



# Franklin County

## Work Plan for Water Quality

### May 6, 2008 meeting newsletter

#### Planning for Water Quality - the first steps

The Franklin County Department of Planning and Inspections and Soil and Water Conservation District have initiated planning to protect and preserve water resources in Franklin County. The County has contracted with WECO, Watershed Education for Communities and Officials to facilitate this project. WECO is a NC Cooperative Extension program housed at NCSU Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics. Project information and updates can be found on the web at:

<http://www.ncsu.edu/weco/franklin>

The first meeting took place on May 6, 2008 and was geared to the Franklin County Staff and elected officials involved in the project. The second meeting is geared to all stakeholders. It will be held June 17, 2008, 7 pm, at the Louisburg Police Training Center, 104 Wade Ave.

#### A Situation Assessment

A project like this involves many stakeholders, people and organizations that are affected by water resource issues and solutions in Franklin County. Before commencing a public involvement process, WECO undertakes a situation assessment. This interview process helps determine the stakeholders, issues, possible conflicts. and helps determine how to involve the public in decision making. You can find the report at the project website. It is an interesting 8 pages highlighting respondents' comments on

This newsletter outlines the events of the May 6 meeting. Staff from the NC Department of Natural Resources presented basic water quality issues, rules, and opportunities facing Franklin County.

WECO staff guided meeting participants through discussion and training about consensus, collaborative decision making charters, and the planning agenda.

Slideshows presented at the meeting, as well as other materials can be found at the project website.

[An email listserv is available to anyone who would like updates on the project. To subscribe the listserv,](#)

1. send an email to: [mj2@lists.ncsu.edu](mailto:mj2@lists.ncsu.edu)
2. in the body of the email, write:  
[subscribe franklin\\_weco you're-address](#)
3. do not type a subject END

growth and development; water quality; water quantity and drought; and potential water resource programs. It also lays out the tentative meeting plan for the project, which includes 5 meetings: 2 general outreach meetings to collect input and report findings, and 3 administrative meetings. The result will be a workplan for water quality programming and an administrative plan detailing how to carry it out. END

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## Introduction to Water Quality and the Basinwide Planning Program

Heather Patt, Basinwide Planner for the NC Division of Water Quality, Basinwide Planning Section presented an overview of Basinwide Planning Program in Franklin County. Heather's presentation including maps can be found on our website.

The goals of basinwide planning are to:

- Identify water quality problems and restore full use to impaired waters
- Identify and protect high value resource waters
- Protect unimpaired water yet allow reasonable economic growth

The NC Stream Classification System defines a streams best use(s) in both narrative and numeric standards. This is used as a basis for policy making. If a stream is found to not meet its best use(s) it is considered impaired. There are primary and secondary classifications:

Primary Classifications

- Class C: supports aquatic life propagation & protection; secondary recreation (boating/wading/etc)
- Class B: supports primary recreation (swimming)
- Water Supply ( WS I-V): Based on land use characteristics; specific management strategies are required dependant on classification; support Class C uses. (These criteria are based on the ability of water treatment plants to deliver potable water, not on the standards for raw water.
- WS-I: provides the highest level of protection
- WS-V: provides for lower protection
- Critical Area (CA) is also listed for watershed areas within 1/2 mile, draining to an intake.

Secondary Classification

- Nutrient Sensitive Water (NSW): Water hav-

ing water quality problems associated with nutrient enrichment; ALL waters in the Tar Pamlico Basin.

- High Quality Water (HQW): Excellent water quality, including critical habitat areas, WS I, and WS II. this includes Sally Kearny Creek (~704 ac.), Cedar Creek(~3027 ac.), Little River (~35,653 ac.), Smith Creek/Wake Forest Reservoir (~1409 ac.)
- Outstanding Resource Waters (ORW): Unique and special waters that have not been impacted by pollution; outstanding resource value; Swift Creek Mngt Area (~103,175 ac.)

Waters are evaluated every 2 years. This is 2008 data which the US Environmental protection Agency (EPA) will review and approve. Data are collected by DWQ and the Tar-Pam Association. Data collected by other organization, such as community groups, are used to help identify issues.

Data collected includes biological, chemical, and physical, lakes assessments, shelfish sanitation surveys, fish consumption and swimming advisories, and land use and land cover.

Determining how well a water supports its designated uses (based on classification) is a means of interpreting data and assessing water quality.

