

AGENDA NOTE - HRPDC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

ITEM #9: TMDL IMPLEMENTATION PLANS FOR THE UPPER NANSEMOND RIVER AND MILL AND POWHATAN CREEKS

SUBJECT:

The HRPDC staff has completed draft Implementation Plans for bacterial TMDLs in the Upper Nansemond River in Suffolk and Mill and Powhatan Creeks in James City County.

BACKGROUND:

The HRPDC has continued its partnership, formalized in 2007, with the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to coordinate the development of TMDLs and Implementation Plans in Hampton Roads. The HRPDC recently completed Implementation Plans for Bacteria TMDLs in the Upper Nansemond River watershed in Suffolk and Isle of Wight County and the Mill Creek and Powhatan Creek watersheds in James City County. Public meetings for both plans were held in May to solicit public comments, and final reports will be submitted to DEQ at the end of June.

Both plans lay out the management actions necessary to reduce bacteria concentrations to the level necessary for primary contact recreation or shellfishing. James City County will continue to collect bacteria monitoring data to identify focus areas and encourage residents to pick up after their pets through County sponsored ads and education programs. The City of Suffolk plans to begin a water quality monitoring program to track progress in areas of the watershed no longer monitored by DEQ, continue to grow their stormwater management program in accordance with their Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit, and require citizens to pump out their septic tanks. Both plans also reference actions underway by the James City County Service Authority and the Suffolk Department of Utilities to eliminate the occurrence of sanitary sewer overflows in accordance with a regional consent order with DEQ.

Ms. Jennifer Tribo, Physical and Environmental Planner, will brief the Commission on the draft reports.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

This briefing is being provided for information and discussion purposes.