



THE BLACK CREEK WATERSHED WIRE

News from Black Creek Watershed, Cary, NC

Summer 2006

Visit the project website at www.ncsu.edu/WECO/blackcreek

Black Creek Watershed Association Meets for First Time!


The new BCWA met for the first time on July 24 at the Herb Young Community Center. Participants began the meeting with a pizza dinner sponsored by WECO staff, and after taking a minute to get to know their neighbors, introduced each other to the group.

Stacy Nelson, from NCSU Dept. of Forestry and Environmental Resources, provided a brief overview of the watershed assessment. That overview is provided within this newsletter, and is also included online as a Powerpoint presentation on our project website.

Patrick Beggs, WECO, introduced participants to the draft *Working Charter*, which outlines the purpose of the group and participants' roles, and asked everyone to read it and provide any changes or questions about it to us before the next meeting.

Finally, the group participated in an interactive collaborative skills training exercise, led by Steve Smutko, Director of the NCSU Natural Resources Leadership Institute. See pictures of this exercise within!

Participants received project notebooks at the meeting- we will send these out to those who couldn't attend (or bring them to the next meeting).

The group agreed that a regular meeting date would be most effective, and chose the last Monday of the month when needed, starting in September. The next meetings are scheduled for September 25, and October 30. Hope to see you there! (meetings are open to public attendance) 

Participant Roles and Responsibilities


Participants received copies of a draft Working Charter, and Patrick explained the purpose of the group and participant roles. Some excerpts:

The purpose of the Group is to work together to

- *review the best information available for determining the status and trends of the Black Creek Watershed,*
- *develop a vision for the Black Creek Watershed,*
- *determine actions/projects that will protect and restore the watershed,*
- *help implement projects,*
- *involve the greater watershed community, monitor progress, and alter the course of action as needed.*

Other topics covered by the charter include:

- Authority of the Group*
- Nature of the Planning Product*
- Defined Roles and Responsibilities of Participants*
- Administration and Funding*
- Decision Process*
- Ground Rules*
- Input from and Information to the Public*
- Schedule and Duration*

Participants are asked to review the charter before the next meeting, and either send requested changes/edits to Christy before the next meeting, or bring them to the meeting. 

The Black Creek Watershed Association will meet on the last Monday of the month.

Next meeting is:

Monday, Sept. 25

6:30-8:30 p.m.

Cary Academy , Harrison Avenue

Classroom 208

Agenda:

- ◆ **Stormwater 101, a presentation by Mitch Woodward, Wake County Cooperative Extension**
- ◆ **Planning the Big Sweep clean-up for Black Creek**
- ◆ **Watershed Assessment timeline**

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Mapping the Watershed

Stacy Nelson, NCSU Dept. Forestry and Environmental Resources, reminded the group that the watershed assessment will conduct many activities in an effort to determine the health of Black Creek, and identify problems. These include:

1. Geodatabase development
2. Watershed geomorphology
3. Land Use/Land Cover Assessment
4. Rainfall and Streamflow monitoring
 - a. Equipment
 - b. Rain gauge
 - c. Stream gauging and water quality monitoring station
 - d. Flood flow on June 14, 2006
5. Water Quality Monitoring
6. Pollution Source Inventory
7. Stream Health and Channel Condition

Stacy provided an overview of the *geomorphology* assessment efforts that have been ongoing. His team has been mapping the watershed, using a digital elevation model (DEM). This uses aerial data that was taken by a plane using LIDAR, a radar system. The dark spots on the map are the lowest elevations. Team members are collecting points throughout the watershed – this requires physically going into the stream channel and entering data into a hand-held GPS (global positioning system) unit, which places a spot on the map using latitude and longitude. Identifying culverts and stormdrains will take a lot of personpower! The Town of Cary has also contracted with Withers Ravenel to map storm drains throughout the town– they will coordinate this with

NCSU in Black Creek.

See the below example of a digital elevation map with the Black Creek watershed outline, parcels, and roads overlaid on top.

Questions:

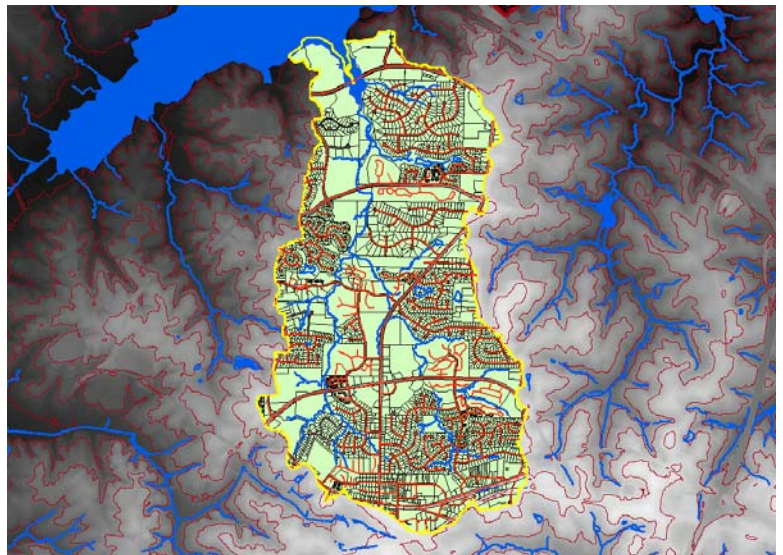
Q: Doesn't the Town already have maps of stormdrain culverts?

