

Regional Update

A Monthly Report of Activities on the Eastern Shore of Virginia



July 2007

TMDL and TMDL Implementation Plan Meetings to be held throughout July

A Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) meeting is to be held at the Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission offices on Front Street in Accomac on July 24, 2007 at 7 pm. Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) staff will be on hand to present information on the water impairments in the watersheds of Deep Creek, Hunting Creek, Bagwell Creek, Chesconessex Creek, Folly Creek, Swans Gut and Greenbackville Harbor.

DEQ representatives will discuss the various sources of contamination in the creeks and harbor and will address questions and take comments. These TMDL meetings are used to firm

up requirements to clean up Eastern Shore creeks and harbors. Once the resulting document is finalized it will be submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for final approval. At this point, an implementation planning process commences and specific strategies are implemented in each watershed. These actions can include permit controls and site-specific best-practice management controls. If you are concerned about the water quality in any of these creeks or concerned about how this will affect you, DEQ urges you to attend the meeting relating to your creek.

A TMDL Implementation Plan Kick Off meeting for Occohannock Creek will

be held at the ESO Arts Center in Belle Haven on July 12, 2007 at 7 pm. Information from the EPA-Approved TMDL for Occohannock Creek will be presented and DEQ staff will explain the implementation process. In addition, the recently completed Shoreline Survey by the Virginia Department of Health will also be discussed.

A TMDL meeting for Hungars Creek and Messongo Creek is also being planned for late July; final details will be advertised in the local newspaper. For further information about TMDLs and the TMDL process, please contact Jennifer Howell, the DEQ TMDL Projects Coordinator, at (757)518-2111.



Eastern Shore Creek

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Exmore Receives 2007 DOT Enhancement Grant Funds

Exmore's Downtown Corridor Revitalization Project was one of three applications from the Eastern Shore selected to receive Department of Transportation Enhancement Grant funds in the 2007 application round. This is Exmore's fourth successful application for Enhancement Grant funding. The application centers around Front Street and will continue the work

completed along Main Street and Bank Avenue. Exmore has historically been a railroad town and center of agricultural commerce. With the coming of passenger service to the Shore, Exmore plans to further build on their heritage of agriculture and railroads. Future plans include expansion of their railroad museum and possible construction of an agricultural museum along the railroad.



Bank Avenue in Downtown Exmore

Northampton County Jurisdictions Receive \$928,000 in VDOT Grants

The Virginia Department of Transportation Final Allocation List shows that five Enhancement Grant Applications were funded for Fiscal Year 2008. Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission staff assisted with three of these applications: the Northampton County Bicycle Trail (beginning at the Eastern Shore of Virginia Wildlife Refuge, following the abandoned railroad bed near Seaside Road, and ending at Latimer's Siding just south of Kiptopeke State Park), the Town of Cheriton street-scape improvements, and the Town of Exmore streetscape improvements. The Town of Cape Charles applied for and received an allocation for a multi-use trail around their town park, with connections to points of interest and historical sites. The Barrier Island Center applied for and received an allocation to renovate the 1910 Almshouse as a museum which will display various transportation related collections.

Northampton County Awarded Housing Funds

The Governor has announced that Northampton County will be offered a Community Development Block Grant from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development to implement a housing rehabilitation project for the West Fairview area. The West Fairview Housing Rehabilitation Grant would include all areas of Fairview not covered by the 2000 East Fairview Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). The \$592,400 of CDBG funds will be used to rehabilitate 5 occupied houses and replace 7 occupied, unrepairable houses, including 2 with no indoor plumbing.

The project also has funding commitments from VESHEEC to help convert tenant families into first time

homeowners, and Southeast Rural Community Action Project to help with the cost of installing 10 new deep wells and 9 septic systems.

It is expected that DHCD will meet with the County sometime in July to formally offer the CDBG funds and to negotiate the terms of the grant.



West Fairview House slated for assistance

A-NHRC Awarded Set-aside of SPARC Round 6 Funds

The Accomack-Northampton Housing & Redevelopment Corporation has been awarded a set-aside of Sponsoring Partnership And Revitalizing Communities (SPARC) Round 6 funds. The total set-aside allocation is \$500,000 at one half percent (.50%) below the applicable rate for the Authority's tax-exempt bond program for a term of 30 years. The program will leverage federal HOME funds for down-payment and closing costs assistance. The Virginia Housing Development Authority (VHDA) will process and underwrite all SPARC loans. For more information, please contact (Mrs.) Bobbie Jo Wert at (757) 787-2800 ext. 125 or Toll Free (866) 787-3001.

Northampton County Proposes Water Quality, Economic Development Projects

Over forty residents of Northampton County met June 28 for the second Economic Development Summit to suggest projects that would improve the county economy. The proposal gaining the most support was developing projects to improve water quality which would benefit the aqua-culture and tourism industries.



Northampton County residents gather to look at proposals and offer suggestions



Dr Dave Nutter looks on as Dr John Provo of Virginia Tech addresses audience

Other proposed projects included cooperative regional tourism marketing, improved vocational education and mentoring programs, a business support council, and high-speed broadband. A full report will be provided by Virginia Tech and will be discussed in future newsletters.



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