

# Appendix B-1. Watershed resident meeting summary notes

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## Assawoman Bay

## Watershed Restoration Action Strategy (WRAS)

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### Summary Report

**Meeting Date:** July 18, 2007

**Location:** Showell Elementary, Berlin, Maryland 21811

This meeting introduced watershed residents to the Assawoman Bay WRAS process. During this meeting watershed residents discussed concerns and issues in the watershed.

#### Meeting objectives

- Inform residents about the Assawoman Bay watershed restoration action strategy (WRAS).
- Discuss residents' concerns and issues pertaining to the land and water in Assawoman Bay watershed.

**Assawoman Bay WRAS introduction**—Keota Silaphone, GIS Analyst/Planner, Worcester County Department of Comprehensive Planning

Ms. Silaphone explained the purpose of tonight's meeting and provided background information about the WRAS process. She stated that the intent of the WRAS is to improve water quality and wildlife habitat. Additionally, Ms. Silaphone explained to the group the overall WRAS process and that some work has already been accomplished such as completing DNR's stream corridor assessment and MDE's characterization and nutrient synoptic report. To identify watershed issues, residents provided local information about watershed issues.

#### Concerns and issues—Watershed residents

- Septic systems
  - Bayview estates
  - Maintenance
    - Suggestion: county should bill residents who do not pump septic (similar to billing residents who do not mow)
  - What % of septic systems is part of the problem? 37 lbs/septic/yr can be reduced to 3 lbs/septic/yr
  - Flush fee (bay restoration fund)—money is spent on cover crops and installing nutrient reduction technologies on existing septic tank technologies. County received >\$1 million this past year
    - Effectiveness: upgrading septic tank cuts TN load by 50% (37 lbs down to 18 lbs), however, hooking up septic systems would bring TN down to 3 lbs
- Septic hookup
  - Bishopville—no sewer is planned because sewer service is comp plan is planned for areas already developed
  - Hidden Harbour, Piney Island—too costly
  - Bayview Estates hook up to DE WWTP—residents were against it (too costly)
- No new discharges
  - Would like to clean up the Saint Martin River by no new discharges

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- Mountaire stopped discharging to bays and to ocean
- DE has implemented policy where there are no new discharges to the DE bays and are spray irrigating
- Regional cooperation
  - DAWN initiative
- Sedimentation
  - Excessive sedimentation at the headwaters of Greys Creek
  - DE mining operation
  - Construction site is a source of sedimentatio
- Swine
  - Odor
  - Spreading waste on land
- Canada geese
  - Droppings in water
  - Consuming nutrients within local system and depositing nutrients within system
- Stormwater
  - Agriculture—nutrient management plans developed by farmer
  - Ocean City has a designated staff person responsible for reducing impacts from impervious surface
- Atmospheric deposition
  - 35% of nitrogen deposited into watershed—local contributions from automobiles, for example

### General notes:

Residents were also interested in learning more about the status of the Showell development and the Bishopville Pond Project. Both are located in the Saint Martins River watershed.