A: Some stormdrains are not accurately represented on existing maps.

Q: How do you know where the stormdrains lead to?

A: From walking the stream channels, we will be able to see where drains dump into the creek and tributaries.

Stacy's powerpoint presentation is available on the project website: www.ncsu.edu/WECO/blackcreek



Collaborating for the Watershed

Have you ever participated in a community decision-making process that just didn't go anywhere? Why does gathering diverse voices at a table often result in impasse or a compromise that doesn't do much for anyone?

Negotiating in collaborative efforts is a key skill to making good community decisions. Recognizing that this is a skill that people are not usually born with, we provided Black Creek Watershed Association participants with some collaborative skills training. We hope this will better equip participants to negotiate meaningful recommendations for Black Creek, as well as in other life situations.

Steve Smutko, Director of the Natural Resources Leadership Institute at NCSU, presented principles about collaboration, and led the group in an activity to practice collaboration (or not!).

Collaboration is an inclusionary process that promotes lateral communication and shared decision making.

- ◆ Moves people away from contending positions
- ◆ Promotes mutual education
- ◆ Allows a cooperative atmosphere to develop

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Collaboration continued

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- ◆ Encourages the generation of many options
- ◆ Permits the search for creative solutions

Participants broke into small groups to play a game where the objective was for each individual to win as much as they can, either through acting on their own or by helping others to score. Participants then discussed their strategies, and how those strategies impacted relationships, and scoring results. How can one best meet one's own interest?




A full, open, and truthful exchange:

- ◆ Allows "principled" negotiation to occur
- ◆ Helps negotiators communicate "interests"
- ◆ Enables decisions to be made together by all parties with the payoffs knowingly distributed among them
- ◆ Methods:
 - ◆ Exchange of documents
 - ◆ Briefings and presentations
 - ◆ Brainstorming

Principled negotiation

- ◆ Separate the people from the problem
- ◆ Focus on interests not positions
- ◆ Generate options for mutual gain
- ◆ Evaluate options using objective criteria

Additional resources:

- ◆ Steve's entire presentation is on our website
- ◆ Read *Smart Choices* by Hammon or *Getting to Yes*, by Ury & Fisher
- ◆ View a 15-minute video about watershed group collaboration (in Wilmington, NC) at our website- click on the *resources* link and scroll to *Working for the Watershed*
- ◆ Visit the NRLI website at www.ces.ncsu.edu/NRLI 

Upcoming Events

WaterFest at Lake Crabtree County Park

Saturday, September 23, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Bring the whole family out for some FREE FUN in the sun!

The Black Creek Watershed Association will host a display about Black Creek. Hope to see you there!

For more information see:

www.wakegov.com/parks/lakecrabtree/Special+Events.htm


Join the Big Sweep for Black Creek on October 7!

Interest in cleaning up Black Creek is growing! Two community groups have volunteered to pick up trash along Black Creek for Wake County's annual Big Sweep! Join Cary Rotary and the Cary Presbyterian Senior Youth Group on Saturday, October 7, at 9:00 a.m. We will meet at the Black Creek Greenway trailhead parking lot across from located off N.W Maynard Road across from Godbold Park between Harrison Avenue and Chapel Hill Road. After a brief orientation and training, we will divide up into groups and head out to parts of the creek that need cleaning, finishing by noon.

News from Black Creek Watershed, Cary, NC

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View a Photo Journal of Black Creek

Cameron Cobb, a member of the Black Creek Watershed Association who lives in the Beechtree neighborhood and attends Reedy Creek Middle School, has created a photo journal of the Black Creek Watershed. This presentation can be viewed on the project website. Cameron has kindly offered the BCWA the use of these photos (we've already taken him up on this offer for the website!). Below is one of Cameron's pictures. 



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Four Requirements of Partnerships

Block, Peter. (1996). *Stewardship: Choosing service over self-interest*. (2ed). San Francisco, CA: Berrett-Koehler Publishers. (p.29-30).

1. **Exchange of Purpose:** create shared purpose by struggling with the purpose yourself and then engaging with each other.
2. **Maintain Right to Say No:** saying no, disagreeing without being disagreeable is still a primary means for differentiating ourselves; if we cannot say "no", then saying "yes" has little meaning.
3. **Joint Accountability:** the partnership is responsible for the present and the future; it is important that partners share in their losses as well as their successes.
4. **Transparency:** balancing power in partnerships is intended to create forums where people can willingly engage with each other. Being able to work with each other, to participate in joint opportunities and tackle core issues requires integrity, in intention as well as in what is said and done.

(Thanks to Mary Lou Addor, Natural Resources Leadership Institute, for sharing these tips!)