

Public Meetings So Far

District of Columbia

- Public meeting on September 29 (40 people)
- Meeting with local governments

Virginia

- Public meetings
 - Harrisonburg on October 4 (300 people)
 - Annandale on October 5 (150 people)
 - Richmond on October 6 (175 people)
 - Webinar and Hampton on October 7 (175 people)
- Meetings with agriculture groups, environmental organizations, local governments, homebuilders/developers associations, industrial and municipal wastewater groups, state legislators

Delaware

- Public meeting in Georgetown on October 11
- Meetings with agriculture groups, local governments, developers/homebuilders associations

Public Meetings So Far

Maryland

- Public meetings
 - Easton on October 12 (90 people)
 - Annapolis on October 13 (200 people)
 - Hagerstown on October 14 (50 people, 50 more online)
- Meetings with agriculture groups, environmental organizations, local governments, homebuilder/developer associations, state legislators

Pennsylvania

- Public meetings
 - Lancaster on October 18 (190)
 - State College on October 19 (100)
 - Williamsport on October 20 (80 people, 90 more online)
 - Wilkes-Barre on October 21 (40 people)
- Meetings with agriculture groups, local governments, state legislators, environmental groups, homebuilders/developers associations

Comments in Public Meetings

- Concern about cost, funding and economic implications
- What being done about air pollution
- How local governments will be involved, especially in Phase II
- Accounting for voluntary conservation practices on ag land
- Validity of science and models
- How monitor the watershed and measure results
- Too much for farmers, homebuilders, local governments, wastewater plants, taxpayers
- Planning and growth are key, but controlled at local level

Comments in Public Meetings

- Need more enforcement of pollution laws
- Interest in trading programs
- How verify BMP implementation
- This effort is necessary and overdue; support for TMDL
- Need for social marketing to change citizen behavior
- Clean water and restoration activities bring economic benefits
- Voluntary efforts haven't worked; status quo is not working
- Want strong WIPs from states
- Lower limits for wastewater won't reduce enough pollution to justify cost
- Can't pass this job to our children

Messages from Stakeholders

Agriculture: farmers have done a lot, can't bear the extra cost, will go out of business, not getting credit for practices, model is flawed

Wastewater: backstop measures not cost efficient in reducing pollution, heavy burden will fall on taxpayers, sector has done so much,

Homebuilders/Developers: recession has already halted this industry and TMDL will further strain, need specific expectations, no financial assistance provided for this sector

Local Governments: no resources, financially strapped, will cost taxpayers, overwhelming, no clear expectations

Environmental Groups: want stronger WIPs, support backstopping, want accountability, can't wait longer to make progress

Media Coverage

- Extensive media coverage following release of draft TMDL and corresponding with location of public meetings
 - Includes editorials by a number of newspapers, including The Washington Post
- Content in articles included:
 - Overview of draft TMDL and WIPs
 - Perspective of EPA and jurisdictions
 - Summary and sampling of public/stakeholder comments

Public Meetings to Go

New York

- Elmira on October 26
- Binghamton on October 27
- Meetings with wastewater industry, ???

West Virginia

- Martinsburg on November 3
- Romney on November 4
- Meetings with environmental groups, local governments, homebuilders/developers, agriculture groups