These assessments result in use support ratings:

- Supporting > criteria not exceeded
- Impaired > criteria exceeded
- Not Rated > inconclusive information or data
- No data > no data available

These use support ratings are used: (1) to develop management strategies or highlight problems within basinwide plans, (2) by interest groups to develop grants and projects, (3) to compile the 303(d) list of impaired waters for EPA.

See the website for a map of Surface Water classifications in Franklin County.

END

Water Quality Management is a shared responsibility. Everyone is part of the problem; everyone must be part of the solution.

## Collaborative Problem Solving, Consensus, and the group Charter

Consensus is defined as finding solutions that meet the interests and concerns of everyone. Consensus prevents decision making from being driven by power politics. It does not mean everyone will be equally happy with the final decision, but that everyone will accept the decision. Making decisions by consensus allows the minority opinion to remain in the conversation. Three short handouts about collaborative planning are available on the project website. These outline and explain collaborative problem solving, forms of agreement, interests vs. opinions, negotiation, misconceptions about consensus. We feel these handouts are helpful to anyone, in any situation, whether business, professional, or personal. We ask that groups SEEK consensus, to achieve solutions.

A group charter outlines the roles of the stakeholders and facilitators, determines how decisions will be made, sets operating principles for the group, and gives a framework which everyone can turn to if problems arise. The charter can be found on the project website. END

## Nutrient Reduction Strategies: the Tar Pam Rules

John Huisman manages the Tar-Pamlico Nutrient Management Strategy for the NC Division Water Quality. John presented information on this strategy. The Tar-Pamlico River Basin is about 5,401 square miles in 16 counties, and contains 2,308 miles of streams. Increased nutrients from point sources, urban stormwater, cropland agriculture, animal operations, septic systems, and atmospheric deposition cause problems such as increases in noxious algae, decreased oxygen levels, fish kills and diseases, reduced submerged aquatic vegetation, and overall a sick water body. In 1989 the Tar-Pamlico river basin was declared NSW (nutrient sensitive waters). From 1990 through 2000 management strategies have been adopted including point source loading caps and initial 'trading' of nutrients, Total Maximum Daily Loads determined for Nitrogen (reduce by 30%) and Phosphorous (none allowed). The Tar-Pam Basin Association consists of 15 municipal wastewater

discharges who work together to help each other meet the Tar-Pamlico Nutrient Strategy.

The strategy also consists of the Nonpoint Source Rules in 4 distinct sections:

1. Agriculture
2. Nutrient Management and Training
3. 50 ft. Riparian Buffer Protection
4. Urban Stormwater

Franklin county does an excellent job of implementing its urban stormwater program. About 200 County residents (of 2000 statewide) have already undergone nutrient management training. With the help of SWCD staff, the county is able to identify stormwater retrofit sites and mapping. John's complete presentation can be found on the projects website, where additional links about the Tar-Pamlico Rules can also be found. END

## Sedimentation and Erosion Control

Gray Hauser of the NC Division of Land Resources (DLR) presented an overview of the NC Sedimentation Pollution control Act. Detailed information can be found at the Land Resources website - look in the links section at the bottom of the WECO project page.

Erosion is the detachment and removal of soil. Sedimentation is the process by which eroded soil is deposited in our lakes and streams.

Basically the law requires anyone involved in land-disturbing activities to take special precautions to reduce soil erosion and prevent sedimentation damage to waterways and property. An erosion control plan for disturbances larger than one acre must be filed with the state at least 30 days prior to beginning the land disturbing activity. Failure can result in daily fines and the possibility of a stopwork order.

Sedimentation:

- destroys wildlife habitat;
- fills lakes and streams used for power generation, increasing the cost of power;
- covers the food source for fish and other aquatic animals;
- reduces property values
- can carry harmful chemicals and pollutants
- removes the most valuable soils needed to grow plants and food
- removes soil that cannot be replaced for generations

Local governments can petition to run their own erosion and sedimentation control programs. This allows more local oversight. There are only 7 regional engineers in the state able to work on these issues. The Division of Land Resources is very interested in the creation of local programs and has put together a packet of information to help local governments receive approval to administer a local program.

DLR will work with local governments to develop an appropriate, approvable plan. Local programs have the benefit of greater possibility of local buy in from decision makers and the construction community.

