

Appendix B-3. Watershed resident meeting summary notes

Assawoman Bay

Watershed Restoration Action Strategy (WRAS)

Summary Report

Meeting Date: October 24, 2007

Location: Showell Elementary, Berlin, Maryland 21811

Ms. Keota Silaphone provided a brief introduction to the contents and BMP implementation recommendations in the WRAS draft plan that covers the MD and DE portions of the Assawoman Bay watershed. The plan discusses watershed issues such as urbanization, agriculture, atmospheric deposition, & stormwater as pollution sources. Concerns highlighted in the plan include high nutrient levels, excessive sediments, septic systems, and development pressure. The plan also presents a nitrogen reduction goal, 24,000 lbs, based on preliminary estimates. Ms. Silaphone stated that the goal could be changed if a TMDL were approved for the Assawoman Bay watershed. Proposed BMP implementation recommendations for DE and MD listed in the Executive Summary were discussed in detail with stakeholders. Summarized below are stakeholder comments.

Agriculture

1. Estimated annual cost for 977 acres of additional cover crops should be changed to \$50,000.
 - a. Target watersheds and farms that are adjacent to rivers and TMDL designated waterbodies for cover crop funding.
 - i. Details: Cover crop incentive is \$20 to grow wheat for seeds (farmer can harvest) will use more TN than \$50 for wheat w/o seed (farmer cannot harvest)
2. Similar to the weir at Kitt's Branch which is used to slow flow, prevent scaring of banks, and settling of nutrients, this practice proposes an additional wetland area used to absorb excessive water flowing through the ditch. Excess water flow could be diverted to an area adjacent to the ditch designed to hold water temporarily and allow slow infiltration of water into the soil (and through a forest) before entering the water way. This additional process would help clean water further.
3. Note that tree planting is a BMP funded by CREP if land qualifies. Identify the qualifications.
4. Note that the state does not have money to hire a state nutrient management specialist to monitor the nutrient management plans.
5. Controlled by landowners, they can increase or decrease the water level depending on the season. Ideally, water would saturate soils during off seasons. This would prevent ditches from carrying agricultural runoff along with its nutrients and force water to soak into the ground before entering the bays. During planting seasons, the water table would be lowered to allow planting.

Additional Agriculture BMPs

- a. Increase funding for manure sheds
 - i. Manure is spread from 3/1 – 5/1. There is 9 months of manure storage, however, the building is big enough for only 6 months. Disincentive in manure storage is that there is too much manure to store. Incentive to apply manure is that the alternative is to buy commercial fertilizer. Why buy when there's a lot of free manure readily accessible?
 - ii. The challenge is to balance the amount of fertilizer applied on corn or wheat ground.
 - iii. In the Little Assawoman Bay watershed, farms have been sold to development.
 - iv. Manure goes to Perdue plant for pelletization.

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Urban and Open Urban

6. The group would like to increase the amount of infiltration practices implemented. At this time, 15 acres is listed. The county will investigate this further to determine a more reasonable implementation goal.
7. Outreach can be done through the Citizens Advisory Committee about urban and open urban nutrient management planning. Also, the CCMP proposes outreach activities for urban nutrient management plan.
8. Plant trees. okay

Additional Urban and Open Urban BMPs

- a. Encourage more environmentally sound building practices
- b. Retrofit public places, i.e. government buildings
- c. Government should lead by example—site analysis could be performed for each site to document improvements
- d. A management practice that provides erosion control that emulates natural habitat i.e. marsh as opposed to rock
- e. Nutrient issues associated with stormwater management is phosphorus

Septic Systems

9. Note that upgrading 39 septic systems occurs in MD.
 - a. Note that the Bay Restoration Fund (BRF) helps to fund some the proposed BMP.
 - b. To date, there have been 26 applicants. Bob Mitchell noted that 4 large septic systems at Lake Haven Trailer Park along 589, averaging \$200,000 each, are now going to 8ml/l with BRF.
10. Note that new systems today will need 6 month pumpout.
 - a. Potential details
 - i. Could possibly work under a biannual cycle and would be an automatic service
 - ii. Budget 150-200 systems per year per home.
 - iii. Must be noted in the area of special state of concern plan (a 3 year plan).

Atmospheric Deposition

11. okay
12. okay
13. okay

Additional BMPs

- a. Gail Blazer mentioned the Clean Water Needs Survey (EPA)
 - i. State coordinator lobbies congress for money for BMPs specifically cited in Clean Water Needs Survey.
 - ii. The county should explore this option to receive more funding for BMP implementation. List proposed BMPs in the WRAS on the Clean Water Needs Survey.