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Hinksin Creek Bacteria discussion

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Good morning:

As you may know, the stakeholders decided at their last meeting that they want to start talking about bacteria as part of the CAM process. This is an expansion of the original agreement, but one that I am sure that the department will support if our local partners do. I have been looking into what it would take (data-wise) to de-list Hinkson Creek for bacteria and have concluded that those involved in the CAM process may want to do some things in 2015 because of the way the biennial schedule for considering changes to the 305 b list lays out. Here is the topic in brief:

1. Three years of samples are the minimum to create a sufficiently robust data set to change the current designation relative to bacteria.
2. The annual bacteria data are combined to create an annual geometric mean. 206 colony forming units per 100 ml is the decision point.
3. The accompanying, supporting documentation would include the actions taken since 2006 (the last big bacteria data collection period in the watershed) that could account for any changes measured.
4. Because we do listings every other year, the soonest the status is likely to change would be in 2018 IF we were to collect data in 2015, 2016 and 2017. If no data are collected in 2015, then 2020 is the earliest possible delisting cycle.
5. The science and action teams could design that sampling network fairly quickly with help from the department's lab and water protection staff. If you are interested, I will more fully engage with them; we have already had the introductory conversation.
6. I know the university has at least one lab capable of analyzing these samples (Bob Lerch was doing some of this work and other labs may exist as well) and there may be another local lab with that capability as well.
7. In January, the department will be sharing results from the previous data collection period and well as data from one site on Hinkson from 2013 and 2014. We are currently cranking through those data.

I have called Mike Glascock and Karen Miller to broach this possibility with them, but haven't managed to make those connections yet. If you speak to them before I do, please let them know what I have in mind. I have not had the chance to try to reach Gary Ward yet, so Todd can do that if he wishes without the risk of crossing wires.

I'd like to have a discussion about this with the three local partners before the next Stakeholder meeting, if there is interest on your end. I think there may be an opportunity to get a sampling regime and protocol in place in

2015, if we can act fairly quickly.

Thanks for your time.

Let me know if you have any comments or questions.

Joe

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