

Non Point Source Pollution and TMDLs in Virginia

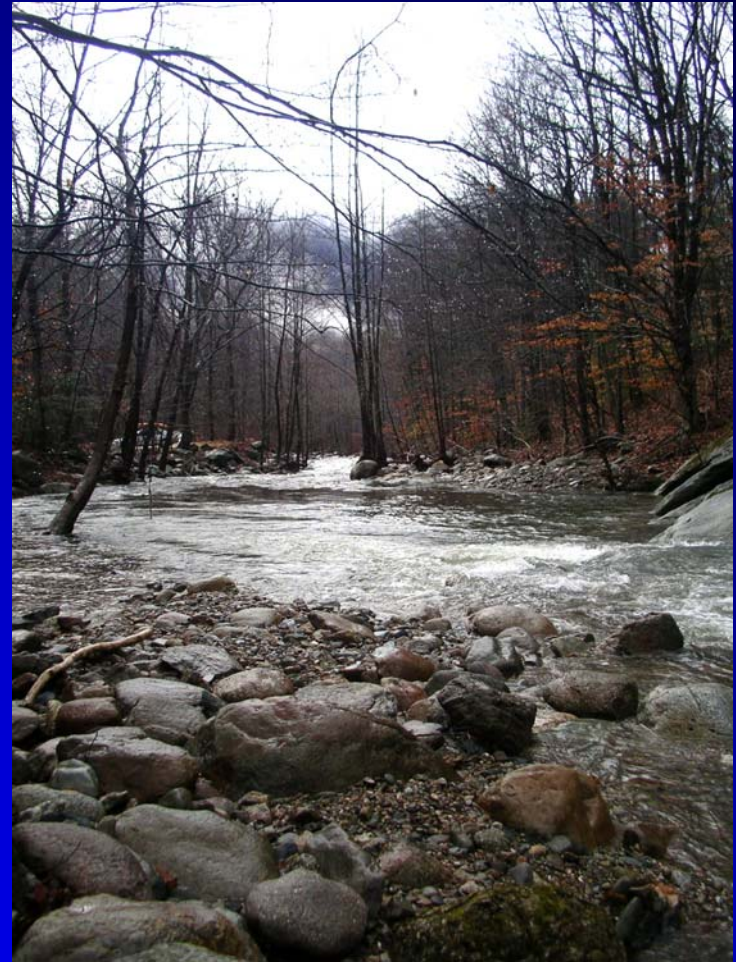


Nesha Mizel, VA Dept. of Conservation and Recreation



Agency Roles

- TMDL studies
- TMDL implementation plans
- Implementation projects



DCR's Role in TMDL Study Development

- Making sure we have the tools to achieve the reductions:
equality versus practicality
 - Limitations of agricultural BMPs
 - Pollutant removal rates
 - Willingness of producers to implement practices
 - Cost of urban BMPs
 - Cost of point source upgrades: South River Mercury TMDL
- An opportunity to measure local interest in implementation plan development

Agricultural NPS Pollution and TMDL Implementation Plans

- Role of VA Agricultural Cost Share Program
 - Selecting BMPs to achieve reductions
 - Identifying the most popular BMPs using historic data
 - Collecting feedback from local producers
 - Fence maintenance incentive payment
 - Fencing with reduced setback
 - Fencing with increased cost share (85%)

Residential NPS Pollution and TMDL Implementation Plans

- Important from a human health perspective, also avoid finger-pointing
- Role of Health Department
- Developed residential cost share program with specifications
- Funding not as plentiful, primarily rely on EPA 319 and Water Quality Improvement Fund grants



Urban NPS Pollution and TMDL Implementation Plans

- Virginia Stormwater Management Program Permit and TMDL WLAs
- Integration of MS4 permits requirements into implementation plan
- Funding for retrofits is limited, use targeted Water Quality Improvement Fund grants



