



Troublesome Creeks News

Newsletter of the Troublesome Creek and Little Troublesome Creek Watershed Planning Initiative

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**Watershed Education
for Communities
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Greetings,

The Troublesome Creek and Little Troublesome Creek Watershed Planning Initiative held its first Stakeholder meeting on February 12, 2002 at the Rockingham County Agricultural Center. The stakeholder group was convened by WECO, Watershed Education for Communities and Local Officials, at the request of the NC Wetland Restoration Program – WRP. WRP has chosen these 2 watersheds to identify and implement solutions for habitat, flooding, and water quality problems.

We believe that through a collaboration of local stakeholders, natural resource professionals, and unbiased facilitators, a watershed plan can be developed that best serves the specific health needs of the Troublesome Creek and Little Troublesome Creek watersheds.

We will do our best to cover all aspects relating to the stakeholder mission in this newsletter and welcome suggestions. The previous month's meeting will comprise the bulk of each Troublesome Creek News, which will take the place of meeting minutes. Specific meeting minutes are also available. Please consider this your newsletter and as such, let us know what you would like to see in its pages.

At our last meeting the group decided to meet the 4th Tuesday of each month from 2-4 pm at the Rockingham County Agricultural Center. If any stakeholders have suggestions for a better meeting location within the watershed, please let us know. See you at our next meeting!

Best Regards,
Patrick Beggs

Watershed Education for Communities and Local Officials - WECO

OUR NEXT MEETING:

March 26, 2002, 2-4 pm (4th Tuesday of the month)
Rockingham County Agricultural Center

Agenda:

- Basic Hydrology – Janet McFall, Elon University
- Watershed Data Update
- Stakeholder Charter
- Identify Problems in the Watersheds

NC Wetland Restoration Program – NCWRP

Hal Bryson, a Watershed Planner with NCWRP, was present at our first stakeholder meeting to give us a thorough overview of the NCWRP program and to explain why we are all getting together, the reason for the stakeholder process, and what we will accomplish.

NCWRP is a non-regulatory program begun by the NC General Assembly in 1996 with the mission to restore wetlands, streams and riparian buffers. An overall goal of healthier wetlands includes increased water quality, aquatic habitat and flood control.

NCWRP has 2 major program areas:

- ◆ **Planning** – identifying ‘targeted watersheds’ where restoration projects will have the greatest benefit
- ◆ **Implementation** – getting stream and wetland restoration projects “in the ground”

NCWRP Planning funds come from the NC Department of Transportation (NCDOT). The NCDOT is committed to watershed restoration in an effort to offset future highway construction impacts in an area.

The Planning phase will result in the formation of a **Local Watershed Plan (LWP)** for each of the two watersheds, Troublesome Creek and Little Troublesome Creek.

Objectives of a Local Watershed Plan include:

- ◆ the inventory and assessment of watershed conditions and water quality problems, both present and future, to help determine which areas are most at risk
- ◆ involvement of local stakeholders and resource professionals to help set priorities and identify priority areas
- ◆ identification of a full complement of solutions [ideally through **consensus**]
- ◆ Implementation strategies for improving and protecting water quality, both by way of restoration and prevention

How do Stakeholders help? Stakeholders help identify the major watershed problems and hotspots. They also help to determine where and how solutions will be implemented. These recommendations will be incorporated into the final Local Watershed Plan.

Potential Elements of a Local Watershed Plan include:

- ◆ identification of wetland restoration and stream restoration projects
- ◆ preservation of greenways, buffers & ecologically important areas
- ◆ development of public water supply protection strategies
- ◆ recommendation of specific **Best Management Practices (BMPs)** for storm water management and flooding
- ◆ education, outreach, and demonstration projects
- ◆ technical assistance and funding sources

The importance of the stakeholder team is manyfold and can not be stressed enough. Stakeholders have a history in the watershed. They have a common and strong interest in the management and development of the watershed – both in the past and future. Stakeholders have expertise and knowledge in their local area, as well as a “standing” in the community and ties to local government and landowners. Without the help of local stakeholders, we can not achieve lasting positive changes in the watersheds.

Why these watersheds?

Both Troublesome & Little Troublesome Creek Watersheds are found within the Cape Fear River Basin, at its very headwaters. Together, they comprise about 70 square miles.

They were chosen for a number of reasons:

- ◆ Streams exhibit degraded aquatic habitat, excessive sedimentation, & high presence of fecal coliform
- ◆ Opportunities exist for implementing restoration, preservation and BMPs
- ◆ Opportunities to partner with local Soil and Water Districts and active stakeholders
- ◆ Opportunities exist to cooperate with local city and county governments
- ◆ Troublesome Creek, housing Lake Reidsville, is a water supply watershed
- ◆ Both watersheds are close to future DOT impacts

What is a watershed stakeholder?

Anyone who affects water resources or is affected by water resource decisions within the watershed.

Is anyone missing from the table? If we have inadvertently left any stakeholder interests out of the group, please let us know and provide any possible contact information to us. Thanks.

