



OUR NEXT MEETING:

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23 2-4 PM
ROCKINGHAM COUNTY AGRICULTURAL CENTER

Issue 12

August 2003

Greetings,

At our July 29 meeting, Jason Doll of Tetra Tech presented the final targeting priorities for both watersheds. Our next meeting is September 23, 2003. At that time we will be finalizing recommendations to be put in the Local Watershed Plan. I hope to see you there. As always, please let us know if you have any questions. Thank you.

Regards,
Patrick Beggs

WECO - Watershed Education for
Communities and Local Officials

July 29, 2003 meeting roster
Team members and guests present:

Patrick Beggs, WECO
Hal Bryson, WRP
Ben Chase, NC Cooperative Extension
Jason Doll, Tetra Tech
Gerald Featherstone, Haw River Assembly
Dick Frohock, Serenity Farm
Carolyn Joyner, Town of Stokesdale
Janet MacFall, Elon University
Brain McRae, NC Wildlife Resources Commission
Kevin Moore, Soil and Water, Rockingham County
Carol Patrick, PTCOG
Michael Pearce, City of Reidsville
Christy Perrin, WECO
Donna Setliff, City of Reidsville
David Wanucha, NC DWQ
Tom Yokum, NC DWQ
Donna Zinkan, landowner



LEON DANIELSON
CHRISTY PERRIN
PATRICK BEGGS
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Jason Doll of Tetra Tech presented "Final Local Watershed Plan Targeting Priorities: Targeting Restoration, Preservation and Protection" This powerpoint presentation (in pdf format) is available on the WECO website at: http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/WECO/troublesome/Tsome_current.html It includes many maps of the watershed and is therefore the best way to review his presentation. Below I have tried to summarize Jason's comments from the presentation.

We have been working on a 3 pronged approach to projects in the watershed: Restoration, Preservation, and Protection. Using this approach we have looked at:

- Potential for Existing Degradation
- Potential for Future Degradation
- Potential for Preservation

Indicators of Existing Degradation

- Stream Stability
- Riparian Buffer Condition
- Bank Erosion Hazard Index
- Imperviousness
- Upland Sediment Delivery Potential
- Floodplain Encroachment
- Water Quality Criteria Exceedances

Indicators of Preservation Potential

- Forest Cover within Riparian Corridor
- Forest Cover across Subwatershed
- Age of Forest within Riparian Corridor
- NWI Wetlands within Riparian Corridor
- Natural Heritage Inventory Sites
- Lands targeted by Piedmont Land Cons.
- Sites of Cultural or Historical Significance

Indicators of Risk of Future Degradation

- Stream Stability
- Bank Erosion Hazard Index
- Imperviousness

Based on the scores that each subwatershed received, it was placed into a specific Tier or level of prioritization. Remaining project efforts will be focused on Tier One subwatersheds. It is recommended that as time progresses, effort be put into Tier 2 subwatersheds, and so on.

Maps of targeted potential preservation areas were shown to the group. WRP has no regulatory authority so these potential preservation areas are only identified as places where landowners will be informed about the possibilities for participating in land preservation projects. The boundaries on these maps are tax parcels boundaries. 300 feet was chosen as a stream buffer due to WRP guidelines which include wildlife corridor functioning.

Preservation areas received higher prioritization due to larger riparian corridors within the parcel, least number of land owners, older forest age, and the presence of forest and wetlands. Perennial streams are targeted, but WRP can look into protecting adjacent intermittent streams if there is landowner interest.

Eutrophication of Lake Hunt and Lake Reidsville has not been a problem. Enough trapping potential of nutrients exist due to agricultural BMP's and stormwater ponds. It will not likely be a problem as long as there is a minimal removal of nutrients in the future, although if development is put in without stormwater controls, the nutrient trapping potential is lost. It is important to maintain wetlands, agricultural BMP's and riparian buffers. There is restricted development within 1/2 mile of the reservoir and it is being enforced.

Stormwater Best Management Practices:

Amount of water that is needed to be held back from first rainfall depends on the area of the subwatershed and its hydrograph. Stormwater BMP's are not allowed in perennial streams. Maintenance is required of most BMP's. Wetland maintenance includes removing sediment and invasive or overgrown species.

Bioretention areas, or rain gardens are used to treat smaller watersheds than constructed wetlands. Local rules need to be flexible enough to allow developers this avenue of stormwater management. Courtland Park in Downtown Reidsville was mentioned as a possible site for stream restoration. But, that park serves the public very well right now as a recreation site, with playgrounds and picnic areas. Stream restoration would remove much of the park from its current use. A comment was made that the park would not be destroyed, simply changed. Another comment: there needs to be a balance between quality and life and the local environment. It was agreed the public would need to be involved in the decision.