

**Notes from the Opequon Creek Project Team (together with Sleepy Creek Project Team) meeting
April 12, 2005, 6:30 –8:30 p.m. James Rumsey Technical Institute, Martinsburg, WV**

See agenda for much of what was covered by Alana Hartman, WV DEP, who led the meeting.

Flip Chart exercise #1 – “What are your water quality concerns?”

1. Opequon – what is the pollution coming across the state line, since approx. ½ the watershed is in VA? We are trying to coordinate with the VA TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) effort for this creek – theirs is for sediment, fecal coliform
2. Sleepy Creek, <15% of the watershed is in VA – we will look at this within the Project Team
3. Are we writing sediment TMDLs in WV? Yes, as “Biological Impairments”
4. Land use changes to residential development – lots of concern. Concerned Citizens of Berkeley County working on Comprehensive Plan. Wide range of partnerships and committees. Focus is on funding and development.
5. How do our floods affect the BMPs we have installed? This is a constant battle throughout WV.
6. Urban Stormwater BMPs do not account for the 20, 50, 100 year storms. Innovative County Planning would be needed to change this.
7. State level policies should be tied to growth, link legislation to growth
8. Two designated MS4 communities in this area, Martinsburg City and Berkeley County. They have to work on 6 minimum control measures, so should partner with Project Teams
9. Berkeley County Source Water Protection effort is ongoing. A good tool for us.
10. (expressed after the meeting) – Nutrients in our wells.

Tools available to us – PowerPoint presentation available upon request. A similar presentation with pictures and definitions of “Best Management Practices,” or BMPs, is available at www.chesapeakebay.net/tribtools.htm

Flip Chart exercise #2 – “Basin-Wide strategies – other ideas?”

1. Get Best Management Practices (BMPs) into Berkeley County’s Comprehensive Plan.
2. Integrate Comprehensive Plans of counties within the watersheds
3. Agriculture always seems to be the front of the presentation – in this part of the Basin, urban BMPs should be the first focus. Work on sewage plant overloads because farmers have already been working on the pollution.
4. Education campaigns, e.g. Carla’s home fertilizer fact sheet. Could be very effective use of our teams.
5. Stormwater management and development erosion control. DEP has new staff person for this area. Currently focusing on the backlog in Jefferson and Berkeley Counties. We need to look at the individual counties to do this.
6. (expressed after the meeting) Developing a BMP for chemical de-icers. We feel these are polluting and not being addressed.
7. (expressed after the meeting) Infiltration paving, like what is used at NCTC in Shepherdstown.
8. (expressed after the meeting) Addressing the direct disposal of septage into our rivers.
9. (expressed after the meeting) training to upgrade (to a denitrifying design) septic systems

Flip Chart exercise #3 – “What other tools are available to help us?”

1. Potomac Conservancy, can link with other states’ ideas and experiences. Maryland has some project teams

2. WVU Extension Agents
3. DEP and USGS will be monitoring sediment beginning this summer – and nutrients
This raised a concern about water quality data used to create the TMDL. Is it fair to the landowners? Sleepy Creek is being widened due to development. Water quantity varies quite a bit.
4. (expressed after the meeting) Studies available listing the most effective BMPs for each pollutant (phosphorus, nitrogen, and sediment) based on local impact

Around 8:00 p.m. we split into Sleepy Creek group and Opequon Creek group. On the Opequon side of the room, we discussed who is present:

Ches. Bay Program representative	Water/Wastewater
WV DEP (several)	Farmer
US Geological Survey	Berkeley County Public Service Sewer District
WV Rural Water Association	Jefferson County Commission
Potmac Headwaters RC&D	Natural Resources Conservation Service (Jeff., Berkeley and Morgan)
City of Martinsburg	Jefferson Co. Watershed Coalition
Resident just outside the watershed	Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin
Landowner	Citizen (concerned) (2)
Concerned Citizens of Berkeley County) (2)	WV Bureau of Public Health, Source Water Protection
WVU (2 representatives to help us understand the TMDL)	

Possible “Missing Players”

Berkeley County Commission
 Berkeley County Planning Commission
 Bill Timmermeyer
 William Teach, Berkeley County Engineer
 Eastern Panhandle Homebuilders Assoc.
 Hunter Wilson/Todd Alder
 Mike Wiley, Dewberry and Davis (developer) (540)-???-???? Winchester, VA
 Ask Andy Weaks, DEP for developer contacts
 Izaak Walton League of America, mouth of Opequon property
 USFWS’s “NCTC” in Shepherdstown (out of watershed but influential in the area)

Opequon Project Team’s next meeting, Tuesday May 17th, 5:45 gathering, 6:00-8:00 p.m. meeting.
 Try for Martinsburg Public Library (found out later, not available)