MINUTES

North Fork Rivanna River Watershed Cleanup Plan/Implementation Plan

Final Public Meeting

WHEN: May 5th, 2025

WHERE: Greene County Public Library

ATTENDEES:
- Department of Environmental Quality
  - Madison Whitehurst – NPS Coordinator, Central Office/VRO
  - Ashley Wendt – Technical Reviewer, Central Office
- John McCloskey, Greene County Planning Commission
- Bethany Houchens, Rivanna Solid Waste Authority (RSWA)
- Sarah Sharpe, Virginia Cooperative Extension
- Robert Runkle, Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District
- Thomas Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District
  - Sara Senn
  - Mike Yager
- Wetland Studies and Solutions
  - Jacob Bellinger
  - Katie Shoemaker

Meeting purpose:

Using feedback from the previous two community engagement meetings, a cleanup plan, also known as an Implementation Plan (IP), has been completed for the North Fork Rivanna River watershed that identifies corrective actions needed to improve water quality and discusses the associated costs and environmental benefits of the actions. A summary of the plan will be presented at the meeting. Citizens are invited to provide comments on the plan and will learn how they can be part of implementing the plan to improve water quality in the watershed.

Meeting Overview:

- Introductions
- Reminder of where we are in the Cleanup Plan development process

- Review of the TMDLs
- *Overview of Draft Implementation Plans*
  - Updated best management practices to address agricultural, urban, and residential sources of sediment impairments (please see tables below for broken out information).
  - Outreach strategies
  - Partnership opportunities
  - Potential funding sources
- Next steps:
  - Review of final draft cleanup plan with a public comment period: May 5th – June 4th, 2025.
  - Anticipate submission to EPA for review/approval by Winter 2025/Spring 2026
  - Once the plan is approved, it will be eligible for DEQ Nonpoint Source 319(h) funds. The next opportunity to apply for these funds will be summer 2026 (with activities starting in fall 2027), depending on EPA approval date.

Questions/Comments:

- Question #1: Has the Culpeper SWCD seen and approved these Ag numbers?
  - Response: Madison Whitehurst (DEQ) – Yes. Although no one was present from CSWCD, Greg Wichelns had previously provided comment and review.
- Question #2: How and where are the RB-2 (connection to public sewer) BMPs to be performed? The numbers seem high compared to other IPs.
  - Response: Madison Whitehurst (DEQ) – There are several neighborhoods within the IP boundary that are expanding and therefore provide the opportunity to connect the septic systems to the county sewer. Consulted with the County to help determine the feasibility of implementing this BMP. The focus for this BMP is mostly in the North Branch Preddy Creek subwatershed.
- Question #3: How did you come up with the Pet Waste Station information? Numbers also seem a little high.
  - Response: Katie Shoemaker & Justin Bellinger (WSSI) – We looked at Kennels, Vets, Neighborhood areas, general use public areas, and walking paths as potentials for implementing pet waste stations. Adding multiple within certain areas, depending on size.
- Question #4: Who maintains pet waste stations?
  - Response: Madison Whitehurst (DEQ) - Typically, the County(ies). Depending on who implements these BMPs, they would create an operation and maintenance agreement, outlining how this practice will stay up to date and managed correctly.
- Comments:
  - Would be great to get pet waste stations in local County Zoning Code.
  - No Streambank Stabilization practices needed in NF Rivanna subwatershed.
  - The local county(ies) tend to be generally very good at stormwater control.
- For any additional questions please don't hesitate to reach out.
  - Contact: Madison Whitehurst, madison.whitehurst@deq.virginia.gov or 804-489-8796

Additional materials:

- Meeting materials will be posted here under the North Fork Rivanna River Watershed drop-down: Implementation Plans Under Development | Virginia DEQ.
- Environmental Data Mapper, an interactive tool using DEQ data - Environmental Data Mapper (virginia.gov)
    - You can use this tool to determine where Implementation Plans have been developed. Where water quality monitoring is occurring and the most recent data. And look at developed TMDLs and where potential IPs can be implemented.
- Information on DEQ's Nonpoint Source Management program - Nonpoint Source Management | Virginia DEQ