



THE BLACK CREEK WATERSHED WIRE

News from Black Creek Watershed, Cary, NC

March 2010

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

Black Creek Highlights Jan– March

The Black Creek Watershed Association (BCWA) met last on January 25 at Page Walker Community Center. Thanks to Charles Brown for securing the location.

Since then we've met with West Cary Middle School to hone BMP ideas and reinstalled the monitoring station. Two motivated BCWA members investigated

one of our potential subwatersheds for BMP focus and monitoring.

Hear about all this and more on **Tuesday, March 30, at Town Hall Engineering Dept. Conference room (go in the entrance on Academy St. and go upstairs to conference room.**

The Black Creek Watershed Association meets on the date of their choice as needed. Check the website for current meeting times.

Next meeting:

Tuesday, March 30

6:15-8:30 p.m.

(Social time 6:15-6:30)

Black Creek Plan Approved by EPA

Nora Deamer, NC Division of Water Quality, reported at the Jan meeting that the US Environmental Protection Agency has officially approved the Black Creek Watershed Plan in lieu of a TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load). The EPA usually requires TMDLs for impaired waters, but has accepted NCDWQ's request to accept the plan completed by BCWA instead. Black Creek is now considered as a pilot project for this method.

The first critical milestone is in 2014. By 2014, we will need to show progress implementing projects to control the effects of stormwater runoff.

The targeted de-listing date is 2018. BCWA members commented that this could possibly increase the priority for funding projects in Black Creek.

What does this mean? It means that Black Creek has been temporarily removed from the 303(d) list of impaired waters while the community works on meeting critical milestones.



Nothing is softer or more flexible than water, yet nothing can resist it.
-Lao Tzu

LOCATION:

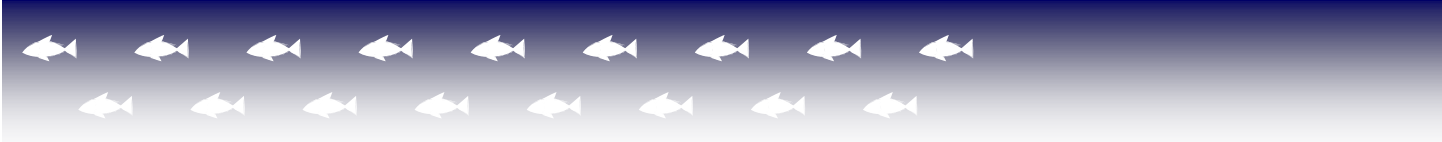
Engineering Dept., Town Hall

Agenda:

- ◆ Hear results of Beech-tree tributary investigation by BCWA members
- ◆ Updates on monitoring, outreach, other activities

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Subwatershed monitoring discussion

The group discussed subwatersheds where focusing retrofits might provide a measureable improvement in stormwater volume reductions. It will not be possible to show reductions in the mainstem with just this project's resources. Choosing a smaller area to monitor could help us to quantify changes that occur.

The area has to be in a subwatershed where:

- The land area is big enough that the stream has base flow (~50-100 acres)
- Land area is available for raingardens and other BMPS
- BCWA members are willing to help engage neighbors and homeowners' associations in projects
- The stream is a viable place to install monitoring equipment and a rain gauge

A map of the watershed was divided into 18 smaller subwatersheds to help participants to select areas that may meet these criteria. Two areas that may meet the criteria include a creek that receives drainage from the Silverton neighborhood, and a creek that originates at the Arbore-

tum and receives drainage from Beechtree and Wessex neighborhoods. Another creek that receives drainage from Beechtree was also considered, but the existing stormwater ponds complicate potential monitoring.

Someone commented that the Beechtree tributary was often seen full of sediment. However, now that the Arboretum construction site is stabilized the sediment will likely be reduced.

The project team will investigate the 2 subwatersheds to determine feasibility for projects and monitoring. If anyone would like to suggest additional areas to investigate, please contact us ASAP. We aim to select an area and get monitoring equipment installed this spring.



Monitoring Station is back in action!

Speaking of monitoring, some of you may have seen us out in the creek removing trees and re-installing the equipment in early March. The monitoring station is back up and collecting stream flow data on a regular basis. The rain gauge on Cary Academy's site will be revived soon, too.

Thanks to those who stopped by to say hi!

Citizen Issue Advisory Group update

The Town administration decided that since the BCWA already enjoys resources from the Town (staff assistance and meeting space), our application does not meet the intent of the Citizen Issue Advisory Group process. However, the Town Manager is interested in finding ways to engage the BCWA in solving the stormwater issues. We will continue to discuss opportunities with the town.





Starting a campaign: Less Rain Down the Drain

In January, Christy gave a brief overview of the start of this campaign.

Purpose of the outreach effort is to:

- ◆ Increase awareness of Black Creek issues & solutions
- ◆ Engage landowners in installing practices
- ◆ Recruit new volunteers to BCWA

Some reasons why people participate in watershed activities (courtesy of Portland, OR):

- ◆ Aligns with values and/or self interest
- ◆ They have good information
- ◆ Social recognition
- ◆ Technical assistance is available
- ◆ Trusted relationships
- ◆ Financial incentives are provided

A menu of options and associated incentives could be proposed for landowners, homeowners associations, and businesses to choose from. These could include:

- ◆ Downspout disconnection
- ◆ Replacing turf with native plants
- ◆ Rainwater harvesting (rainbarrel or cistern)
- ◆ Raingardens

Incentives could include providing technical assistance

(design and install services), “tree-bates” or vegetation provided, and recognition. We will consider offering increased incentives for residents in the subwatershed chosen for intense intervention and monitoring.

Next steps for the campaign will be to:

- ◆ Develop a program and incentive structure.
- ◆ Line up sources of cost sharing (Wake SWCD, Town of Cary, volunteers to help with labor)
- ◆ Create a message explaining the project and benefits to participants, and materials for outreach
- ◆ Deliver this message to recruit participants
-mailings, workshops, website, others?

Ideas for resources that were raised included:

- ◆ Town of Cary Turf Buy-back– applies to irrigated lawn, if 1000 sq. ft. of turf is removed. Could we work with the Town to provide Turf-buy back for rain gardens or native plants if no irrigation is present/
- ◆ Master Gardener volunteers could be engaged (Lake Crabtree County Park’s raingardens are maintained by them)
- ◆ Engage Heather Morrell in brainstorming efforts

We’ll bring draft materials to the BCWA for review when they are ready. In the meantime contact us with any ideas you might have.



Below are pictures of a few projects completed during a similar campaign in the Burnt Mill Creek watershed, Wilmington, NC.



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Christy Perrin
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Spring Sweep for Black Creek on May 1

Our Black Creek clean-up will coincide with the Town's Spring Sweep on Saturday, May 1. Co-sponsors are Town of Cary, Wake Soil & Water Conservation District, and NCSU.

Location: Meet at Black Creek Greenway trailhead on Maynard Road, across from Godbold Park.

Time: 9:00 am- 12:00 pm

Please RSVP to Patrick_beggs@ncsu.edu to help us plan.

January Meeting Participants

Kris Bass, *NCSU*
Patrick Beggs, *WECO; NCSU*
Colleen Bockhahn, *Lake Crabtree Park*
Charles Brown, *Town of Cary*
Susan Davenport, *Beechtree/ Cary PRCR Advisory Board*
Amin Davis, *Beechtree resident*
Nora Deamer, *NC DWQ*
Hunter Freeman, *Withers & Ravenel*
Dan Hitchcock, *Clemson University*
Christy Perrin, *NCSU; Windchase*
Mike Ribault, *Ecological Solutions*

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