



Stoney Creek Local Watershed Planning News

**Watershed Education for Communities and Local Officials
~NC Cooperative Extension~**

Issue 3

Project Overview and Funding Sources

March 9, 2005
Meeting Summary

Rob Breeding, project manager for the Ecosystem Enhancement Program, presented a brief overview of the planning project and some sources of possible funding. Rob's complete presentation can be found on the WECO website at: <http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/WECO/stoney/>



Local Watershed Planning - Process and Goals:

It is important to EEP to incorporate local interests into the decision making process. EEP will working in this area for a limited time period, but would like to end up with a plan that local stakeholders can implement now and in the future, to improve stream and wetland conditions. EEP has 3 overarching project goals:

- To Improve Water Quality
- To Restore or Enhance Aquatic and Terrestrial Habitat
- To Improve or Restore Hydrologic Balance

These 3 goals, along with local input and potential DOT impacts are used to determine the best possible projects for an area.

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Water Quality Monitoring Results

Kathy Paull, of the NC Division of Water Quality's Watershed Assessment Team presented an update on the water quality monitoring results in Stoney Creek. Kathy's PowerPoint presentation can be found on the WECO website at: <http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/WECO/stoney/> The following is a summary of the presentation.

Sampling Methods Used

Field measurements were taken of: Dissolved oxygen, specific conductance, pH, and temperature. Water samples obtained in the field were analyzed in the laboratory for nutrients and metals.

All samples were obtained during baseflow (no precipitation for the prior 48 hours). Samples were obtained from July 2004 to December 2004 (field measurements July

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May 17th Meeting
10am - 1 pm
EEP will provide lunch

Goldsboro
City Hall
214 North Center St
2nd floor-ante room

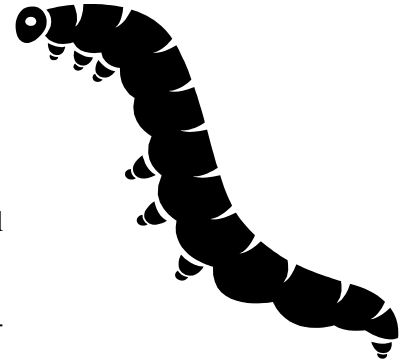
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Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program ~ CREP

Charles Bowden, of the Division of Soil and Water Conservation gave a presentation of the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). The full PowerPoint presentation can be found on the WECO Website, and more detailed information can be found at the CREP website: <http://www.enr.state.nc.us/DSWC/pages/crep.html>

CREP is a voluntary program that seeks to protect land along watercourses that is currently in agricultural production. The objectives of the program include: installing 100,000 acres of forested riparian buffers, grassed filter strips and wetlands; reducing the impacts of sediment and nutrients within the targeted area; and providing substantial ecological benefits for many wildlife species that are declining in part as a result of habitat loss. Program funding combines the Federal Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) funding with State funding from the Clean Water Management Trust Fund, Agriculture Cost Share Program, and Ecosystem Enhancement Program.



www.enr.state.nc.us/DSWC/pages/crep.html

Landowners of existing agricultural land within the Neuse, Tar-Pamlico and Chowan river basins

and the Jordan Lake watershed are eligible to participate in CREP. Under CREP, landowners can voluntarily enroll eligible land in 10-year, 15-year, 30-year, and permanent contracts. The state will pay additional bonuses to landowners that enroll land in 30-year and permanent agreements. Cost sharing will be available for installation of forested riparian buffers, grassed filter strips, wetlands restoration practices, water control structures, livestock exclusion, and remote livestock watering in order to increase the efficiency of enrolled practices. Interested landowners should contact their local Soil and Water Conservation District or Farm Service Agency office.

Eligibility for enrolling land in the CREP program is determined by the local Soil and Water Conservation District, Natural Resource Conservation Service and Farm Service Agency, as well as by the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

- A conservation plan is required on the enrolled land and these agencies can help prepare that plan.
- It is important to note that each CREP agreement is specific.
- Tax incentives may differ from county to county and is strongly advised to seek tax advice.

Questions concerning CREP can be directed to the CREP Manager, Tom Potter, at 919-715-6107

Meeting Roster

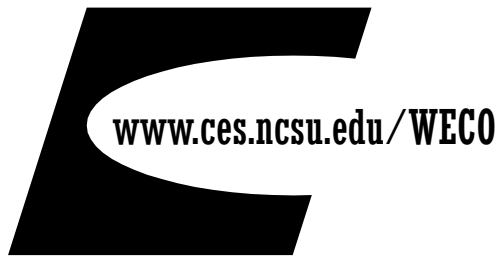
Johanna Arnold—Seymour Johnson AFB
 Rob Breeding - EEP
 Patrick Beggs - WECO
 Charles Bowden - NCDENR
 Rama Chittilla - City of Goldsboro
 Chip Crumpler - Wayne County
 Patty Gabriel - NRCS - Wayne County
 Carol Mayes - Mayes Consulting
 Andy Miller - SWCD - Wayne County

Kathy Paul - NC Division of Water Quality
 Christy Perrin - WECO
 Tom Potter - NCDENR
 James Rowe - City of Goldsboro
 Mike Schlegel - KCI
 Ronnie Wilson—Seymour Johnson AFB

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EEP defines projects as either traditional or alternative. Traditional projects include Wetland Restoration or Enhancement, Stream Restoration, and Buffer Creation or Reestablishment. All other projects, such as stormwater wetlands or best management practices for stormwater or agriculture are considered alternative projects. These alternative projects have the capacity to greatly enhance watershed function.

Project Funding:

Traditional projects can be funded by EEP mitigation money from the DOT and also from the in-lieu-fee/nutrient offset programs. Alternative projects are currently not funded with mitigation money, but from the Neuse Buffer program, other EEP monies, cost share partnerships with local governments, federal and state grant programs, and other sources.

Some other complimentary programs, like CREP, share similar environmental goals (reducing negative impacts for example) and should be able to fund respective parts of the same larger project.



Water Quality Monitoring Results

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Conclusions:

- Low dissolved oxygen concentrations occurred occasionally in areas with impoundments or immediately downstream of a wetland.
- Initial findings of high specific conductance in the Un-named Tributary and Reedy Branch indicate the possibility of more pollutants in these streams than in the others sampled.
- Excessive concentrations of nutrients, both nitrogen and phosphorus, are common through out the Stoney Creek watershed.
- Total nitrogen exceeded the reference values in the Un-named Tributary and Reedy Branch.
- The upper sites (Howell Creek, Reedy Branch, and Stoney Creek) all exceeded the reference values for TKN.
- The lower sites (Un-named Tributary, Billy Branch, and Stoney Creek) and Reedy Branch exceeded the reference values for nitrite + nitrate.
- The upper sites receive water from wetlands or impoundments and have a low percentage of inorganic nitrogen.
- The lower sites are partially urbanized with some agricultural areas and have a high percentage of inorganic nitrogen.
- Copper and zinc exceeded the EPA benchmark (NAWQC) in Billy Branch.
- Manganese exceeded Tier II criteria in Stoney Creek at Wayne Memorial Drive.
- Due to urbanization in the lower half of the watershed, metals may exceed their criteria more frequently during storms.
- Sediment toxicity results still to come.

