



New Hanover County  
Local Watershed Planning Group

## MEETING SUMMARY

Wednesday, February 06, 2002 meeting held at the Cape Fear River Watch.  
Summaries available on WECO website: [www.ces.ncsu.edu/WECO](http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/WECO)

**Next meeting scheduled for  
Wednesday, March 6 from  
6:30pm to 8:30pm Cape Fear  
River Watch Educational Center**

**Agenda:**

- ◆ Revisit potential goals for the watershed plan and how restoration and BMP opportunities address goals
- ◆ Presentation on the Wilmington Stormwater Roundtable Process, David Mayes, City of Wilmington

**Group Members/alternates present:**

Joe Blair, NC DOT  
Bouty Baldrige, Cape Fear River Watch  
Michael Pope, Sierra Club, Wrightsboro Community  
Dick Loeffert, Northchase HOA  
Curt Hensyl, Local watershed resident/ International Paper  
David Mayes, City of Wilmington  
Marian McPhaul, UNCW  
Chris O'Keefe, New Hanover Co. Planning

**Support staff & guests present:**

Christy Perrin, WECO/NCSU  
Patrick Beggs, WECO/NCSU  
Larry Hobbs, NC WRP  
Bonnie Duncan, NC WRP  
Jason Jolley, WECO/NCSU  
Marilyn Meares-Stowell, NRCS  
Greg Walker, NRCS  
Scott McLendon, USACE

**This summary for the February 6 meeting  
includes the following items:**

- ◆ Updates on landowner letters, NCDOT project information, etc.
- ◆ Review of Restoration Opportunities in Lower Smith Creek and Burnt Mill Creek watersheds

**Updates:**

**Presented by Bonnie Duncan, NCWRP**

**Landowner Letter**

The response postcards for the mailing are ready. Due to the budget situation and staff resources, we suggest sending letters to limited number of landowners (possibly for the top 15 potential restoration sites). Joe is conducting a feasibility analysis of the top 10 sites, including cross section information, costs, etc. This should be completed by the end of the week. We should consider including BMP sites within the top 15 because the group has suggested removing some infeasible projects from the list. We will develop a summary report and mail to you.

**NCDOT**

The Wilmington bypass project was the first project the NCDOT put in its new electronic database format. Unfortunately, due to this DOT transition period and the consultant working on the project leaving his job, we are not able to get electronic information to overlay over our proposed project parcels. We have paper maps and drawn boundaries of project parcels in relation to the bypass. This shows how much of a property is affected by DOT right-of-way. For example, PGWRO-8 is not fully impacted by the right-of-way and residue property may be available. PGWRO-7 is completely eliminated because of the bypass. DOT right of way information can be found on the New Hanover County website.

### Potential funding opportunity

The EPA is requesting proposals for projects to improve water quality in watersheds with 303(d) listed streams. The EPA will divide up \$350,000-\$400,000 in 2-9 grants in Region 4 (which includes North Carolina). This watershed does qualify, so Bonnie will help with a grant proposal if the group has an interest. There is an April 2 deadline.

### Potential project opportunity

Dave Mayes informed us that there might be a restoration opportunity in Upper Smith Creek behind Target we could explore. This is off of Market Street.



## Restoration Opportunities Review

Presented by Bonnie Duncan, NCWRP

Each site is listed by the subcatchment- LS for Lower Smith, then by the type of proposed project, for example BMP for best management practice, SRO for stream restoration opportunity, and WRO for wetland restoration opportunity. The number corresponds with number assigned to the sites.

### Lower Smith Creek

#### LSSRO-703

This is a second order stream that has been straightened and flows through a residential neighborhood. The stream segment is 800 ft., and is located on the west side of the proposed highway extension.

#### Comments:

- Sewer line on city side is a constraint, other side is heavily vegetated and needs to be acquired.
- Same area as proposed expansion for Independence Blvd.
- Stream ends at Maids Park, which has lot s

of trash in some segments.

- The City of Wilmington and Cameron Company are two of the landowners
- Maybe city could move sewer main away from creek
- There are major stormwater outfalls (4ft.) here.

#### LSWRO-3

This is a wetland opportunity that was recently clear-cut; a portion of the land is DOT right-of-way for Smith Creek Parkway. This is 13-acre parcel.

#### Comments:

- There are ruts from logging
- A study must be done to determine hydrology
- Owner has access to Smith Creek Parkway
- Being cut in half, the parcel would be difficult to maintain.
- This is a difficult site and the owner probably intends to develop it.

