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WEST VIRGINIA PUBLIC MEETING ON PLAN TO IMPROVE CHESAPEAKE BAY
Local stakeholders invited to provide input on WV Phase Three Watershed Improvement Plan

The West Virginia Potomac Tributary Team, a partnership consisting of local and state agencies which include but are not limited to, West Virginia's Department of Environmental Protection, Conservation Agency, Department of Agriculture, Division of Forestry, and the Eastern Panhandle Planning and Development Council (Region 9), will be holding a public meeting to update stakeholders on the progress of our watershed improvement plan to clean up West Virginia's portion of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

The presentation will highlight the past work of stakeholders and the program partners to implement West Virginia's Phase Two Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP2). This document, developed in 2011, identified strategies to achieve our nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment reduction goals and responsibilities under the Chesapeake Bay Program. We are excited to say that both the health of the Potomac River, and the Bay are improving. The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) evaluations of West Virginia's efforts reflect that we are on track to meet our 2017 mid-point goals. This progress could not have been achieved without the hard work, dedication, and cooperation of our citizens, local governments, and volunteers.

While our progress has been noticed, we have been charged with developing a Phase Three Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP3) that will continue to set the course for success. The Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model has recently been updated and substantially improved and all jurisdictions have been assigned revised nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment reduction goals that will need to be achieved by the year 2025. With these new goals in place, West Virginia is expected to draft its WIP3 by April 2019, and finalize it by August 2019. The WIP3 will detail the strategies used and commitments needed to be made to achieve our goals.

Please join us for a public meeting on July 30 from 6:00-7:00 p.m. at the Berkeley County Council Chambers in Martinsburg or July 31 from 6:00-7:00 p.m. at Eastern West Virginia Community and Technical College in Moorefield. We will present information on past progress, new goals, and ways to contribute to West Virginia's WIP3 development and invite public input. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Alana Hartman at alana.c.hartman@wv.gov or (304) 993-6814. Updates on West Virginia's Chesapeake Bay progress can be found at www.wvchesapeakebay.us.