

Chesapeake Bay TMDL 2010

EPA's largely voluntary approach to cleaning up the bay, spearheaded by the Chesapeake Bay program out of Annapolis, MD. As a result, EPA is developing a Bay-wide TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) for nutrients and sediment that will be implemented by each Bay state, with two-year incremental goals and consequences for not achieving these goals. The Virginia team is being led by staff from the Office of the Secretary of Natural Resources with support from DEQ and DCR staff. RRBC has been named to Virginia's TMDL Stakeholder Advisory Group ("the SAG"). Please see the FAQs on the Chesapeake Bay TMDL for further information.

Staff has been working with Region III EPA staff to obtain early and accurate information about what this means for local governments and to explore the possibility of initiating a "bottom up" local response in the Rivanna watershed (and associated localities). EPA intends to fund at least 6 local pilot programs to get a head start on developing watershed implementation plans, and the Rivanna River Basin Commission is well positioned to be a recipient of one of these early grants. Staff is meeting with TJPDC, TJSWCD, TNC, StreamWatch, and the two other local SAG members (Rick Parrish from SELC and Sally Thomas representing the CBP Local Government Advisory Committee) to evaluate options for such a local response.

The Commission may wish to discuss the benefits of further involvement in this process and ways the Commission can assist local governments with the Chesapeake Bay TMDL.

Action:

Approve staff proceeding to participate with local, state and regional partners in exploring the early development of a local Watershed Implementation Plan and especially any funding that may result from the Rivanna area being selected for a pilot Watershed Implementation Plan program.