



# New Hanover County Local Watershed Planning Group

## MEETING SUMMARY

Wednesday, November 20, 2002 meeting held at the Cape Fear Riverwatch Center.  
Summaries available on WECO website: [www.ces.ncsu.edu/WECO](http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/WECO)

**The New Hanover Watershed Planning Group will meet on an “as-needed” basis from now on. The Group will be contacted to schedule any necessary meetings in 2003.**

**We will inform everyone when we are scheduled to present the watershed plan to the City of Wilmington and New Hanover County.**

**Thanks for all your hard work in developing a watershed plan for your community!**

**- WECO & NCWRP Staff- (Christy, Patrick, Jason, and Leon, Bonnie and Larry)**

### Group Members/guests present:

Bouty Baldrige, Cape Fear River Watch  
Jim Bordeaux, Castle Hayne Steering Committee  
Michael Pope, Sierra Club, Wrightsboro Community  
Tommy Tew, Corbett Timber Co.  
Marian McPhaul, Lower Cape Fear River Program  
Stacy Smaltz, Burnt Mill Creek resident

### Support staff present:

Christy Perrin, WECO/NCSSU  
Bonnie Duncan, NC WRP  
Patrick Beggs, WECO/NCSSU



For more information about the New Hanover County Local Watershed Planning Group, or to be removed from this mailing list, contact Christy Perrin at (919) 515-4542  
Email: [christy\\_perrin@ncsu.edu](mailto:christy_perrin@ncsu.edu)

### This meeting summary contains the following:

- Final changes to the New Hanover Watershed Plan
- Implementation updates
- Video premiere

### Final changes to New Hanover Watershed Plan

The group was asked if they wanted to see any additional requested changes made to the last draft of the watershed plan that was sent to them. They requested no additional changes. Some minor changes were submitted prior to the meeting by Dave Mayes and Chris O’Keefe and were incorporated into the document.

Christy suggested and the Group consented to the following additions.

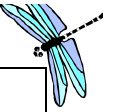
- ◆ The addition of a paragraph indicating projects that were not identified during the technical assessment may be added to the plan, and that those projects should be evaluated using similar criteria to the projects previously identified and ranked.
- ◆ A list of specific projects that were identified after the technical assessment and are being investigated for implementation. Those projects include:

#### Burnt Mill Creek

- ◆ Love Grove Landfill site – a potential location for future restoration / protection activities (currently being assessed by City of Wilmington)

#### Lower Smith Creek

- ◆ Potential wetlands creation opportunity partially included within and adjacent to site LSSRO703 (listed in the top 8 selected opportunities) within the Lower Smith Creek



subwatershed near Maides Park.

Upper Smith Creek

- ◆ Water quality stormwater improvements for the North Chase Community being investigated by Greg Walker with NRCS, RC&D.
- ◆ Black Swamp and Caney Branch stream restoration opportunity (located adjacent to Laney High School, New Hanover County School Board property).
- ◆ Randall Pond BMPs at Ann McCrary Park (being implemented by the City of Wilmington through cooperation with NCSU, NC Cooperative Extension Service and a 319 grant awarded).
- ◆ Potential restoration of FEMA buyout properties which the County currently owns. The County has demolished houses on these properties and the NCWRP has expressed an interest in restoring riparian wetlands along this corridor of Upper Smith Creek.

Prince George Creek

- ◆ Potential wetlands enhancement/preservation adjacent to the New Hanover County Juvenile Detention Center (New Hanover County owned property). The NCWRP has also expressed interest in investigating this opportunity further with the County.

**ACTION ITEMS:** WECO will finalize the watershed plan and send final copies to the Group members. The Plan will be presented to the City of Wilmington and New Hanover County. The plan will also be available on the WECO website at [www.ces.ncsu.edu/WECO](http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/WECO).

**UPDATES ON WATERSHED PLAN IMPLEMENTATION**

Burnt Mill Creek / Mineral Springs Branch Stream Restoration

Bonnie reported that property owners have been amenable to participating in the restoration. The apartment complex on Mineral Springs Branch has indicated that they are interested in participating. The New Hanover County School Board will decide upon participating in restoration efforts on their Forest Hills Elementary School and Laney High School properties at their December meeting. Bonnie agreed to follow up with an e-mail about this meeting time and date for stakeholders interested in attending.

Additional restoration projects

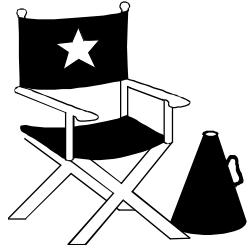
Bonnie is also exploring implementing the restoration projects mentioned previously in this newsletter.

Stormwater Best Management Practices

Funding is needed to implement BMPs identified in the Watershed Plan. Christy informed the Group that WECO partnered with the UNC Water Resources Research Institute (WRRI) to apply for one of the state's two nominations for the EPA's new Watershed Initiative. The grant proposal sought to implement several identified BMPs in the Burnt Mill Creek subwatershed, to involve landowners in installing their own BMPs, and monitoring changes. The goal of the proposal is to determine if implementing large-scale BMPs in the subwatershed can show improvements in the water quality of Burnt Mill Creek, and to quantify any changes in water quality.

Since the November 20 meeting, we were informed that although the grant proposal scored very highly during the state agencies' review, the governor's office did not nominate it to send to EPA.

WECO, WRRI, and NCWRP will edit the grant proposal and submit it to the NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund in June, 2003. They will also coordinate with Deborah Amaral, who has been working on a grant proposal to CWMTF for the area.



### **Premiere of “Working for the Watershed: A North Carolina Partnership”**

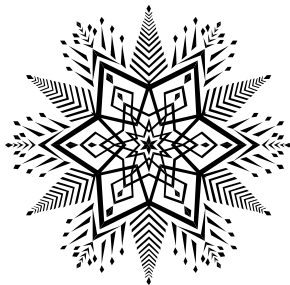
The training video for collaborative watershed partnerships starring the New Hanover Watershed Planning Group was premiered at their November meeting. The 15-minute video uses interview clips with Group members to exemplify the principles of collaborative decision-making in watershed planning. The story of the NHLWPG is highlighted as a case-study in watershed planning.

The video will be used to help train new watershed partnerships in collaborative problem-solving skills.

Group members were pleased with the video, and suggested that it be used locally to promote the watershed plan. Some suggestions included showing the video to the City Council and County Commissioners at their work sessions prior to presenting the watershed plan to them, and showing it on local access television.

WECO staff will suggest showing local officials the video when setting up presentation of the Local Watershed Plan to the City and County.

After some minor final edits, a copy of the video will be provided to the Cape Fear Riverwatch for their library.



**Wishing you a peaceful holiday season**

