

January 2007

Fishing Creek Watersheds

Watershed Education for Communities and Officials

Local Watershed Planning kicks off in Fishing Creek

On November 11, 2006, the NC Ecosystem Enhancement Program (EEP) kicked off local watershed planning in the Fishing Creek area with a stakeholder meeting run by NC Cooperative Extension, Watershed Education for Communities and Officials (WECO).

Patrick Beggs of WECO reviewed the Situation Assessment which can be found on the WECO website. Rob Breeding of EEP gave an overview of local watershed planning. Meeting participants introduced themselves, took a brief survey about their watershed educational needs and interests, and were introduced to the concept of the Planning Team Charter.

Next Fishing Creeks meeting - February 6, 2007

We will meet on February 6, 2007 from 6:30 - 8:30 pm at the Granville County Extension Center (same place).

The agenda of the Feb 6th meeting follows:

- ◆ Stakeholder interests, including:
 - ⇒ What are your interests in the planning process?
 - ⇒ What are you here to accomplish?
- ◆ The draft technical watershed assessment plan

Inside this issue:

Next Meeting	1
Meeting roster	1
LWP overview	2
Educational needs survey	3
Study area map	4

November 11, 2006 Meeting Roster

Brain Alligood	Granville County
Barry Baker	Granville County Planning Dept.
Patrick Beggs	NCSU WECO
Rob Breeding	EEP
Tommy Brooks	Cooperative Extension- Granville County
Roy Cash	resident
Brenda Currin	GCCACEA
Nancy Daly	Tar River land Conservancy
Warren Daniel	Granville Soil and Water Conservation
John Dorney	DWQ-Wetlands
Alan Finkel	resident
Susan Gale	DWQ-Wetlands/401
Derek Halberg	Tar River Land Conservancy
John Hall	resident
Jeff Keaton	W.K. Dickson
Tommy Marrow	City of Oxford
Charlene Morton	resident
Christy Perrin	NCSU WECO
Charlie Richards	Oxford Public Ledger
Harvey Spurr	GCCACEA, Coon/Fishing subcommittee
Larry Thomas	City of Oxford

Local Watershed Planning... an Overview, with some Frequently Asked Questions

The Ecosystem Enhancement Program (EEP) is undertaking local watershed planning in the Fishing Creek watershed and two adjoining watersheds, Gibbs and Sand.

EEP is:

- The Ecosystem Enhancement Program
- A part of DENR, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources
- A completely non-regulatory agency
- Charged with mitigating for the loss of wetland and stream habitat

What does mitigation mean?

- When streams/wetlands are destroyed or degraded, EEP must find other streams/wetlands to replace their ecological function.
- This may mean preserving high quality streams/wetlands, or restoring poor quality streams/wetland.
- Mitigating for stream/wetland loss is designed to lessen the overall affect of development, including road construction.

Who pays for this?

- Much of EEP's money comes from the Department of Transportation. For example, when DOT builds a road, they must pay into a fund to mitigate for stream/wetland loss.
- In addition, EEP receives money from nutrient and buffer rules within the Tar-Pam and Neuse river-basins. In short, these rules require payment if stream buffers are disturbed, or excessive nutrients are put into streams. The money is used to mitigate for these damages.

What is Local Watershed Planning?

- It is one way EEP finds mitigation projects.
- Involves the local community to help find the projects.
- Results in a local watershed plan (lwp) which includes a list of projects that may be used for mitigation, as well as other recommendations for protecting natural resources.

Why involve stakeholders?

- It is more likely that the recommendations found in a local watershed plan will be accepted and acted upon by local decision makers if a group of people representing various interests comes together to discuss the issues and make the decisions needed to form the recommendations.

