



# West Piedmont Planning District Commission

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## NEWS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release  
08/04/2017**

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### **Water Quality Cleanup Plan for Birch Creek and Dan River Watersheds**

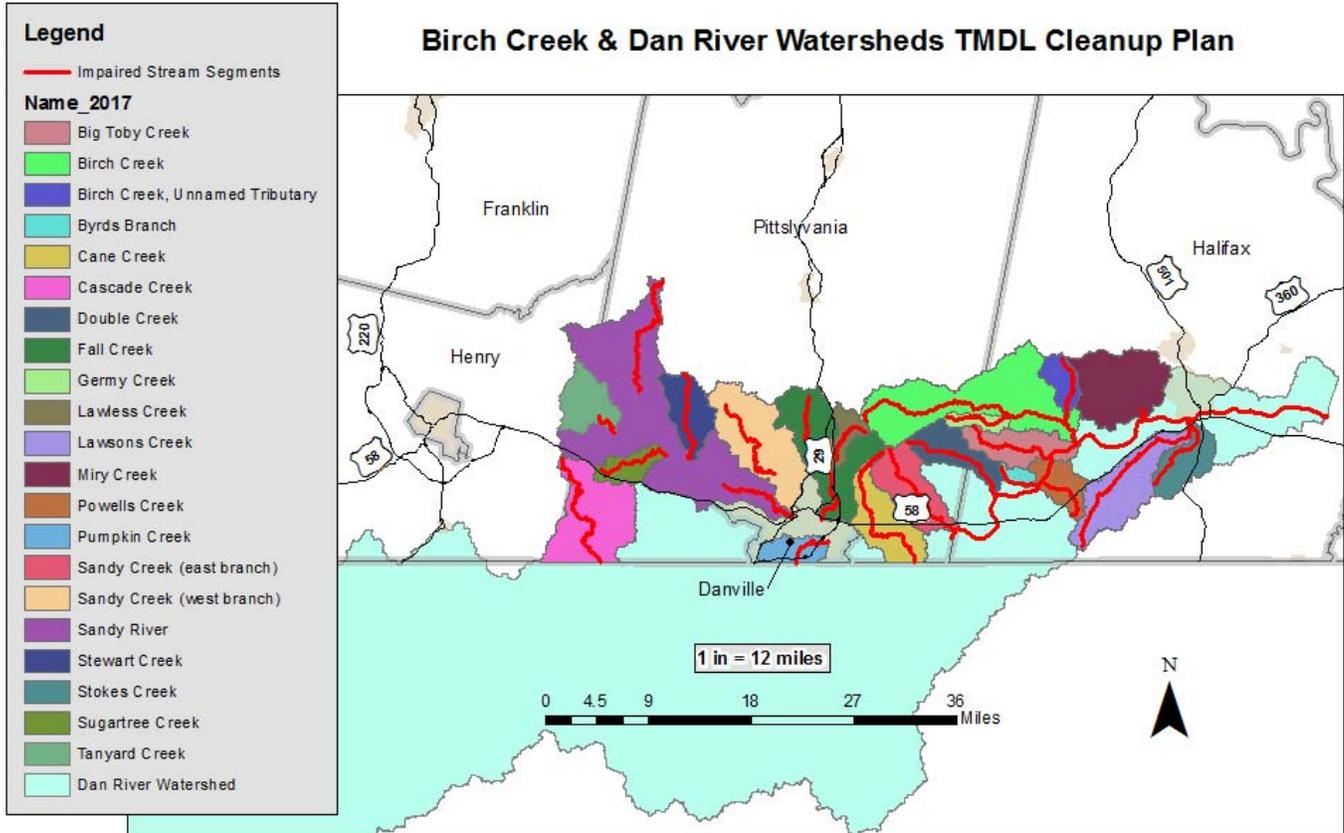
(Danville, VA) – The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), with support from the West Piedmont Planning District, is developing a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) cleanup plan to improve bacteria impairments in the Birch Creek and Dan River watersheds of Halifax County, Pittsylvania County, parts of Henry and Patrick counties, as well as the City of Danville and Town of South Boston.

A public meeting will be held on **August 29, 2017**, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Danville Regional Airport Eastern Conference Room located at 424 Airport Drive, Danville, VA 24540. Birch Creek and Dan River watersheds were listed as impaired on Virginia's 303(d) Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Priority List and Report due to high levels of fecal coliform bacteria. Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act and the Code of Virginia require DEQ to develop TMDLs for pollutants responsible for each impaired waterbody in Virginia.

A TMDL is a calculation for the maximum amount of a pollutant that a waterbody can receive and still meet water quality standards. A TMDL study for Birch Creek was completed and approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the State Water Control Board in 2005. The Dan River TMDL study was completed and approved by EPA in 2008 and the State Water Control Board in 2009.

Once the TMDL, or pollution budget, is established, The Code of Virginia also requires implementation of TMDLs, when appropriate. To satisfy this provision, DEQ prepares TMDL cleanup plans with measurable goals and the date that water quality objectives are expected to be achieved; the corrective actions needed; and their associated costs, benefits and environmental impacts. The cleanup plan will include practical ways to prevent and/or reduce pollution through the installation of best management practices. The cleanup plan process will be discussed in more detail at the meeting on August 29, 2017. Citizens are encouraged to attend and learn how they can be a part of the cleanup plan process.

## Birch Creek & Dan River Watersheds TMDL Cleanup Plan



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