#### LSSRO-602 and 603

602 is a second order stream that has been straightened and is unstable. It has trash and debris in stream. 603 is a first order stream with unclear alterations; it is swampy with unclear alterations and little riparian buffer.

#### Comments:

- Applied Analytical (AAI), a landowner for 602 is likely interested.
- The Housing Authority owns the other side of the stream and is a likely partner.
- The industrial park changed topography of this area and straightened stream
- 602 is adjacent to Creekwood and Creekwood site landowners are losing land to erosion.

*Q: There is a beaver pond and dam, how do you design a BMP if it breaks?*

*A: The dam is probably pretty strong. Yet, many get rid of beaver dams without a permit since they are considered a nuisance. Dynamite is commonly used to clear out beaver dams.*

### LSWRO-8

Thirteen acres agricultural land use with hydric soils. The ditches would be filled, agricultural use restricted and shallow water allowed. It is a former wetland.

#### **Comments:**

- Trask family owns and site may be expensive.
- New Hanover County owns part of the property contained within the proposed project site.

### LSSRO-501 and 502

On 501 an opportunity exists to enhance a 7,028 ft. segment of the stream. The stream has been straightened, channelized and is unstable.

502 is a 2351 ft. 1<sup>st</sup> order stream that has been straightened and is filled with debris.

#### **Comments:**

- New Hanover County, NCDOT, and Wilmington Industrial Park are among list owners.
- The Smith Creek Parkway crosses this site but Joe Blair thought DOT would bridge over this area.
- This is adjacent to LSWRO-8
- The Smith Creek Parkway crosses lower portion near Applied Analytical Industries.
- USACE looked at 501 site for consideration as a DOT wetlands restoration site. It was rejected.
- 501-There is a wastewater station nearby.
- 501-is a filled swamp and there is concern for what is underneath
- 502 is county property, so it is workable.
- Good link with other opportunities.

### LSSRO-204

1<sup>st</sup> order stream that has been straightened. Stream segment to be restored is 293 ft. There is little water in channel and the stream has stable banks and riparian zone.

#### **Comments:**

- It seems small and should not be considered.

### Burnt Mill Creek

#### **BMBMPRO-2**

This is a 100-acre drainage area and urban stream. This is a proposed 8-acre wetland detention pond

BMP. There is currently no BMP on site.

#### **Comments:**

- The Cape Fear Rugby and Football Club and private residents are listed owners.
- This was a former dumpsite and landfill and there is rumor that canisters of dry cleaning fluids and roofing materials were dumped at this site.
- The field is still in use by the rugby team, but they are progressive and may be willing to help, especially if it could offer them a tax break.
- Chris O'Keefe knows some rugby players and will ask if they are interested.
- This BMP could possibly be funded with EPA money.
- There are fewer landowners, so this appears to be a good site.

#### **BMBMPRO-1 and BMSRO-202**

This is an 8-acre BMP on a 100-acre drainage site near Chestnut St. and 23<sup>rd</sup> St. There is an urban stream with a cemetery at the edge.

#### **Comments:**

- The City owns some property but the cemetery owns the majority (Oakdale).
- Headwaters of this area are piped – so there really are no existing upstream benefits for this stream segment.
- Water flowing into area is contaminated pipe drainage
- This is a good area
- There is a lot of street debris
- This stream is know as McCumber Ditch

#### **BMBRO-6**

This is a 9-acre drainage area with a pre-existing 5-acre drainage area, adjacent to apartment complex.

*Note:* This project was eliminated because the pond present is only 2-3 years old.

#### **BMBMPRO-3**

This project was eliminated from the list because the pond is fairly new.

### *BMWRO-2*

This is a large undeveloped parcel that has been cleared in the last 10 years. There are young pine trees and a stream likely crossed here. This would consist of restoration of riparian corridor.

#### *Comments:*

- There is fabric form in west portion of stream
- Land owner is Longley Supply Company
- This is commercially zoned, so it is expensive
- Drainage goes 90 degrees around property, so picture is not accurate.
- Cinema pond drainage goes into this area, property may be for sale and would be hard to develop.

### *BMWRO-1*

This is a 13 acre restoration project with 1 access road and 2 railroad crossings. We would create and restore wetlands hydrology. There is a low-medium wetlands starting to dry out.

