate with local leaders for cleanups.
- The FNFSR have also kicked off Benthic Macroinvertebrate studies that helps the organization get back into science-oriented efforts.
- Landowner outreach has a lot of potential in Rockingham County.
- Keep FNFSR in mind for volunteers needed, education outreach, presentations, and work with localities.
- Shenandoah County is working on their floodplain ordinance and there is opportunity for conservation policy work in the Shenandoah region.

## **Virginia Community Flood Preparedness Grant Discussion**

- Ms. Joyce discussed the new grant program from the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) called the Virginia Community Flood Preparedness Fund.
- The State will be getting funds for this program due to participation in the Regional Greenhouse Initiative and these funds will help resolve flooding issues statewide, not just in the coastal region.
- The first round of applications is due in September and the second round is due in November.
- One of the requirements for localities to apply is that they have a resilience plan. CSPDC staff are looking at the potential to ask for funding to modify the Central Shenandoah Hazard Mitigation Plan to become a Resiliency Plan for the localities in the region to meet

this requirement. Rebecca asked the group if there was interest from the localities in this and there seemed to be interest.

- Jeff Johnson expressed that a regional plan should be looked at like a requirement and planning for resources for a flooding event should be talked about for the region or entire watershed and not each locality.
- Ms. Joyce offered grant writing assistance and other help with the grant program including a letter of support.
- The link for the grant program was shared: <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/dam-safety-and-floodplains/dsfpm-cfpf>

### **Pandemic Recovery Update**

- Ms. Moore asked the group if they were planning in-person meetings and outreach events this year.
- Mr. Brotman shared that FNFSR are meeting back in the office again and have planned in person events such as their summer camps for kids. The camps are in smaller units so that social distancing can be managed. They also have three brewery-based events this summer for Voices of the Shenandoah: In Story and Song. These events can be found here: <https://fnfsr.org/events/>
- Nesha McCrae shared for DEQ and that they have been bound by the Governor's order that expires at the end of this month. Looking at hybrid meetings or meeting in person at outdoor venues. They are waiting on clear agency guidance on how meetings will look in the future.
- Tim Roberts shared that Buena Vista will begin in person meetings in July. They are looking into technology to host hybrid meetings so that people can still join remotely.
- The CSPDC offices will soon be equipped to host hybrid meetings. Ms. Moore asked the group if they are interested in having an in-person WIP meeting in September. Mr. Roberts said its nice to see people in person but having the virtual option saves travel time.

### **Community Updates**

- Mr. Johnson with the City of Staunton shared that they will be adding plastic back into their recycling program on July 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Mr. Brotman shared that Seven Bends State Park is now open and there will be an endurance race at the park in July.
- Sara Bottenfield announced that there would be a RFA coming out soon for Section 319/TMDL implementation funding, and SLAF solicitations are open through July 30<sup>th</sup>.
- The next WIP meeting is scheduled for September 15<sup>th</sup> at 10am.



## VIII. Adjourn

- With no other business, the meeting was adjourned.