

Transylvania EPA 319 Partners Meeting

12/1/05 in Brevard

Participants: Eric Caldwell, Josh Freeman, Mark Burrows, Jon Beck, Patrick Beggs, Christy Perrin

Purpose of the meeting was to all meet in person for the first time, discuss the goals of the grant project, discuss current related issues for the Town of Brevard and Transylvania County, and determine how best to move forward with the project in light of those issues.

Christy described the project goals and tasks that were included in the contract with NCDWQ for the EPA 319 Grant. The **overall purpose of the grant** is to work through the TNRC to provide locally-relevant education and tools to citizens and elected officials to implement water resource protection measures, particularly Low-impact Development (LID). There are **three phases** included, although they do not necessarily need to occur in the proposed order. These include:

- 1.) Use GIS technology to illustrate impacts of land-use change on water resources in Transylvania county watersheds. Two watersheds were proposed (Lake Toxaway and the upper reaches of French Broad) for this work, but focus areas should be the areas determined as most relevant locally- we need to discuss. (tasks will be completed by Land of Sky, NCSU)
- 2.) Collaborative ordinance and management review to determine how current policies may restrict/prevent LID techniques, and develop recommendations to improve. (NCSU- WECO and Water Quality Group)
- 3.) LID workshops to educate practitioners, citizens, officials- whoever is determined as needed target audiences. (NCSU- Water Quality Group and WECO)

The proposed start date was December 1, 2005. The contract has not been set up yet with NCSU and NCDENR though (as of Jan. 30, NCSU is still waiting to receive the contract from NCDENR!).

Brevard happenings- UDO coming online, with following additions:

New erosion control section – using performance measures, additional erosion control from what was required.

Riparian set backs

Universal storm water – control 1st inch. Provide documentation and certification

Natural Resources Inventory- delineate buffers

No fill in flood plain (?)

Haven't had public meeting about proposed changes yet. Feb. 6 public hearing scheduled. There is currently a moratorium on development. In January informal public informational meetings will be held.

Transylvania County happenings:

Flood plain

Doesn't have regulations that city has

building permit requires erosion control

The role of TNRC is to look at natural resources and make recommendations to county. They are:

- looking at air quality issues
- interested in LID

Public works is resistant to curb and gutter. In steep slope areas they are struggling with road design. How to satisfy all the parties and insure safe design is an issue.

County development is on large lots- 1 unit/acre is most common since there is no sewer service.

*Affordable housing is a significant issue. How to tie Low Impact Development with affordable housing. This is a bigger issue for the city than the county.

Where should we focus our efforts?

Discussion about focus areas- Mark's suggestions:

French Broad River Conference of North and West Forks to Brevard. The west Broad is residential to Davidson River.

What about Lake Toxaway, since homeowners are concerned? Not as much an issue. The upper end is agricultural, with cattle.

The Town of Rosman will face development pressure, land speculation, and is subject to flooding.

We need to identify the 14 digit hydrologic units in Transylvania County to proceed. (note from Christy- Most watershed protection and restoration projects focus on that level of watershed. EPA usually funds projects at the 14 digit unit level.)

Forestry practices in the county- differences in practices may be causing trouble.

Davidson River

Pigeon River

(Randy Burgess is the district Ranger for NC Division of Forest Resources)

County officials would need to see a targeted area with specific guidance on how to improve in order to catch their attention (rather than a broad, county-wide study.)

Peter Weaver Creek- NC DWQ studied it

Phase I of this project could look at 3 things:

Water quality, flood plain, affordable housing (Predict that development pressure at west/N Forks will change the landscape)

Do Phase I first, then see where the impacts from development will occur.

(Mike Thomas? I have his name written in my notes but unsure why...-CP)

What about the issue of development on steep slopes?

County subdivision ordinance has a limit of 18% road grades (20% in certain circumstances).

Strauss Community is a project proposed on steep slopes in Brevard. Some properties have > 15% abutting National Forest. Josh expects development plans in the near future on steep slopes, and the Town is currently not equipped to handle steep slopes.

Slopes- Neil Thomas has data from the Research Development Institute, which works with Warren Wilson College. (Aside- in Jan. Christy called the Warren Wilson Environmental Leadership Center's Director of Research and Community Outreach, Phillip Gibson, about participating in some capacity. He mentioned that the college has a USFWS grant to characterize impervious surface impacts on trout habitat. The project has been going on for a year, and they have collected just about every type of data for GIS available.)

There is new elevation data from state

Road Design

Brevard has a need for support and information on road design. Scoot Melrose, a developer, proposes LID type roads but gets turn down. It is innovative, but town has concerns about how it will function.

People feel that curb and gutter provides definition to sidewalks, stable road, separation between cars and pedestrians, ditches.

Other comments

There may be conflict between city and county officials- caution is advised in how issues are approached.

Rathie property- how can city buy it? The tanner is upstream- contaminated (Brownfields?). This is owned by Charles Taylor.

GIS Phase I of the EPA project

Jon will overlay the watersheds onto the county

- he has base info. Hydro, aerial, digital elevation, flood plain, 30 yr average rainfall data
- Software- thinks he has what he needs
- Currently identifying hazardous waste sites in flood plain for NC DENR

Next steps: Determine the details of GIS analysis. First delineate all Transylvania watersheds. Set up a meeting with Patrick, Christy, Jon and Stacy Nelson (NCSU Dept. Forestry and Environmental Resources) to discuss GIS analysis. Report to TNRC after discussion?