

WIP II Local Team - Forming, Storming, Norming or Performing?

Rupert Rossetti - RupertRossetti@aol.com

For those of you who are familiar with the four stages of teamwork, the local Phase II WIP (Watershed Implementation Plan) Team is still very much in the **"Forming"** stage. Information is still trickling in from the EPA and the State. Cecil County and the Municipalities are each completing a "Current Capacity" questionnaire and spreadsheet.

Cecil County's WIP Advisory Committee has held two meetings and has established the 4th Monday of each month from 2 - 3:30 p.m. as the regular meeting time. The meeting, in the County Offices, is open to the public, however audience participation will be limited to a 15 minute comment period at the end of each meeting. There will shortly be a web page on the County website where the proceedings will be posted. There has also been an evening meeting of the Municipalities at which Dr. Richard Eskin, Science Services Director at MDE, gave a presentation and answered questions.

The Municipalities are key partners in pulling together a single WIP for the Cecil County footprint. Other important entities are State Highway, Federal Lands & Waters (Perry Point; C&D Canal), State Lands (Fair Hill NRMA, Elk Neck State Park & Forest) and so far, these are not yet at the table. As yet, it is unclear quite how the various stakeholders' contributions to the overall load and gap closure will be integrated into a well-balanced whole. It is my hope that we do this within the county, rather than let the State do it to us - for that is what they will do, if we fail to take ownership.

As a team member, I'm looking forward to getting to those Norming and Performing stages. They are generally the ones that really make the investment of time by volunteers at all worthwhile. It's a lot more fun, and typically results in a superior product that all can be proud of.

For those of you who want to learn more about the Phase II process, this website should answer a fair number of your questions:

www.mde.state.md.us/programs/Water/TMDL/TMDLImplementation/Pages/PhaseIIBayWIPDev.aspx#teampage

It even has a page for the Cecil Team, though it is pretty sparsely populated at present:

www.mde.state.md.us/programs/Water/TMDL/TMDLImplementation/Pages/CecilTeam.aspx