

Sand Branch Benthic Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Study

Second Public Meeting

May 26, 2021

Meeting Summary

Location: Virtual (GoToWebinar platform)

Start: 4:30 P.M.

End: 6:00 P.M.

Meeting Attendance:

Project Team

Sarah Sivers – Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

Bryant Thomas – DEQ

Cathy Nicely – DEQ

Courtney Hayler – DEQ

Jeff Talbot – DEQ

Justin Loyd – DEQ

Roland Owens – DEQ

Katie Shoemaker – Wetland Studies and Solutions, Inc. (WSSI), DEQ contractor

Robert Brent – James Madison University (JMU), DEQ contractor

Attendees

Benjamin Bradley – Stantec

Joni Calmbacher, Fairfax County

Edward Hoy – Chantilly Crushed Stone

Joe Knechtel – Potesta & Associates, Inc.

Juan Vicenty-Gonzalez, EPA Region 3

Meeting Materials:

The meeting was conducted with the assistance of a MS PowerPoint presentation. Detailed information in the presentation (provided as an attachment to the PDF) is not repeated in these summary notes; instead, highlights from each general topic section of the meeting are summarized along with the questions and discussion held during the meeting.

Meeting Summary:

Sarah Sivers, DEQ provided an overview of the GoToWebinar platform to help attendees become familiar with it. She then discussed requirements for holding a solely virtual meeting and read opening remarks (provided as an attachment to the PDF).

Ms. Sivers introduced the DEQ staff and contractors in attendance, then provided an overview of the meeting agenda (provided below) and discussed the objectives of meeting:

1. Provide a project overview

2. Discuss the benthic stressor analysis and identification of probable stressors for the Sand Branch watershed.
3. Discuss the next phase of the project, TMDL development.

Ms. Sivers provided a brief refresher of the benthic stressor analysis and TMDL development process. An overview of the water quality chemistry data and biological and habitat data considered in the benthic stressor analysis was provided. She then gave an overview of the CADDIS analysis and how the candidate stressors were classified using the CADDIS analysis, summarized below.

Non-Stressors	Possible Stressors	Probable Stressors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dissolved Oxygen ▪ Dissolved Metals ▪ pH ▪ Temperature 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ammonia ▪ Chloride ▪ Potassium ▪ Sodium ▪ Total Nitrogen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conductivity (from TDS) ▪ Sediment ▪ Sulfate ▪ Total Phosphorus

Support for each of the probable stressors were presented.

Ms. Sivers then shared information on planning for TMDL development. The pollutants which are proposed to proceed with developing TMDLs to address are identified below. Total dissolved solids (TDS) will address the probable stressors of conductivity and sulfate.

Stream	TMDL Target
Sand Branch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ TDS ▪ Total Phosphorus ▪ Sediment

Ms. Sivers also shared that there are other factors that contribute to the impaired benthic community but for which TMDLs cannot be developed. Those contributing factors are summarized in the below table.

Stream	Contributing Factors
Sand Branch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Underlying Geology ▪ Land Disturbance ▪ Percent Imperviousness ▪ Degraded Riparian Buffer

Ms. Sivers said that in preparation for TMDL development, the team was beginning to review data collected for the stressor analysis to identify if any additional information is needed or would assist in identifying sources of the three pollutants. She also provided an overview of the TMDL development process.

Next, Ms. Sivers summarized the timeline for the project. She noted the next TAC meeting is anticipated to be held at the end of June 2021 to share information on the TMDL process and model development.

Several pauses to incorporate discussion and comments were built into the presentation, but no comments or questions were shared during the presentation.

Ms. Sivers wrapped up the meeting by providing information as to how attendees can provide feedback on the virtual meeting format itself. Comments on the virtual meeting format, comment form provided as an attachment to the PDF, are to be submitted to FOIA Council.

Ms. Sivers asked that any questions or comments pertaining to the Sand Branch TMDL study be directed to her.

Ms. Sivers also reminded attendees to provide any comments they have on the benthic stressor analysis report by close of business on June 28, 2021, as this meeting initiated the 30-day public comment period (May 27th – June 28th) on the stressor analysis report and kicked-off TMDL development for three pollutants.

She then concluded the meeting with thanking those present for attending.