Construction permits are likely to be approved more quickly. Likewise, problems are apt to be discovered and dealt with more quickly also.

DLR has cost sharing contracts available to communities to help them get local programs started. The community must match 60% of the cost, to the DLR's 40% of the total. Last year DLR had \$101,000 and split that between 3 counties. The money can be used for first year salaries and equipment, among other things. Some local programs are self-sustaining, fee-based programs, but ALL violation fees go to the State. (Not the DLR, but an education fund.) Most local programs charge more than the state (state charges \$65/acre) but they may then be able to offer more to its users, such as another staff member, or quicker services.

Some local programs are housed in Planning and Zoning Dept; Building Inspections; Environmental or Health Services; the Soil and Water Conservation offices. Whatever arrangement a community and the DLR reach is the best arrangement for that particular community. Each local program is very different from the next, but all meet or exceed the minimum requirements set forth by the state.

The following 10 steps show how to start a Local Erosion and Sedimentation Control Program. The Division of Land Resources is prepared and able to assist communities through this process.

1. understand the law and model ordinance
2. document the need in the community
3. obtain local support
4. develop local ordinance
5. plan organization of local program
6. adopt local ordinance
7. petition the Sedimentation Control Commission (SCC) for a local delegation
8. submit ordinance for SCC approval
9. consider applying to SCC for funds
10. implement program subject to State review END

## Comments from meeting

The May 6, 2008 meeting was a full 3 hours. Participants asked many questions and listened to experts explain many things. time was set aside during the meeting to gather participant input, questions and comments. WECO asked that they not consider any limits just yet. The goal is just to get general feedback, vision, and ideas. The same goal will exist at the June 17th general outreach meeting.

- Comments/questions from participants:
- Is sedimentation control needed?
- Does the state think it is needed locally?  
(Answer: Yes)
- We need to know and define the value and importance of this issue
- Protecting water quality is our mission
- Water resources = quality and quantity
- We need stakeholder feedback on the “what and why” of water quality / staff can do the “how”
- The Utilities Director needs to be involved
- We want to take on a local program
- What is the value of looking at water resources? Is it for ecological reasons? Water supply reasons? We need to define the value and importance of WQ. What is the depth and breadth of its importance?
- Do we need a reservoir impoundment in Franklin County?
- Are we in line with the values of the people? the needed programs? the rules? We shouldn't be too out of bounds with these ideas and standards.
- If we're talking water quantity, we better hurry up while we have the space to think about it.
- We are interested in a local ordinance
- Would like input from other stakeholders on local ordinance.
- There is a storm water committee that should be involved.
- Patty Arms is well versed in this (an EPA consultant) She is an alternate on the cypress creek committee.
- No need to reinvent the wheel
- No need to duplicate technical expertise
- Need to evaluate other programs
- SWCD is already involved in plan review process.
- Consensus seems to be we should go beyond what we are doing now.
- Staff has interest wrapping various regulations together, for efficiency and effectiveness
- Minimizing impacts is an important tool for protecting water quality
- Some regulations overprotect, some underprotect.

END



Watershed Education for Communities and Officials  
NC Cooperative Extension

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### Operating Principles which can be applied to any group:

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1. Attend meetings
2. Stick to topics on agenda and be concise
3. Speak one at a time
4. Work as a team and share all info
5. Ask if you don't understand
6. Openly voice disagreement
7. Treat others with respect
8. Look for mutually beneficial solutions
9. Share info w/others in your organization

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### Meeting Roster: May 6, 2008

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Charles Bass, SWCD Staff  
Patrick Beggs, WECO  
William Byrum, SWCD Staff  
Tom Gulley, SWCD Board  
Angela Harris, County Manager  
Gray Hauser, DLR  
John Huisman, DWQ

Charles Mitchell, SWCD Board  
Heather Patt, DWQ  
Christy Perrin, WECO  
Cindy Phelps, SWCD Staff  
Max Rogers, Planning Dept  
Bob Winters, County Commissioner  
Patrick Young, Planning Dept END

### NEXT MEETING : June 17th

Join us for a conversation about Water Quality in Franklin County. After a brief overview, we will ask participants to envision a future scenario for water resources & brainstorm ideas about how to get there.

7 pm - 8:30 pm (doors open at 6:30)

June 17th Police Training Center

104 Wade Ave, Louisburg

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