

**Appendix A**  
**Public Input Summary**

**PORT TOBACCO RIVER WATERSHED  
VISIONING WORKSHOP QUESTIONNAIRE**

(Eighteen responses were received as of September 25, 2006, and are summarized below.)

<b>Part I: Your interest in the River</b>	
<i>(A) How do you interact with the Port Tobacco River and its tributaries (Port Tobacco Creek, Jennie Run, Hoghole Run, Wills Branch)?</i>	
Boating - 10 Fishing - 11 Hiking - 5 Stream Waders - 5 (Other) - Home - 1 (Other) - History - 1 (Other) - Tidal part of River - 1	Swimming - 6 Birding - 7 Hunting - 4 Enjoying the view - 16 (Other) - 3 (Other) - Bacteria testing - 1
<i>(B) What do you value about the River and its Watershed?</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Everything</li> <li>• Its support of flora and fauna; its eventual support of environmental factors through recreation, fishing, oystering, etc. as it empties into the Potomac and the Bay</li> <li>• No housing development is the way to go; history and the beauty of Port Tobacco River is very important for Charles County.</li> <li>• Recreation, history, tourism.</li> <li>• All in (A), plus access to Potomac River and nature that inhabits it.</li> <li>• Wildlife, views, trees</li> <li>• Its unique beauty and cultural/historical value to the region</li> <li>• Wildlife</li> <li>• Improves quality of life</li> <li>• Economically important: recreation, fishing, crabbing</li> <li>• Its “wildness”</li> <li>• Its Beauty.</li> <li>• Quiet environment</li> <li>• The natural values of the Port Tobacco River and its watershed.</li> <li>• Great entertainment for the whole family as a family.</li> <li>• Wildlife observation/appreciation, walking along stream, habitat</li> <li>• Ability to support wildlife</li> <li>• Its historical aspect as a “National Historical Resource”</li> <li>• Recreational opportunity</li> <li>• Habitat for plants and animals</li> </ul>	

*(C) Which of these observations in the watershed concern you most?*

High nutrient levels in the streams and River - 9  
High bacteria levels in the streams and River - 14  
High sediment levels in the streams and River - 14  
Barriers to fish passage for spawning - 4  
Poor in-stream habitat for aquatic insects and fish - 7  
Loss of contiguous forests for bird and animal habitat - 7  
(Other) - Real estate development is the poison for the environment. - 1  
(Other) - Sediment build up that prevents boating access. - 1  
(Other) - Trash and waste in streams and River - 1  
(Other) - “Urban” sprawl, i.e. Development - 1  
(Other) - Waste treatment plants’ accountability - 1

**Part II: Restoration and Protection Actions**

*(A) During the September 18 meeting, we will talk about the potential recommendations. Which will work in your community?*

Educating residents about reducing pollution at home - 9  
Educating septic system owners - 10  
Educating businesses about pollution prevention - 8  
Upgrading septic systems to reduce nitrogen - 7  
Planting stream buffers - 7  
Treating stormwater runoff with ponds, wetlands, sand filers, and bioretention - 10  
Changing site development design standards - 8  
Increasing enforcement of existing environmental regulations - 7  
Conserving existing natural areas - 10  
(Other) What is most effective? Education might be easy to do, but how much of the problem is lack of education?  
(Other) Don’t allow development - create stream corridor buffers - 1

*(B) What other suggestions do you have?*

- Dredge the creek all the way out from Navy Drive to 4<sup>th</sup> Point
- Inform the residents regularly about the importance of having clean watershed for all of us.
- Incentivize existing owners to do bioretention/buffers.
- Recycle dredge dirt from river bottom.
- Develop better ways to minimize siltation or sediment build-up that blocks access for water front property owners in the canals above.
- With planned dredging is there a way to allow resident waterfront (canals) property owners to have a means to put in their bulkheads so to continue the dredge up the canals from Buoy 14? While dredging equipment is in place, the expense would be less to do it at the same time.
- Is there a way to establish a bond for dredging to be paid through additional property taxes? As a total on all properties?
- Constant community involvement.
- Aggressive action.
- Clearing fallen trees.
- Increasing water quality monitoring both more frequently and at more sites in the Port Tobacco Watershed so that the sources of pollutants can be identified and then the pollutant inputs from them can be reduced or eliminated. Also, there is need to monitor the input of pollutants from the Potomac River due to tidal inflow.
- Upgrade La Plata sewer treatment plant to handle storm surge.
- Enforce the 7-14 day vegetation establishment requirement of the current sediment control law.
- Expand the natural areas in the watershed.

