



New Hanover County  
Local Watershed Planning Group

## MEETING SUMMARY

For Sept. & Oct. introductory meetings held at the Cape Fear Riverwatch Educational Ctr.

### **New Hanover County Local Watershed Planning Group Meets for first time!**

The Planning group met for the first two times on September 21 and October 5, 2000. The purpose of these introductory meetings were to introduce everyone to fellow planning group members, NC State University and NC Wetlands Restoration Program support staff; to break bread together; to learn about watersheds; to learn about collaborative processes; and to begin developing their purpose, group charter, and ground rules.

This summary will present a brief overview of the activities and discussion that occurred at these two meetings.

#### **Group Members/alternates present:**

Jim Bordeaux, Castle Hayne Steering Committee  
Don Cooke, CP&L  
Jabe Hardy, Cameron Company  
Curt Hensyl, Local watershed resident  
David Mayes, City of Wilmington  
Marian McPhaul, Lower Cape Fear River Program  
Karen Moorefield, Carolina Heights Neighborhood  
Dexter Hayes/Chris O'Keefe, New Hanover Co. Planning  
Michael Pope, Sierra Club, Wrightsboro Community  
Stacy Smaltz/Bouty Baldrige, Cape Fear River Watch  
Tommy Tew, Corbett Timber Co.  
Randy Turner, NCDOT  
Curtis Wright, Council of Neighborhood Assoc.

#### **Support staff & guests present:**

Bonnie Duncan, NC WRP  
Suzanne Klimek, WECO/NCSU  
Kristin Cozza, NC WRP  
George Norris, NC WRP  
Christy Perrin, WECO/NCSU  
Shannon Quesada, NC Division of Env. Ed.  
Kevin Schneider, Cape Fear River Watch volunteer  
Danielle Seneschal, Cape Fear River Watch  
Steve Smutko, NRLI/NCSU

### **September 21, 2000**

#### **Ice-breaking with Shannon Quesada, NC Division of Environmental Education**

Shannon Quesada introduced the group to the concept of a *watershed* with an exercise designed to physically show the participants what a watershed looks like.

The group then split up into sub-groups at different tables to map the watershed.

Participants shared their own knowledge of the local watershed with each other. This information will be kept for reference at future meetings.

#### **Collaborative Problem-Solving with Steve Smutko, Director of the NC Natural Resources Leadership Institute**

Steve Smutko introduced the concept of collaborative problem-solving with a video about a group in Oregon that worked collaboratively to resolve environmental problems involving grazing lands and native plants.

The group then brainstormed a list of ingredients for a successful working group:

- Time
- Trust
- Respect
- Willingness to take a risk
- Willingness to change
- Willingness to stand up for your beliefs
- Perseverance

*Continued on Page 2*

- Ownership of decision
- Willingness to listen
- Understanding your scope of influence

The group received handouts on the principles of collaborative problem solving, the negotiation process, and how to craft workable agreements. The group will refer back to the handouts when needed as the process moves forward.

Basically, in a collaborative process you are hoping to get what you need while also allowing others to get what they need. *Getting to Yes*, by Fisher, Ury, and Patton is recommended reading on this topic.

### ***Discussion about stakeholders***

Steve explained that a stakeholder of a collaborative process is somebody who:

1. Can affect a decision
2. Is affected by a decision
3. Has the authority to make a decision

The group discussed who may need to be there who was not represented. These groups follow:

- Developers/contractors/builders (Jabe Hardy, Cameron Company, agreed to fill this role)
- Northwestern part of watershed-Prince Georges Creek (The Clean Water Fund was contacted, no names provided yet)
- Retail/business/tourism (Chamber of Commerce was contacted, the president recommended Don Cooke, who agreed to wear the Chamber hat as well as CP&L hat)
- Fisherman (Robert Southerland, shellfisherman, agreed to fill this role)

**October 5, 2000**

### **Discussion of NC Wetlands Restoration Program**

The group posed questions to the NC WRP staff to learn more about the program. They wanted to know why this small watershed in New Hanover County was picked for the first local watershed plan, and how the WRP could do this same process all over the state.

The NC WRP is provided with NC DOT funds to do local watershed planning. Each river basin in the state is divided into 8-digit USGS "cataloguing units". These units are large watersheds used by the US Army Corps of Engineers for Section 404 permitting. Compensatory mitigation associated with approved 404 permits is required to occur within the same cataloguing unit as which the impacts occurred.

The NCDOT developed a schedule for future wetland/stream mitigation needs. In accordance with DOT future mitigation needs, the NCWRP has selected certain NCWRP targeted local watersheds to initiate the Local Watershed Planning Process within. This process is intended to help identify restoration projects as well as work toward comprehensive watershed restoration through other water quality improvement projects and activities.

The NC WRP held a public meeting in New Hanover County in April, 2000, to ask the public which watershed in the Lower Cape Fear would be most appropriate for a Local Watershed Planning Process. After the public identified water quality issues associated with various watersheds, the NCWRP, UNC-W, US Army Corps of Engineers, City of Wilmington, Cape Fear River Watch, NC State University staff, as well as others, followed up with a field investigation to seek the watershed with the most restoration opportunities. The main goal of Local Watershed Planning is to improve the ecological effectiveness of restoration projects, and basically

*Continued on Page 3*

put in projects where they make the most ecological sense for water quality improvement and protection, before impacts occur.

A participant expressed concern that the restoration projects that the planning group recommends in this watershed could be used as mitigation for projects of which the group may not approve.

Participants suggested that more information about the wetland mitigation process be provided, and/or that somebody from the regulatory side of wetlands be involved somehow. Participants also asked about learning watershed facts first, i.e. water quality, % impervious surface, flooding issues, permitted impacts, etc. within the watershed and requested Division of Water Quality and UNCW Center for Marine Science, Lower Cape Fear River Program be involved in describing the current status.

### **Group Charter Discussion**

The Group had been provided with a draft charter to use as a basis for developing their own method of working as a group. Some minor changes were made to the background section.

The group revised their purpose to be:

*The primary purpose of the New Hanover County Local Watershed Planning Group is to recommend actions to improve water quality through identifying issues such as flood prevention, fisheries, wildlife habitat and recreation opportunities in the watershed. To accomplish this, the group may recommend tapping into available resources including but not limited to the NCWRP, the Clean Water Management Trust Fund, local government programs and others. Some of the projects initiated by the NCWRP may be used to meet compensatory mitigation requirements.*

The group will finish their discussion of the charter at their next meeting.

### **Future Meeting dates**

The group decided that they would meet next on October 30, 2000, and then meet on the first

Wednesday of every month as a regular meeting date beginning with Wednesday, December 6, 2000. Although the group will meet at the Cape Fear Riverwatch Educational Center on October 30, a permanent meeting location is yet to be decided upon.



**Happy  
Halloween!**

For more information about the New Hanover County Local Watershed Planning Group, contact Suzanne Hoover  
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