#### *Comments:*

- A pipe under the railroad drains to the west
- An outboard repair shop is located in triangle below site on map
- Drainage for 17 North shopping center drains into pond that drains here.
- There is only one access road and the railroad would not allow a crossing, so it is not an easy site to develop.
- There is flooding and housing downstream
- This is a great site.

### *BMBMPRO-4*

This is a proposed 2-acre BMP on a 20-acre drainage area. The entire basin needs revegetation.

#### *Comments:*

- Dave Mayes noted that the City of Wilmington could enforce established standards / regulations to improve this site and the group should skip it.

### *BMSRO-111*

In close proximity to BMSR- 112 and BMPRO-8 and 9. Proposed restoration of 2260 ft. stream that has been straightened. The project would include restoring

natural profile and buffer, and controlling sediment input and gully.

#### *Comments*

- This is a difficult site with property owner issues
- There is little flow except during storms, which makes the streets impassible at times.
- Would be a challenging, but good, site.

### *BMSRO-112*

1<sup>st</sup> order stream that has been straightened and pipes are under the apartment on site. Stormwater conveyances are clogged and gullies need correcting.

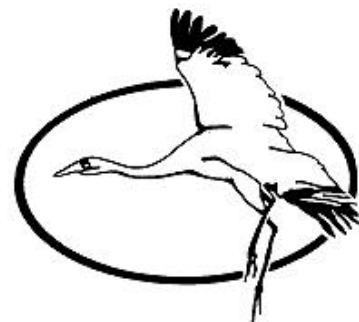
#### *Comments:*

- Only carries water during a storm, sometimes making the streets impassible.
- Good site, but difficult with landowner issues.

### *BMBMPRO-8 and 9*

#### *Comments:*

- Many landowners and BMPRO-8 is possible.
- Landowner for BMPRO-9 called Bouty regarding wetlands, so they might be persuaded.
- Adjacent to Kerr Avenue, possible road project is 10 years out .



### *BMSRO-602*

Same as BMWRO-2. Expensive.

### *BMSRO-301, 302, and 303*

#### *Comments:*

- This is Mineral Springs Branch.
- 301 and 302-sewer outfalls parallel to Burnt Mill

Creek

- City has approved funding to replace outfall and stormwater services has approved drainage improvements.
- Larry thinks this is doable and we could combine all 3 into 1 project (Larry and Dave Mayes walked the project site).
- We could work with City of Wilmington, since they will be contacting landowners.
- A lot of opportunity, not too far from Forest Hills School-a potential site Don Cooke mentioned.
- Forest Hills Apartments have flooding problems.

*BMSRO-502*

1<sup>st</sup> order stream that has been straightened through a residential neighborhood with culverts and pipes. We would restore profile and add woody vegetation. The stream is 1020 ft. off of Downy Branch.

*Comments:*

- This stream is known as Downy Branch.
- This has potential.
- Birch Creek unit owners are landowners
- City has an easement from Wrightsville Ave. to the Pond and maintains this section of the waterway. From Wilshire to the Pond is currently culverted.

*BMSRO-2*

1<sup>st</sup> order stream that has been straightened with good vegetation and some unstable areas. 1513 ft. of restoration.

*Comments:*

- This is adjacent to BMAPRO-1
- Landowner is City of Wilmington, etc.
- Talked about this site with BMAPRO-1, so it is a good site.

*BMAPRO-110A*

*Comments*

- Site known as Sweetwater Branch.
- Many landowners in Candlewick Subdivision
- An apartment complex is in the mix as well.
- Off of Sweetwater Branch

- Good site
- Great impact for dollars.

*BMSRO-603*

1<sup>st</sup> order stream straightened and confined by community parking. We would establish woody buffer for 1716 ft. restoration.

*Comments:*

- Bishop Carpet which fronts Kerr Avenue is a landowner
- North of Kerr Ave. project
- Good site

*BMSRO-106C*

Forest Hills Elementary School site.

*Comments:*

- Landowners are Board of Education and City of Wilmington.
- "The Don Cooke Project!!!" Don Cooke mentioned this project. He can help and his wife is a school teacher.
- We would have to relocate street or work on other side.
- This is a high profile site.
- Larry met with supervisor of school maintenance.

Next meeting:

- Bonnie will use comments and Joe's top ten list to product a list of up to 15 projects top projects.
- Stormwater roundtable presentation
- Review of potential goals for watershed plan: Does the group want to brainstorm more options?

For more information about the New Hanover County Local Watershed Planning Group, or to be removed from this mailing list, contact Christy Perrin or Jason Jolley at (919)515-4542  
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