**Summary of Break-out Group Comments from Port Tobacco River WRAS Visioning Workshop**

**September 18, 2006, 6:30- 8:30 p.m.**

Group #1:	Group #2	Group #3	Group #4
1. How do you interact with the River?			
Fishing Boating Hiking Bird Watching Stone-skipping with grandchildren Feeling safe around the river	Fishing Boating Swimming Crabbing Wildlife Scenery Hunting	Fishing Boating Swimming Hiking Hunting Farming livestock Farming row crops Timber farming Chapel Point State Park Work in watershed Residential use of wells and septic	Hiking & walking along streams - 4 Fishing - 3 Boating - 3 Wildlife observation & appreciation - 2
2. What do you value about the River and Watershed?			
Natural Beauty of flora and fauna Ability to support wildlife habitats Bridges over stream crossings are amenities	Pristine nature Land value Clear navigable water Wildlife and natural beauty Assurance water is safe to swim in Public caring about water condition Safe seafood in abundance	Scenic Rural Pristine Serenity History Aquatic life	Opportunity to use river Public Access Avoid sedimentation in channels Scenic views of and from River Preserving and restoring habitat Cultural history and role in County's history Environmental value as a unique ecological niche

3. What did you learn this evening?			
<p>Impact of WWTP and SWM on water quality during moderate to large storm events</p> <p>The large amount of public interest in this issue</p> <p>Impact of conversion of habitat to urban environment</p> <p>Amount of land slated for potential development</p> <p>Impact of Low Impact Development or Green Building</p>	<p>County has plan for WRAS</p> <p>Long process</p> <p>Progress</p> <p>Impacts of previous and proposed development in Watershed</p> <p>Sediments entering stream</p> <p>Low Impact Development and how long until County can incorporate Low Impact Development</p> <p>Lack of awareness of nutrient pollution</p>	<p>“Red zone” where brighteners found</p> <p>Damage/erosion from storm pipes</p>	<p>Many sources of contamination</p>
4. Which of the observations in the watershed concern you most?			
<p>Nutrient</p> <p>Bacteria</p> <p>Sediment</p> <p>Loss of contiguous forest</p>	<p>Fish passage - 7</p> <p>Groundwater recharge - 6</p> <p>In-stream habitat - 5</p> <p>Sediment - 4</p> <p>Contiguous forest - 3</p> <p>Nutrients - 2</p> <p>Bacteria - 1</p>	<p>Nutrients</p> <p>Bacteria - from waste water treatment plants</p> <p>Sediment</p> <p>Forests</p>	<p>Nutrients</p> <p>Bacteria/pathogens</p> <p>Sediments</p> <p>Litter/dumping</p> <p>Toxic contaminants</p> <p>Degraded habitat</p>

5. Which of the recommendations will work in your community?

<p>Education for better site design and septic maintenance - 4          Natural area conservation - 2          Stormwater management - 2          Planting - 1          Bacteria source tracking - 1          fix sewer system at source (intrusions) - 1</p>	<p>Fix failing septic          Fix La Plata sewer system- infrastructure failing, not plant          Preserve forest areas          Balance between development and natural resources          Better enforcement of sediment and erosion control          Retrofit old neighborhoods for stormwater management</p>	<p>Find source of problem such as Centennial St. &amp; Rte 301          Failing Septic upgrades          Septic maintenance program          Places with no septic systems</p>	<p>Identify specific sources of bacteria          Make resources available to property owners to address problems</p>
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