

# Fishing Creek Watersheds

## Watershed Education for Communities and Officials

March 2007

### Stakeholder interests and the Technical Assessment Plan

The Fishing creek Local watershed planning team met on February 6, 2007 at the Granville County Extension Center.

Jeff Keaton of WK Dickson presented the technical assessment plan and took questions.

Stakeholders then shared their interests for participating in the watershed planning process.

Finally, we reviewed the education needs survey from our first meeting and determined how we could all help to meet those needs.

### Next Fishing Creeks meeting - March 20, 2007

We will meet on March 20, 2007 from 6:30 - 8:30 pm at the Granville County Multi-Specialty Complex. (NEW LOCATION FOR US) It is located at 5662 Cornwall Road, just off of Highway 158, west of Oxford.

Find a map at [www.granvillecounty.org/msc](http://www.granvillecounty.org/msc) or call Patrick at 919-515-4525

#### March 20, 2007 agenda includes:

- ◆ presentation of watershed findings that have already been collected to help frame the current study.
- ◆ How to meet stakeholder interests collected at last meeting.

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### February 6, 2007 Meeting Roster

Brian Alligood ..... Granville County  
Barry Baker. .... Granville County Planning Dept.  
Catherine Barker ..... WK Dickson  
Patrick Beggs ..... NCSU WECO  
Rob Breeding ..... EEP  
Tommy Brooks ..... Cooperative Extension- Granville County  
Brenda Currin ..... GCCACEA  
Nancy Daly. .... Tar River land Conservancy  
Warren Daniel ..... Granville Soil and Water Conservation  
Michelle Droszcz ..... EEP  
Michael Ellison ..... WK Dickson  
Susan Gale . .... DWQ  
John Hall .... resident  
Stratford Kay ..... DWQ  
Jeff Keaton . .... WK Dickson  
Tommy Marrow ..... City of Oxford  
Christy Perrin ..... NCSU WECO  
Charlie Richards ..... Oxford Public Ledger  
Harvey Spurr ..... GCCACEA, Coon/Fishing subcommittee  
Hope Taylor-Guevara ..... Clean Water for NC  
Larry Thomas ..... City of Oxford  
Michi Vojta. .... EEP

Jeff Keaton of WK Dickson presented the Technical Watershed Assessment Plan which they have outlined with EEP for Phase 2 and 3. Jeff's presentation is available on the WECO website [ [www.ncsu.edu/weco](http://www.ncsu.edu/weco) ] and is summarized here. If you have any questions please let us know.

- Phase 1: Preliminary Watershed Characterization  
(completed by EEP with support from WKD)
- Phase 2: Detailed Watershed Assessment
- Phase 3: Develop Watershed Management Plan
- Phase 4: Implement Plan Recommendations

The process plans for the preservation and restoration of three key watershed functions:

1. Water quality
2. Habitat
3. Hydrology

The 3 large watersheds that make up the study area, Fishing, Sand, and Gibbs Creek watersheds will be further subdivided into subwatersheds of smaller area. These smaller subwatersheds (1-5 sq mi) are the basis for study and management. Prioritizing these helps determine where to implement solutions, based on where problems are located.

**Phase 2, the Detailed Watershed Assessment** will consist of:

- ⇒ Analyzing available information (including data from Phase 1, DWQ data, planning documents, etc.)
- ⇒ Establish a GIS (global information system) based website which allows us to put all the data together and reference it to maps.
- ⇒ Future development analysis
- ⇒ Impervious cover analysis
- ⇒ Preliminary water quality modeling
- ⇒ Aerial photo analysis
- ⇒ Sedimentation study
- ⇒ Riparian corridor assessments
- ⇒ Prioritize subwatersheds by Water Quality, Stream stability/habitat, Wetland quality/habitat, Hydrology
- ⇒ Wetland assessments

A Detailed Assessment Report will then be written which includes Methods, Data Analysis and Results/Discussion for each above task.

## **Phase 3, Develop a Watershed Management Plan**

This plan will be based on collected data, such as field assessment results, subwatershed prioritization, stream stability, habitat impairment or preservation, water quality impairment, etc. The Plan will consist of:

- ⇒ Identification and Ranking of Stream and Buffer Projects
  - 50 restoration projects identified and ranked
  - 30 preservation projects (or maximum available) identified and ranked
- ⇒ Identification and Ranking of Wetland Projects
  - 20 restoration projects identified and ranked
  - 20 preservation projects identified and ranked
- ⇒ Stormwater BMP project analysis
  - Model and rank 15 BMP facilities, which includes field site assessments
  - To help achieve this, use a computer modeling program called MUSIC - Model for Urban Stormwater Improvement Conceptualization
- ⇒ Recommendations for additional measures, including possibly:
  - Open space preservation
  - Erosion and sediment control
  - Site design practices such as Low Impact Development
  - Public education
- ⇒ Develop Watershed Management Plan
  - Review of watershed assessment
  - Objectives for watershed management
  - Strategies to meet objectives
- ⇒ Develop Project Atlas which includes:
  - Prioritized stream restoration and preservation
  - Prioritized wetland preservation and restoration
  - Prioritized BMP projects

WK Dickson , along with state agency staff, will be doing field work in the Fishing Creek watershed study area. Please tell your neighbors about the project, so they are not surprised upon seeing us when we run into them out there in field and stream.

