

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

November 13, 2003
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Agenda

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

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Northern Virginia Regional Commission

Technical Advisory Committee

13-November-2003

Meeting Summary

Attending:	Arlington County	Jason Papacosma
		Allan Rowley
		Howard Hudgins
	City of Alexandria	Kevin Shunk
	VA DEQ	Kate Bennett
	Arlington Forest CA	Carey Johnson
	NVRC	Katherine Mull
		Bill Hicks

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to the Four Mile Run Bacteria TMDL Implementation Plan (TMDL IP) held its fourth meeting on November 13, 2003 at the Northern Virginia Regional Commission offices. The purpose of this meeting was to complete the preparatory work needed to finish writing implementation plan (IP).

The meeting opened with a short presentation about the Pollution Prevention (P2) media campaign program headed by Katherine Mull at NVRC. One of the three key points of the P2 effort is to promote proper dog walking practices. NVRC is working to combine outreach funding from several sources in the Northern Virginia region to leverage those monies to reach a broader target audience through mass media campaigns. A more detailed description of the program is included in the working draft document "Northern Virginia Regional Pollution-Prevention (P2) Media Strategy" attached to this meeting summary. The TAC suggested the following points:

- The P2 campaign should include some message about removing impervious cover.
- The automobile is a significant source of nutrient pollution to the Chesapeake Bay, therefore, the automobile should also be addressed in the campaign.
- The efforts of the P2 campaign may overlap those efforts of the ACE Ecco-teams project.

Following Ms. Mull's presentation, the meeting resumed previous meeting discussions centered on the draft Assessment, Gaps & Opportunities Document. The following is a summary of those discussion points:

Proper Pet Waste Disposal

- Arlington County has not yet taken a stand on whether or not to move the Glen Carlyn dog park area to an area more buffered from the water. Such a move will likely develop significant public discussion.
- The Arlington County Parks and Recreation Commission is currently discussing an effort to comprehensively site dog parks throughout the County.

- The Alexandria Parks and Recreation Commission has prepared a Dog Park Master Plan.
- The City of Alexandria is willing to revise their Dog Waste brochure, "Your Dog & the Chesapeake Bay," to reflect the goals of the TMDL IP.
- The Parks and Recreation Department will be responsible in Alexandria for installing and maintaining bags and receptacles for pet waste disposal. The City has begun using a manufactured station called a "Doggie Pot." That facility comes complete with information regarding the need for proper pet waste disposal, a holder for bags and a receptacle.
- In Arlington County enforcement for pet waste pickup is performed by the Police, Animal Control officers (too few) and park officials. There is a new enforcement tool in the County that allows the County to suspend access to County Park and Recreation facilities on the second ordinance violation.
- There will likely never be sufficient resources to fully enforce the pooper scooper laws in the watershed. Therefore, enforcement efforts can only be relied on as a compliment to a larger package of tools, e.g., outreach, education, etc.
- City and County ordinances may be vague or misleading in what is really allowed or not regarding pet waste. For example, in Arlington's Code the ordinance could be interpreted to read that it is acceptable to leave feces on the grass between the sidewalk and the road. Another example is that the code in Alexandria could be interpreted that disposal of feces in trash receptacles is unacceptable. One of the efforts of this IP should be that each jurisdiction will review and clarify its waste disposal (pooper scooper) ordinances.
- The Nature Centers should also be tied into the pet waste efforts / campaigns.
- There is a general concern in the watershed jurisdictions that there is an "oversigning" problem from all types of signs, parking, environmental, etc. With this as an issue each jurisdiction will move cautiously in placing additional signs.
- It would be worthwhile for NVRC to map all the dog parks, trails, parks and the results of the DNA study to identify trends and correlations.
- Alexandria and Falls Church will monitor the progress of the Arlington committee's efforts to review its dog park standards in light of the TMDL IP before making any move to limit dog access to water.

Street Sweeping

- Street sweeping will help to remove source particles that bacteria tend to adhere to.
- This may be an area where grant money could be sought to improve or enhance current efforts.

Daylighting

- Falls Church is interested in including the daylighting of Harrison Branch as a "Wish List" item.

Stormwater Runoff Reduction and Reuse

- A rain barrel program should be considered as part of this IP

Other Items: Tracking

- Tracking could be done by adding a portion to each of the jurisdiction's annual MS4 reports.
- The reassessment report to be prepared during the 5th year would tie together all of the jurisdictions efforts to that point.
- Could a DNA source tracking project be undertaken during that fifth year?

Other Items: Presentation to Political Bodies

- Fairfax County Board will likely see the IP as an informational item.
- Falls Church may have a Council Work Session to introduce the IP
- The public comment period will be over on January 13. Only after those comments are incorporated will the IP be presented to the Councils/Boards. Consider Mid to Late February as the target.