Implementation

- Partnerships with Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD)
- Technical assistance is critical
- Partner with localities in urban BMP implementation efforts
- 5-year projects, still developing exit strategy
- Years 1 and 2 spent on building relationships



Major Challenges to Implementation

General challenges:

- Gaining trust in the community
- Landowners cannot afford their share of the cost of BMP implementation (25%-50%)
- Goals established are too high: “why try if we know we are just going to fail”
- Voluntary implementation: lack of consequences
- Lack of sustained funding for implementation, particularly for urban and residential BMPs

Potential Solutions

- Develop strong community relationships
- Use appropriate communication tools
- Work with landowners to determine what practices best meet their needs
 - Flexibility
 - Incentivism
- Build partnerships with non governmental organizations to increase funding and flexibility

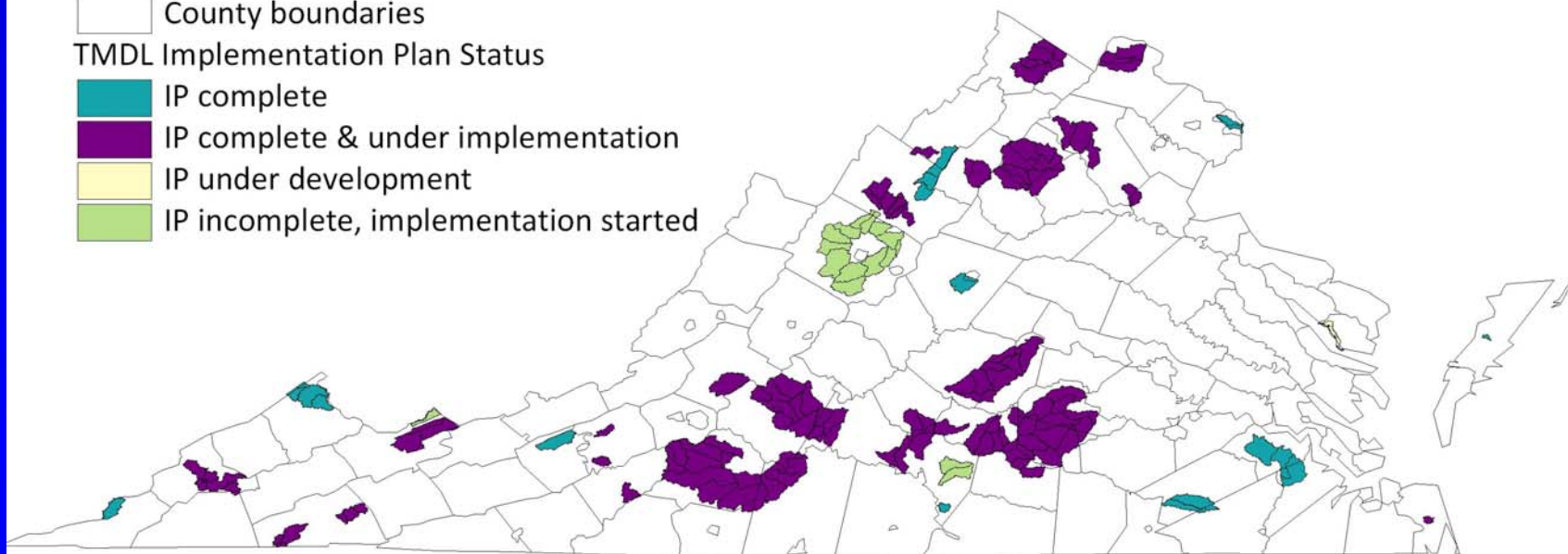


Photo: Mike Phillips, Shenandoah Valley SWCD

TMDL Implementation Plans in Virginia: April 2009

Legend

- County boundaries
- TMDL Implementation Plan Status
 - IP complete
 - IP complete & under implementation
 - IP under development
 - IP incomplete, implementation started



200 0 200 Miles

This map was created by the Virginia Department of Conservation,
Division of Soil and Water Conservation