The EEP mission:

- To Restore, Enhance and Protect Watershed Functions, which include:
 - ⇒ Water quality
 - ⇒ Habitat (both aquatic and terrestrial)
 - ⇒ Hydrology (water flow)

The 4 phases of local watershed planning

1. collect available data about the watershed; determine what is missing
2. involve stakeholders; gather missing data; write preliminary findings report
3. write the local watershed plan; prioritize the final recommendations
4. begin enacting recommendations; contacting landowners

The result:

- Recommendations to local governments to help protect the watershed
 - ⇒ e.g. - education, policy, development
- A list of possible in-ground projects to help restore the watershed
 - ⇒ e.g. - stream restorations and stormwater management projects
- A plan that provides funding agencies with the criteria they need to fund these projects

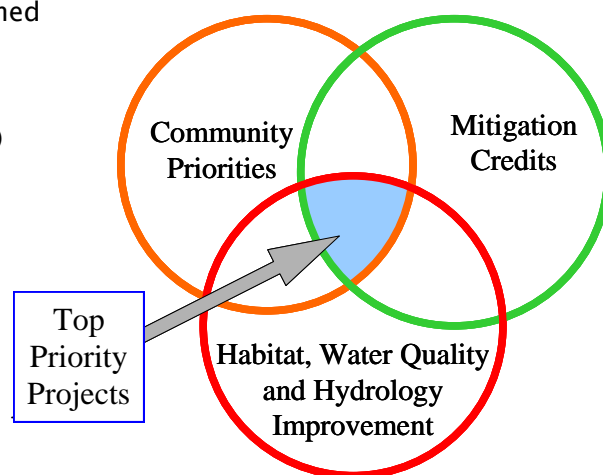
Who is involved in local watershed planning?

- Stakeholders - people and organizations with an interest in the watershed. Along with local citizens and local governments, EEP and the Division of Water Quality are also stakeholders, as well local and state government, natural resource agencies like soil and Water and civic groups.
- Technical Team - consists of an environmental consultant [Jeff Keaton of W. K Dickson] along with the Ecosystem Enhancement Program [Rob Breeding] and Division of Water Quality staff.
- Facilitators - to help design and organize the process in an unbiased, neutral manner. NC Cooperative Extension /WECO is the facilitator and responsible for stakeholder process and community involvement. [Patrick Beggs & Christy Perrin]

Identifying Educational Needs

To be able to make recommendations, it is important for participants to have all the information they require. A short survey was given at the meeting, asking respondents to check what topics they would like more information about. Below is the tallied list of topics with the number of people interested preceding it. No additional topics were mentioned beyond the list offered.

- 7 Rules and regulations that affect the watershed
- 6 Water quality impacts on human health and contact
- 6 Methods residents and businesses can use to improve the watershed
- 5 Wildlife that lives in and around the streams
- 5 Causes of water quality degradation
- 4 Wetland restoration
- 4 Educational and outreach methods
- 3 Methods that developers can use to improve the watershed
- 3 Stream and riparian buffer enhancement & restoration
- 3 Wastewater treatment methods
- 3 Water flow and cycling in the watershed (hydrology)
- 2 Stream geomorphology (stream structure and functions)



Watershed Situation Assessment

WECO performed a situation assessment to determine (1) who are the stakeholders and (2) what are the issues, in the watershed. This 6 page document is available on the WECO website or by contacting WECO. Patrick briefly reviewed the assessment at the meeting.

The issues discussed included: Sewage: wastewater treatment plant & lift stations; Development; Conservation easements/preservation; Protected species; Agricultural BMPs (best management practices); Stormwater; Granville County Citizens Advisory Council on Environmental Affairs (GCCACEA)

The potential conflicts include: wastewater treatment plant & lift stations; and possible well contamination.

WECO's recommendations for proceeding include: Science informed decision making; Mutual education of each others' interest and values; Meeting participants' process, psychological, and substantial needs, Watershed plan should consist of US EPA 9 required elements

Local Watershed Planning brings about the top priority projects from information about community priorities, mitigation credit needs, and ecosystem assessment. These top projects have the best chance of being funded.



WECO

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WECO is a program of NC Cooperative Extension.

We are housed at **NC State University**, in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics.

Please contact **Patrick Beggs** or **Christy Perrin** if you have any questions.

Map of Study Area

