**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ANNOUNCEMENT OF PUBLIC MEETING AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT FOR A WATER QUALITY STUDY (TMDL) FOR THE MATTAPONI RIVER AND TRIBUTARIES**

PUBLIC MEETING: The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality will virtually host the final public meeting for the Mattaponi River and Tributaries Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Project on **Wednesday, December 9, 2020 at 5:30 pm**. This meeting will be open to the public and all are welcome to participate. To register and gain access to the meeting, use the following link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3542105706491764495>. The webinar ID is: 280-864-043. Please register ahead of the meeting. Given the current State of Emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting will be held entirely virtually. A computer or a telephone are necessary to participate virtually. All participants are encouraged to access the meeting using a computer to view presentations or visual displays, although audio only participation using a phone is also an option.

If you have technical issues registering or difficulty signing on to the meeting please contact Marilee Tretina at 804-698-4506 or marilee.tretina@deq.virginia.gov.

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: DEQ and its contractors, the Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences and StreamsTech, will present a draft water quality study known as a TMDL for a portion of the Mattaponi River and tributaries located in King and Queen, Essex, Caroline, and King William Counties. The draft study reports the current status of the waterbodies and the possible sources of bacterial contamination. The study recommends TMDLs for the impaired waters. A TMDL is the total amount of a pollutant a water body can contain and still meet water quality standards. To restore water quality, bacterial levels have to be reduced to the TMDL amount. A 30-day public comment period (December 10, 2020 to January 11, 2021) will follow the meeting.

DESCRIPTION OF STUDY: Portions of the Mattaponi River and its tributaries were identified in Virginia’s 2016 and 2018 Water Quality Assessment Integrated Report as impaired due to exceedances of the State’s water quality standards for E. coli and do not support the Designated Uses of ‘Primary Contact (recreational or swimming)’. The specific impairments are attached. Reductions and TMDLs for the causes of the impairments have been developed through the water quality study process.

HOW TO COMMENT AND PARTICIPATE: The meetings of the TMDL process are open to the public and all interested parties are welcome. **Written comments will be accepted through January 11, 2021** and should include the name, address, and telephone number of the person submitting the comments. For more information or to submit written comments, please contact:

**Jen Rogers**

**DEQ Piedmont Regional Office Telephone: (804) 527-5174**

**4949 Cox Rd. E-mail:** **jennifer.rogers@deq.virginia.gov**

**Glen Allen, VA 23060**

*In the event that the Governor’s State of Emergency is lifted, the meeting will be held on the same date and time in the Training Room of the Piedmont Regional Office, address listed above.*

Affected Waterways: Mattaponi River and Tributaries

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| **Aylett Creek (F23R-04-BAC)**, 6.83 miles, King William County, Assessment unit VAP-F23R\_AYL01A12 headwaters to mouth at Mattaponi River |
| **Courthouse Creek (F24R-03-BAC),** 0.72 miles, King and Queen County, Assessment unit VAP-F24R\_CTH01A00 extends from King and Queen Courthouse Pond downstream to the tidal limit |
| **Dickeys Swamp, (F23R-08-BAC),** 4.33 miles, King and Queen County, Assessment unit VAP-F23R\_DKW01B00 begins at Dogwoods Fork and ends at Route 620 |
| **Dogwood Fork (F23R-11-BAC),** 2.91 miles, King and Queen County, Assessment unit VAP-F23R\_DWD01A00 head waters to its mouth at Dickeys Swamp |
| **Dorrell Creek, (F21R-08-BAC),** 4.96 miles, King William County, Assessment unit VAN-F21R\_DRL01A18 begins at the confluence with Little Dorrell Creek downstream to the confluence with Herring Creek |
| **Garnetts Creek (F23R-01-BAC),** 2.83 miles, King and Queen County, Assessment unit VAP-F23R\_GNT01A00 extends from Dickeys Swamp to the tidal limit |
| **Gravel Run (F21R-09-BAC),** 3.54 miles, King and Queen County, Assessment unit VAN-F21R\_GVL01A18 extends from its perennial headwaters to the confluence with the Mattaponi River |
| **Herring Creek (F21R-05-BAC),** 7.23 miles, King William County, Assessment units VAN-F21R\_HER01B02 and VAN-F21R\_HER01A06 begin at the confluence with Dorrell Creek and continue downstream until the confluence with the Mattaponi River |
| **Market Swamp (F23R-09-BAC),** 2.01 miles, King and Queen County, Assessment unit VAP-F23R\_MKT01B00 begins at Walker Coleman Pond and extends to mouth at confluence with Dickeys Swamp |
| **Mattaponi River (F21R-06-BAC),**8.00 miles, King William and King and Queen Counties, Assessment Units VAN-F21R\_MPN01C02 and VAN-F21R\_MPN01B02 begin at the confluence with Maracossic Creek and continue downstream to the confluence with Gravel Run |
| **Mattaponi River (F23E-02-BAC),** 3.14 sq. miles, King William and King and Queen Counties, Assessment units VAP-F24E\_MPN03A98 and VAP-F23E\_MPN03A06 begin at Aylett Creek and extend to the tidal freshwater boundary (approximately river mile 18), tidal |
| **XDN – Garnetts Creek, UT (F23R-12-BAC)**, 2.53 miles, King and Queen County, Assessment unit VAP-F23R\_XDN01A00 begins at headwaters and extends to mouth at confluence with Garnetts Creek |
| **XJG – Dickeys Swamp, UT (F23R-10-BAC)** 1.99 miles, King and Queen County, Assessment unit VAP-F23R\_XJG01A14 headwaters to mouth at confluence with Dickeys Swamp |