

# Stoney Creek Local Watershed Planning News

## Watershed Education for Communities and Local Officials NC Cooperative Extension

### NC Ecosystem Enhancement Program kicks off Local Watershed Planning in Goldsboro

The Stoney Creek Local Watershed Planning Team met for the first time officially on September 15, 2004 at the Wayne County Center in Goldsboro. The NC Ecosystem Enhancement Program has convened this team of stakeholders to formulate a Local Watershed Plan for Stoney Creek. The Stoney Creek watershed is found in the Neuse River Basin, within Wayne County, and includes portions of the City of Goldsboro as well as portions of the Seymour Johnson Air Force Base.

This newsletter gives an overview of that first meeting. The PowerPoint presentations given at the meeting are available to view on the WECO website. Click on "Projects", then "Stoney Creek", then "Presentations & Technical Documents." You'll find 3 presentations: 1) an introduction to EEP by Rob Breeding, 2) and introduction to in lieu buffer and nutrient offset payments, and 3) the initial watershed assessment findings.



Feel free to share this newsletter, which is also available on the WECO website.

If you have any questions, please contact:

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**Next Meeting: November 15, 2004 10 am - 2 noon**

Wayne County Center, Goldsboro We will meet in the large room at the top of the parking lot.  
(This is NOT the kitchen room we met in last time.)

#### Agenda includes:

**Watershed Assessment Methodology - Team Expectations - Summary of Results (so far)**

**Stakeholder feedback: What needs to be addressed in this Local Watershed Plan?**



# Ecosystem Enhancement Program (EEP) Overview

Rob Breeding of EEP is the plan manager for the Stoney Creek Local Watershed Planning Project. Rob presented an overview of EEP and the general planning process for the Stoney Creek Watershed. His PowerPoint presentation can be found on the WECO website, [www.ces.ncsu.edu/WECO/stoney](http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/WECO/stoney).

EEP is a non-regulatory program found within the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). EEP was formed by merging program resources of DENR, the NC Department of Transportation, and the US Army Corps of Engineers. EEP's goal is to Restore, Enhance and Protect watershed functions in NC. These functions include water quality, hydrologic balance (including floodwaters), and aquatic/terrestrial habitat.

EEP sponsors Local Watershed Planning to help reach these goals. A group of local stakeholders, using the technical expertise of governmental and private consulting services, work to identify issues, set priorities, develop strategies, secure funding, and implement watershed protection and restoration projects within the community.

Local watershed planning requires understanding the symptoms of watershed function and loss of function—then, determining a course of action. These actions may include stream and wetland restoration, riparian buffer implementation, best management practices (BMPs) for stormwater or agriculture, education, and policy recommendations for improvement or protection.

The best watershed projects are identified by locating the intersection of the following 3 priorities: (1) habitat and water quality improvement, (2) future DOT impacts, and (3) local priorities.

EEP has contracted with WECO, Watershed Education for Communities and Local Officials, to convene this local stakeholder group who will review the assessment as it occurs and provide feedback and solutions for the local watershed plan. In addition, EEP has contracted KCI Associates to continue the watershed assessment that was begun by the NC Division of Water Quality.

The Technical Assessment of the watershed will be conducted in 3 phases.

- Phase 1 has already been completed by the DWQ Watershed Assessment Team. The Phase 1 Watershed Characterization Report can be found by going to the WECO website. A summary of the report was presented at the meeting. (see p. 3)
- Phase 2 is the detailed assessment of the watershed being conducted by KCI Associates. It involves field reconnaissance and modeling. A new Coastal Plain stream assessment tool, developed at Eastern Carolina University, is being tested during this phase.
- Phase 3 involves the development of watershed strategies including specific project recommendations, outreach and implementation of the plan.

The Stoney Creek watershed was chosen in part because it qualifies as Neuse River nutrient sensitive waters and as 303(d) listed impaired waters. It also has altered hydrology, rapidly changing land use, and projected future DOT impacts. These things, combined with strong local interest and ample opportunities for stream and wetland improvement, make Stoney Creek a good candidate for developing a Local Watershed Plan.

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