



Special points of interest:

- what is fecal coliform?
- interests vs positions

Issue 4

June 2002

A YES/NO vote is not always the way to go

5 finger scale of consensus

- 1 I love it
- 2 Basically, I like it
- 3 I can live with it
- 4 Stand Aside, but allow it
- 5 I won't support it



May 28, 2002 meeting roster

Primary Team Members Present:

Wally Horton, Rockingham Co. Planning Dept.
 Carolyn Joyner, Town of Stokesdale
 Jeffrey Johnston, Dan River Basin Association
 Dick Frohock, landowner
 Carol Patrick, Piedmont Triad COG
 Michael Pearce, City of Reidsville

Technical Staff and Guests Present:

Shari Bryant, NCWRC
 Kevin Moore, SWCD, Rockingham Co
 John Thomas, USACE
 John Timmons, NRCS, Rockingham Co
 Tom Yokum, NCDWQ

OUR NEXT MEETING:

TUESDAY, JUNE 25 - 2-4 pm
 Rockingham County Agricultural Center
 (4th Tuesday of the month)

Tetra Tech will be presenting preliminary findings
 from their watershed assessment

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Fecal Coliform Bacteria

At our June meeting **Carol Patrick of the Piedmont Triad Council of Government** gave a presentation on Fecal Coliform Bacteria and what is going on in the Troublesome Creeks watersheds that relates to it. The following is based on Carol's presentation.

What is Fecal Coliform?

Bacteria that are naturally present in large numbers in the intestinal tracts (and therefore feces) of humans and other warm-blooded animals.

Sources of Fecal Coliform:

Water treatment plants, leaking sewer lines, failing septic tanks & animals, including wildlife, household pets and agricultural animals.

Fecal coliform is one of three indicators used to determine the presence of waste in a water body. It is not usually pathogenic, but indicative of the likely presence of other pathogenic organisms. Two other bacterial indicators are Escherichia (E. coli) and Enterococci. Fecal coliform is the one North Carolina uses as a legal standard. This is currently under review and the standard may be changed to one of the other two.

What is a 303(d) listed stream?

This refers to the federal Clean Water Act which requires each state to set guidelines that list polluted waters – the 303(d) list. If a stream does not meet its designated uses, it may appear on the 303(d) list and action must be taken to clean it.

What are designated uses of state waters:

- a) Drinking water supply
- b) Primary recreation – swimming – class B
- c) Secondary recreation – boating, fishing – class C
- d) Supporting aquatic life

What is the limit of fecal coliform in NC?

Fecal coliform levels must fall below 200 col/100ml.

An example of a 303(d) listed stream:

Little Troublesome Creek is a Class C stream which means it should support secondary recreation (boating, fishing). It exceeds the levels of fecal coliform so it is unsafe for this designated use. The stream also does not support aquatic life. It is impaired due to sediment.

What is being done to clean these streams?

For some streams, Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL's) are being developed to determine what is the limit of pollutants that a stream can handle and maintain proper water quality standards. It is basically a pollution budget for a stream.

How is a TMDL developed?

Initially, the significant sources of pollution must be identified. A computer model must be developed that can help to determine conditions that allow the stream to reach its water quality goals. Then, allowable pollutant loads can be allocated.

Finding Sources of Fecal Coliform

This can be very difficult. Some sources are not always present, and wet and dry spells can determine whether they are present or will be detected. Sometimes it takes walking the stream and taking samples to determine exactly where the source is. DNA testing of the Fecal coliform can be done to determine the species responsible – but this is very expensive.

(See Coliform on page 4)

Principled Negotiation

Steve Smutko of NCSU's Natural Resource Leadership Institute was back with us in June. Steve presented us with some negotiating skills that can be used here in our Watershed Planning Efforts and also in the many different things we do each day when dealing with others.

The Purpose of Negotiation: The purpose of negotiation is not always to reach agreement. Agreement is only one means to an end, and that end is **to satisfy your interests**. The purpose of negotiation is to explore whether you can satisfy your interests better through agreement than you could by pursuing your **Best Alternative To a Negotiated Agreement**. (BATNA)

Interests vs Positions

One of the most important steps to resolving community issues is to focus on interests, not positions.

Positions

A particular stance taken by a party, or a preferred solution to a problem.

i.e.- "We must have riparian buffers!" or
"We oppose riparian buffers!"

Problems with Positions

- a predetermined way to solve the problem
- it limits your understanding of other people
- it limits the creative options



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Interests

A motivation underlying the preferred solution
(a need, desire, concern, constraint)

The reasons behind a position

Why something is important

Focusing on Interests

- Gets to the heart of the issue
- Moves people away from positions
- Promotes mutual understanding
- Allows cooperation

(continued on page 4)



N.C. Wetlands Restoration Program
NC DENR DWQ

(Coliform – from page 2)

303(d) Success Stories:

The **Cape Fear Headwaters Group** has been successful in defining the problem in **East Fork of the Deep River** which drains Greensboro and High Point. The State has now agreed to remove the stream from “the list.” The problem was determined to be a wastewater pumping station in Greensboro that has been fixed.

The Cape Fear Headwaters Group is an example of a collaborative team. It includes:

- The Piedmont Triad Council of Governments
- City of Greensboro
- City of High Point
- NC A & T
- UNC-Greensboro

The project was funded by the Cape Fear River Assembly and a 205(j) grant from the State of NC.

The Cape Fear Headwaters Group is also working in North Buffalo Creek in Greensboro.

Future Success Story:

The Piedmont Triad Council of Governments, in conjunction with the City of Reidsville has applied for a 319 grant to address Fecal coliform problems in Little Troublesome Creek. The TMDL draft report calls for 40% reduction in Fecal coliform.

Principled Negotiations

(continued from page 3)

Some Key Points to Remember:

Separate the people from the problem

- did you bring perceptions, emotions?
- strive to communicate
- prevention of problems is best

Focus on interests not positions

- Identify interests
- Talk about interests
- Build a golden bridge

Generate options for mutual gain

- Avoid obstacles
- Invent options, don't decide on them yet
- Broaden your options
- Look for mutual gain

Use objective criteria to evaluate options

- Reason with one another
- Think: fair standards & fair procedures
- Criteria must be independent of will
- Make it a joint search for objective criteria

Re-Framing An Issue

looking at it from a different perspective
or a different point-of-view

- directs people's attention away from relative merits of each position
- enables diverse interests to join in the solution
- creates a common definition of the issue that is
- acceptable to everyone
- encourages a joint search for a workable solution

Framing An Issue

From:

“Should governments mandate riparian buffer regulations?”

To:

“How can we protect water quality and wildlife habitat, while at the same time protecting property rights and encouraging economic development?”



Yes, I
love it!

