

Implementation Plan for the
Four Mile Run Bacteria Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)
Technical Advisory Committee Meeting

November 5, 2003
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Agenda

- Welcome
- Assessment / Gaps / Opportunities Discussion
- Tracking Plan
- Synergies Specific with Four Mile Run Restoration Project
- Next Steps with Plan
- Publicizing December 10th meeting
- Adjourn

Bill Hicks, P.E.
703-642-4628
bhicks@novaregion.org



Northern Virginia Regional Commission

Technical Advisory Committee
5-November-2003
Meeting Summary

Attending:

Arlington County	Jason Papacosma
	Allan Rowley
City of Alexandria	Kevin Shunk
Falls Church	Annette Mills
ACE	Elenor Hodges
US EPA	Don Waye
VA DEQ	Kate Bennett
	Jutta Schneider
VA DCR	Marc Aveni
NVRC	Bill Hicks

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to the Four Mile Run Bacteria TMDL Implementation Plan (TMDL IP) held its third meeting on November 5, 2003 at the Northern Virginia Regional Commission offices. The purpose of this meeting was to establish commitments for the 10-year project timeframe.

The meeting was considered a working meeting with no presentations. A newer version of the draft Assessment, Gaps & Opportunities Document and an draft outline of the Implementation Plan was distributed at the meeting. (Those documents can be found at the NVRC website at <http://www.novaregion.org/tmdlresource.htm>)

The Assessment, Gaps & Opportunities document was used to guide the meeting. Throughout the meeting, attendees openly discussed the inadequacies and prospects outlined in the document. The following is a summary of those discussion points:

- Much concern was voiced regarding the difficulty in allocating or shifting resources for the specifics of the plan from the variety of agencies within each jurisdiction.
- Concern was also raised regarding bringing the plan before the public while some of the specifics of the plan may still be only potential commitments ("wish list" items). Firm commitments and wish list items will be handled in separate sections in the plan
- Presentation of draft plan will be done at the December 10th date. That plan could be considered a "proposal" to solicit funding from state, local and federal sources for implementation activities. The draft plan will be presented to each of the jurisdictions (County Boards & City Councils) for their review and/or approval.
- In the plan there should be distinction made between what will happen and what could potentially happen (those "wish list" items.)
- A focus on municipal facilities should be made including installing BMP on those sites; but to do so would require capital expenses not currently budgeted for. DCR typically provides some grant funding for such projects.
- There are currently large efforts in the watershed that address the bacteria issue. This document will pull those efforts together.
- The "Assessment, Gaps and Opportunities" document is a working tool to organize our process. It will be the foundation of Chapter 6 "Implementation Actions" of the draft Implementation Plan presented to the public on December 10th.

MS4 Permits

- As there are many overlaps with the jurisdictions' MS4 permits and they may ultimately be impacted by the IP, timelines of those permits will be included in the IP.

Septic Systems

- Septic systems, although not a "non issue" are not a great concern in the Four Mile Run watershed. For the following reasons:

- There is only a small number that exist in the watershed, thereby minimizing their impact.
 - 0 exist in Falls Church
 - 3-4 exist in Arlington
 - 10 exist in Alexandria (probably only a percentage of these are in the Four Mile Run TMDL shed)
 - Fairfax probably has 0 in the TMDL shed
- New septic systems can be sited in the watershed but because of stringent siting criteria and the expense of land in the watershed it is highly unlikely that any new systems would be sited.
- Each locality in the watershed is subject to the State Chesapeake Bay Regulations which require all septic systems to be pumped out every five years and inspected on a regular basis.
- NVRC, VDH & EPA contend that septic systems are not outmoded technology, and represent viable and safe way of managing human waste. They are highly effective on-site infiltration BMPs for dealing with household sanitary discharges.
- Any new septic systems are built with improved technology. Existing systems are "grandfathered." The best solution here is to ensure that inspection and pump-out is being done as required.
- Package systems should be considered in the same light as septic systems.
- The IP should address the local VDH inspection / maintenance efforts for existing septic systems.
- The above explanations of septic systems and package systems should be discussed in the IP but making the installation of new systems illegal will not be pursued.
- The jurisdictions will commit to mapping the existing septic systems. Such mapping will be used in coordination with outfall monitoring investigations.

Combined Sewer Overflows

- The logic described in the draft document regarding combined sewers is acceptable. All area drains, sump pump discharges, etc. that are connected to sanitary sewer lines in the watershed will be considered

part of the sanitary sewer system and fall under the section of Sanitary Sewer Overflows.

