



**CSPDC Chesapeake Bay TMDL
Watershed Implementation Plan
Stakeholder Meeting**

June 15th, 2022 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

CSPDC Office, 112 MacTanly Place, Staunton, VA 24401

Hybrid meeting Via Zoom Video Conference Call

Meeting Summary

In attendance:

Georgi Tomisato, Shenandoah Green	Hunter Moore, CSPDC
Cyndy Seibels, Shenandoah Green	Rebecca Joyce, CSPDC
Adam Schellhammer, VCC (virtual)	Grace Holmes, DEQ (virtual)
Sara Jordan, DEQ	Morgan Shrewsbury, Augusta County
Chad Martin, DEQ	Angela Lawrence, Town of Dayton (virtual)
Peter Kesecker, City of Staunton (virtual)	Jeff Johnston, City of Staunton (virtual)
Keith Thomas, City of Harrisonburg	Gaither Hurt, Town of Elkton (virtual)
Shayna Carter, City of Harrisonburg	

Welcome and Introductions

- Hunter Moore welcomed everyone and thanked them for joining the meeting whether in-person or virtually. She asked the group to introduce themselves.

Environmental Justice Mapping Tool Presentation

- **Chad Martin and Grace Holmes, DEQ**

- Chad Martin is the Environmental Justice Coordinator for this district. He mentioned to the group that [DEQ's new EJScreen+ mapping tool](#) will become public on June 16th.
- Grace Holmes presented on DEQ's mapping tool and was able to show the group how to use the tool virtually via Zoom.
- Environmental Justice communities are defined by law as majority people of color or majority low income based on state averages.

- The tool has layers created from census data to show majority people of color and/or low-income populations in Virginia.
- The average percentage for people of color is 37.8 and the layer shows areas of the state where this average is exceeded, making them environmental justice communities.
- The tool also has all DEQ layers, which includes various environmental layers that DEQ is involved with, such as biosolids, water quality monitoring, etc. The tool also includes EPA EJScreen data layers.
- The tool includes community facilities such as schools and other places that could be potential outreach locations.
- The group discussed that there may be areas in our region that do not meet this 37.8% threshold, but it doesn't mean we do not have environmental justice communities. We may need to look at it in a smaller scale or use averages for a city or county.
- Discussion ensued about how or why an organization or locality would use this tool. Rebecca shared that this could be useful for grant applications and showing that your project area is in an environmental justice community.
- Shenandoah Green has a project where they are identifying tree planting projects based on hotspots and flooding mapping areas in Staunton, especially those in low income or people of color communities. Keith shared that JMU and the Dept of Forestry has helped with hotspots (heat islands) mapping. Cyndy mentioned adding this hotspot layer to this mapping tool.
- Chad added that DEQ will be distributing training videos on how to use the new mapping tool.
- Sara further explained that DEQ's Environmental Mapper is another useful tool where you can download GIS data.

Environmental Justice Discussion

- Rebecca kicked off this discussion by talking about her experience with hazard mitigation and environmental justice issues. Most people in the environmental field are usually white and have higher education and income; which can lead to a disconnect in environmental justice practices.
- Rebecca shared the CSPDC would like to create a small plan, about 5 to 6 pages, of small steps that the CSPDC can do for environmental justice engagement and reaching out to environmental justice communities. This plan would include action items that the CSPDC can start doing in our region and how to help localities with these efforts.
- The CSPDC could possibly help with materials, being at the table or with mapping.
- Keith with the City of Harrisonburg shared that the City used ARPA funds on improving community engagement. This included meeting locations out in the community such as schools or at soccer fields. Spanish interpreters are helpful and also picking out the right time of day for meetings.



- Georgi added that also having outreach people of color or people that look like the members of that community is important.
- Georgi asked about funding for tree planting projects. Hunter mentioned the VDOF grants and the CSPDC WIP grant matrix as a resource for finding funding. Depending on the size of the project, the CSPDC may be able to financially support projects.
- Stream clean-ups were also discussed and the possibilities of the CSPDC helping by spreading the word, helping with supplies and other ways of support.
- Chad emphasized bringing people along with you in developing efforts and Rebecca added make sure the entire community is 'rising'.
- Morgan shared that Nisha McCrae with DEQ is a great resource for successful outreach gatherings.
- The group discussed red lining and red line districts. Chad recommended the book 'The Sum of Us'.

2023 CSPDC Regional Deliverables Discussion

- Due to time constraints, Hunter summarized the 2023 regional deliverable information. The CSPDC will be submitting regional deliverables to DEQ that due Sept 30th. The CSPDC will be finalizing these project ideas this summer but asked stakeholders for any suggestions or ideas for projects, such as NFWF application ideas where the PDC can apply on behalf of multiple localities.
- The CSPDC has reached out to VCE about partnering on 'Yards of Tomorrow' trainings in the fall. These workshops would focus on what residents can do to make their yard more environmentally friendly. The CSPDC would also like to reach out to HOA communities for these trainings. Both VCC and Shenandoah Green are interested in partnering with the CSPDC on this.
- Hunter also added to keep the CSPDC WIP program in mind when others are organizing events or workshops. The CSPDC may be able to help in various ways, whether its marketing or financially helping with supplies or educational materials. The CSPDC is also exploring the idea of purchasing items that many stakeholders need in WIP efforts and could be stored here at the PDC office but available for check-out.

Community Updates

- Hunter gave an update on the Water Words that Work training that was held on April 6, 2022.
- Rebecca gave an update on the Hazard Mitigation Plan meeting to review mitigation strategies. Rebecca will share these strategies with Adam at VCC.
- Georgi asked if the CSPDC is involved with climate change efforts. Rebecca responded and replied that the PDC is involved through their Hazard Mitigation Plan and flooding /



resiliency projects. Shenandoah Green hosts the Climate Crisis March and may need help with spreading the word or support.

VIII. Adjourn

- With no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Upcoming 2022 meeting dates:

Sept 15th

Dec 7th