Collaborative Watershed Planning

Steve Smutko, of the Natural Resources Leadership Institute (NRLI) coordinated a training session on conflict resolution. Steve brought 3 great handouts – let us know if you need these. They cover Collaborative Problem Solving and are subtitled: Collaborative Problem Solving, Searching For Agreement, and Reaching Agreement.

We are working on a time when Steve can come back to meet with us.

The Orange Auction

- ❖ **The scene:** 3 “companies” each need 7 oranges to stay afloat this month.
- ❖ **The problem:** there are only 10 oranges total.

After a lot of buying and selling, the companies realize they can not “win” the old fashioned way - by everyone else losing. They begin to work together, realize each company needs different “parts” of the orange and each end up with the “parts” of 10 oranges. All this was accomplished for less money than if they each had tried to outbid one another.

- ❖ **The Conclusion:** Communication, sharing of information, is the key to success.

A **WIN-WIN-WIN** situation resulted, instead of a **WIN-LOSE-LOSE** situation.

Is it possible that **WIN-WIN situations exist more often**, but **we blind ourselves** to them?
How can we expand the frontier of solution possibilities?

Basic Principles of Collaborative Problem Solving

Purpose-driven	Why are you here?
Inclusive	Get EVERYONE at the table, not just a few special folks
Educational	Be informed so you can make decisions
Voluntary	You must want to be here
Self-designed	Everyone gets a say in the outcome and how it is achieved
Flexible	We change as we need to
Egalitarian	Everyone has equal access and opportunity
Respectful	Be nice, go out of your way to learn about the reasons of others
Accountable	Be your best, so you can be proud of what you accomplish
Time limited	...or we will talk about it, forever
Achievable	Can this be implemented?

Consensus - Consensus allows collaborative problem solving to work.

It does not mean everyone will wholeheartedly agree on every decision, but that they accept the decisions, albeit sometimes with reservations.

Principles of Consensus

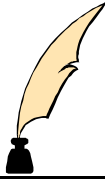
Everyone

- must **actively participate**
- must feel **free to state his/her views**
- must feel **free to disagree**
- must have a **common base of information**, (WECO & WRP will endeavor to meet this need)

Disagreements should be respected – they may uncover the answers the group is seeking. A group goal should be to discover what has caused the disagreement and help to meet that need.

Some misconceptions about consensus:

- I will give up authority
- I will be pressured to betray my constituents
- I will have to help my enemies
- I will be forced to abandon my principles



Our Charter The Troublesome Creek and Little Troublesome Creek Watershed Planning Initiative

Patrick Beggs, of WECO, briefly explained what is meant by, a charter and why we need one. The charter helps Stakeholders define why they are meeting and gives a framework within which they can meet. The charter helps to identify the group and can be used to keep us on track. Some sections of the charter simply state facts, such as the purpose of the watershed planning process and the roles of the facilitators and technical advisors. Other portions of the charter are to be decided upon by the stakeholders. A draft charter was handed out at our February meeting – please come prepared to discuss it at our March 26th meeting.

February 12, 2002 meeting roster:

Stakeholders present:

John Andrews, NRCS-Guilford Co.
Annette Bradsher, Flintrock Farm
Ginger Bush, Rockingham Co. Watershed Preservation
Gerald Lynn Featherston, Haw River Assembly
Dick Frohock, Serenity Farm
Johnsie Hayes, Rockingham Co. SWCD
Wally Horton, Rockingham Co. Planning Dept
Jeff Johnston, Dan River Basin Assn
Carolyn Joyner, Town of Stokesdale
Millie Langley, Guilford County SWCD
Lewis Lester, Summerfield, NC
Palmer McIntyre, Piedmont Land Conservancy
Michael Pearce, Reidsville Planning Dept

Support Staff and guests present:

Patrick Beggs, WECO
Shari Bryant, NCWRC
Hal Bryson, NCWRP
Ben Chase, NCCES
Jason Doll, Tetra Tech, Inc.
Jason Jolley, WECO
Janet MacFall, Elon University
Kevin Moore, Rockingham Co. SWCD
Danielle Pender, NCWRC
Christy Perrin, WECO
Scott Shoulars, NCCES
Steve Smutko, NRLI
Jim Stanfill, NCWRP
John Timmons, NRCS
Tom Yokum, NCDWQ

Jason Doll of Tetra Tech, Inc. was present at our February meeting. Tetra Tech, Inc. is an international consulting and resource management firm that works in the environmental restoration field to ensure clean water supply, productive reuse of economic assets, and sustainable development of natural resources. NCWRP has contracted with TetraTech to work in the Troublesome Creek and Little Troublesome Creek Watersheds. **Jason** presented us with a thorough plan and has asked for cooperation from local agencies to gather as much information on the watersheds as possible. **We look forward to working with Jason and TetraTech, Inc..**

The preliminary findings indicate the local resource agencies have apparently been working hard in the Troublesome Creek watershed. Over 80% of the agricultural lands are under conservation plans for erosion control. The primary threat to water quality is likely to be the conversion of rural and agricultural land to urban and suburban uses.



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