*Thank you.*

In November stakeholders identified educational needs. At the February meeting we determined how we might meet these needs. The twelve identified needs are below, each followed by who or how these might be met and other comments from the meeting. Some of these needs will be met through the watershed assessment by EEP and WK Dickson. WECO will work to get these ideas implemented.

1. Rules and regulations that affect the watershed. *John Dorney, Div of Water Quality will present. Tar Pam rules apply to Fishing Creek watershed.*
2. Water quality impacts on human health and contact. *Hope Taylor-Guevara, Clean Water for NC can supply this information.*
3. Methods residents and businesses can use to improve the watershed. *Cooperative Extension/WECO: stormwater best management practices.*
4. Wildlife unique to Fishing Creek watershed area. *Susan Gale, DWQ biologist, can address this. Also, US Fish and Wildlife Service, NC Wildlife Resources Commission, NC Natural Heritage Program. A field trip in the Spring would be great - learn how sampling occurs - see the watershed upclose.*
5. Causes of water quality degradation. *WK Dickson*
6. Wetland restoration. *EEP*
7. Educational and outreach methods. *Cooperative Extension/WECO. Brenda Currin. Tar River Land Conservancy. Clean Water for NC. It would be good to have a demonstration area for field trips and education - maybe a school.*
8. Methods that developers can use to improve the watershed. *Cooperative Extension/WECO. WK Dickson.*
9. Stream and riparian buffer enhancement & restoration. *EEP, WK Dickson, CWforNC*
10. Wastewater treatment and methods  
*Tour the Oxford wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) - maybe have a meeting there one evening after tour. WECO will work to come up with an outline/factsheet of the WWTP history and status.*
11. Water flow and cycling in the watershed (hydrology). *WK Dickson*
12. Stream geomorphology (stream structure and functions). *WK Dickson*

## Questions and Comments

Many questions came up during the meeting, some of these questions and the answers have been incorporated into the other articles in this newsletter. Here are the ones that did not fit into a specific section.

Q: Can community feedback be used to help find focus areas?

A: Yes and Land Trust priorities will be considered too

Q: Do you need L.O. permission to do field work?

A: We knock on doors when we are out in the field. Please let people know we will be out there.

Q: Will we see improvements in the stream from these projects, when there may be so many problems or pollution inputs?

A: One of the goals is to have many projects, each treating or improving a smaller sized priority sub-watershed. Cumulatively, the effects of these projects build on one another.

**Buffers:** There are Tar Pam mitigation funds available for buffer enhancement – these funds can be used for projects that EEP might not be able to fund with other moneys. Current buffer conditions will be assessed.

**Farm ponds:** Ponds can be part of the solution when it comes to water quality improvements, for example, they can be retrofitted to treat stormwater runoff as land develops. Sometimes, downstream is cleaner because of the presence of farm ponds filtering water upstream. Ponds will be assessed as part of the technical survey.

**Results:** EEP sponsored local watershed planning and the resultant projects are somewhat new in NC. Because of this, it is too soon to see results in water quality from planning projects. The first EEP sponsored LWP, in New Hanover County, was completed in 2002.

**Low hanging fruit:** There are opportunities for quick fixes to be used as demonstration projects, such as fencing cattle out of the stream and providing an alternate drinking water source.



# WECO

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WECO is 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.

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## { Stakeholder Interests: Why are you participating? }

Stakeholders were asked to write down why they were participating and what they wanted to see accomplished. The interests generated follow. Together we will work to determine if this local watershed planning process can and will meet these interests. For those interests that can not be met through this process, we can determine recommendations for how best to meet them.

- I live in the Coon Creek area. I am interested in a storm water management plan.
- Learn other folk's opinions concerning the creek
- Demonstrate that the city of Oxford cares about Fishing Creek
- I want to participate in a shift in how we think about water and natural resources.
- For watershed group to participate actively in the planning process
- Collect water quality data in the watershed. Identify issue areas. Compare impacted sites to relatively un-impacted sites. Share that information with the group.
- I would like EEP to foster long-term relationships with the stakeholders in Fishing Creek.
- I want EEP to implement successful restoration projects that result in improved rare mussel habitat in the Fishing Creek LWP study area.
- Getting Fishing Creek off the impaired stream (303d) list
- Encourage stream restoration
- I want to help develop a functional watershed plan that meets stake holder's objectives and improves and preserves water quality, habitat, and all the rest.
- I'm interested in community understanding, and involvement in protecting the watershed.
- How can agricultural BMPs can improve water quality
- Educate watershed residents about benefits of BMP's
- A creek and tributaries that are safe for fishing, swimming and downstream drinking water
- Protect and enhance recreational opportunities (like canoeing)
- Full accountability for all pollution sources
- Helping out County Board stay informed and take appropriate policy initiatives
- Provide input and assist with outreach to land-owners concerning properties identified for specific projects
- Provide education/information on conservation options and help public understand benefits of conservation easements
- Restoration of Fishing and Coon creeks with an "END" to pollution and spills to a safe use for county and city folks
- Improve water quality and habitat for the wild-life in the fishing creek watershed
- Catch more and bigger fish in the Tar-Pam