Sanitary Sewer Overflows

- When a basement overflow does occur is it possible that a plumber or private citizen may in the course of correcting the problem pump sewage to the storm drain, either directly or to the street gutter?
 - If an individual lateral backs up typically there would be very little water for such pumping (1-2 inches on the floor.)
 - If a backup is caused by a sanitary sewer system failure there would be substantially more water than with a lateral; however, such a backup would be corrected by knowledgeable municipal staff. In such a situation at least 2 municipal people would be on site to ensure that such discharge to the storm sewer would not occur.
 - Proper training of municipal staff will be important here.
 - Plumbers are required to be licensed. That being the case, what education regarding this matter is required of them?
 - This could be an opportunity for the plan.
 - What are the laws / ordinances regarding such discharges?
 - In Arlington this falls under the Utilities Ordinance and under the new MS4 permit.
 - In Falls Church, this falls under the Solid Waste Ordinance.
- Both areas of the Four Mile Run watershed in Fairfax County are thought to drain to the Arlington WWTP.
- Arlington County inspects all sanitary sewer lines and manholes on a ten year cycle. This is done with CCTV.
- Arlington County is going to increase the sanitary sewer replacement rate to 1.5% annually as a part of the new Sanitary Sewer Master Plan. When will this take place? Because the cost of in situ rehabilitation is declining the rise in the replacement rate may occur without increasing funds.
- Arlington will provide Mr. Hicks with maps of the TV inspection areas.
- Sanitary Sewer Crossings of Four Mile Run and its tributaries can be mapped. Those mappings will be used to increase inspections of those sanitary sewer sections by coordinating that effort with the outfall inspections required by the MS4 permits. Any sewer crossing found in

need of repair will be placed on the high priority list of sewer for repair.

Inappropriate (Illicit) Connections

- The name "Inappropriate (Illicit) Connections" will be used in the IP as the word illicit implies deceptive intentions. The inappropriate connections many times are not done with intent but result from a mistake. By keeping the regulatory word "illicit" within parentheses there will be no confusion.
- The outfall monitoring requirements in the MS4 permits are not very specific or comprehensive. They require visual and odor inspection with some grab sampling of representative outfalls. The optical brightener monitoring (OBM) that was done in throughout the watershed offers a more comprehensive starting point as the data collected through that project was based on 7-day composite sampling. Arlington County is going to build a program based on the 26 suspicious outfalls identified in Arlington County. 21 of those are in the Four Mile Run watershed, and 15 of those 21 were identified by the NVRC OBM study.
- Alexandria and Falls Church could use the OBM work to guide site-selection for their programs within Four Mile Run.
- Arlington County also has a Storm Sewer Inspection Program done with CCTV. Mr. Rowley will provide details of this program to Mr. Hicks.
- The DNA study should also be thought of as a tool for developing such inappropriate discharge, detection and elimination programs.
- Typically such inappropriate connections are difficult to make with because the storm sewer is located too high in the ground to make such connections. [[After the meeting the DEQ pollution response coordinator commented that cross connections are actually more likely because storm sewers are shallower as these are the first sewers encountered in digging, and therefore the easiest to access.]]
- Alexandria Falls Church will consider a pilot program in the Four Mile Run watershed as a part of their MS4 compliance.

Proper Pet Waste Disposal

- Dog Park folks are considered an ally with this issue. They are typically the responsible and active pet owners who can help get the message out to pick up after your pet.

- The issue of allowing dogs in the water was discussed.
 - Only two dog parks are located adjacent to the water. Both are in Arlington County.
 - Glen Carlyn
 - Shirlington
 - Banneker Park is not at the water but the science fair project showcased in the Four Mile Run Documentary indicates that such parks contribute to bacteria loadings in the water. Such contributions could be controlled by BMP installations.
 - Shirlington is not directly hydraulically connected to Four Mile Run. A project is ongoing there to hydroseed the bank, fence the top of the bank and provide a stable access to the water.
 - If we deny dog access to the water we risk alienating dog park goers.
 - Streams really are not considered within the bounds of the park. With that in mind dog owners should have their pets on a leash whenever they are in the water. Enforcement of such a stance would likely mean that having dog in the water is less attractive. It would also mean that the dogs that are in the water are more apt to be curbed.
 - In the agricultural areas where IPs have been developed cattle are required to be fenced out of the water. Opposition from some in the ag. community has been strong regarding the inclusion of such requirements. But even with large outcry the implementation plans have included restrictions on cattle in the water. In this dog situation we are not talking about a livelihood as with cattle but a luxury, assuredly a luxury often thought of as a member of the family. It might appear inconsistent with these rural TMDL IPs to some stakeholders if no position is taken here.
 - It may be that bacteria poses a health risk to dogs too.
 - If we disallow dogs from all streams and dogs are in many respects thought to be family members does this not conflict with our overall message regarding streams, that we should be endearing them to our citizens through appropriate use of those streams?

- Although Shirlington dog park is relatively hydraulically separate from the immediate stream Glen Carlyn dog park is not. Restrictions there would be very difficult. What could be done is to put together a 5-10 year plan to move the Glen Carlyn dog park to another nearby location better suited environmentally. Such a location appears available in the vicinity.

Although business was not yet complete the meeting was adjourned until Thursday, November 13, 2003 at 9:00 am (at NVRC). Before parting the following points were added.

- Ongoing efforts in the watershed affecting the wildlife contributions should be discussed in the plan, e.g. geese peace or raccoon, rat or deer control.
- DEQ will pursue an EPA Initiative Grant for implementation monies that may include specific items for Four Mile Run. The proposal is due in January.
- Public notification for the December 10th meeting should be widely circulated. Include the following groups:
 - Dog Groups
 - ACE / Arlington County Environmental List
 - Dave Eckert's list
 - Post on websites