

Upper Rocky River/Clarke Creek Local Watershed Planning Group

Public Meeting to
be held
November 12
at the Cabarrus
Cooperative
Extension Center
7:00-8:30 p.m.

Location: Cabarrus
County Extension Service
Center, 715 Cabarrus Ave
West, Concord

Meeting Objectives

To inform citizens about the
watershed planning project

To gather additional feedback
about issues and priorities in
the watershed.

*The next watershed group
meeting will be held on
Tuesday, January 27, 2004
at the Cabbarus County
Extension Ctr. More details
to be provided.*

This summary includes:

- The group's ideas about which functions should the watershed provide
- Preliminary top 20 subwatersheds, Jay Lawson

What functions should this watershed provide?

The group participated in an exercise to determine important watershed functions/services at the September 25 meeting. MACTEC will be measuring the watershed's ability to support desired functions. So far they have grouped watershed functions in three categories: hydrology, water quality, and habitat. This exercise was intended to learn if there were other types of functions that need to be measured as well.

The answers to this question follow. MACTEC staff will consider these functions and other issues mentioned and will respond to the group about if and how they can incorporate these issues into their watershed assessment. If they are not incorporated into the technical assessment, they still may be incorporated into the watershed planning process somehow as decisions are made. We have grouped the responses into categories.

Water quality- supporting current uses and improving impaired waters

- Impaired waters improved
- Support current stream uses
- Maintenance of current water quality classifications from NCDWQ
- Provide riparian buffers for wildlife habitat and water quality
- Drinking water supply

Wildlife habitat

- Provide open space for wildlife habitat
- Provide riparian buffers for wildlife habitat and water quality
- Maintain suitable environment for current flora and fauna
- High quality habitat for endangered species
- Contiguous habitat space
- Control of invasive species

Wastewater treatment

- Support in-stream wildlife downstream from wastewater treatment plants (measure chlorine, etc. and limit it)
- Ability to handle wastewater disposal (from treatment plants)
- Water reclamation opportunities

Recreation

- Recreational uses such as greenways

Education

- Educational opportunities (outdoor classrooms)
- Educational opportunities about low impact development for landowners

What functions should this watershed provide, cont.

Supply Drinking Water

Support for human needs

- Provide purity of water as it did historically
- Balance between human and nature/wildlife needs (integration and not entropy)
- Ability to build densely and/or innovatively where appropriate (such as near light rail nodes) and to provide open space where appropriate
- Connectivity of development
- Pleasing aesthetics

Stormwater conveyance and containment

- Stormwater conveyance
- Contain the 25 year storm event without a loss of capital (buildings, infrastructure)

Preservation of historical uses (cultural/agricultural)

- Farmland preservation (in Rowan County)
- Historical preservation

Discussion points:

The group discussed how to involve somebody in the watershed planning who represents historical preservation interests. Cabarrus County has a Natural Heritage Advisory Committee. Dennis will contact the committee to inform them of the public meeting.

Prioritizing Subwatersheds for Further Study Jay Lawson, MACTEC

Jay presented the general prioritization criteria that were used to target particular subwatersheds for potential further study. His entire presentation, including maps showing the subwatershed shaded according to score, is on the WECO website at: www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/agecon/WECO/rockriv.html

Basically Jay presented three categories of priority-high, medium, and low. The criteria used to rate the subwatersheds included:

- % impervious cover
- Riparian corridor land use

- Floodplain encroachment
- Potential wetland loss
- Natural Heritage Program Occurrences
- % National Wetlands Inventory wetlands
- % Hydric soils
- Major/minor NPDES dischargers
- Stakeholder input
- Anticipated development

Based on the presence of these factors, subwatersheds were provided with numerical scores. Higher scores are indicative of “high impact” watersheds, which are typically found in higher density areas. Scores were grouped together, then the top 50% subwatershed of each scoring group were chosen to provide a ranking of subwatersheds from high to low priority (the lowest 50% of the least impacted subwatershed were chosen). Higher impacted subwatersheds were shaded darker on the maps.

Subwatersheds for targeting are divided into groups that are representative of the entire area. The three groups of subwatersheds include those with low, moderate, and high potential impacts to watershed health.

As a result, 20 subwatersheds were selected as a representative cross-section of the entire watershed area. This is a preliminary selection, and can be adjusted based on stakeholder feedback.

Question: Is it best to target areas clustered together to show more results and to provide the desired continuity (as was indicated a priority by the group)? Or should we focus on various areas to be fair to stakeholders?

MACTEC needs to know where to apply their methods when they go out into the fields. They will do hydrologic modeling of particular areas, for example, and then will apply it to the entire watershed. The subwatersheds may even be re-ranked based on the results.

Comment: We don't want to create projects downstream of some land uses that may potential destroy the project.

Q: Who made the decisions to use the criteria that were used to prioritize the subwatersheds?

MACTEC made the decisions based on the quality of the data that was available. They are open to feedback

Q: Can you provide a copy of the methodology you used for targeting subwatersheds- how criteria were determined?

Yes

Public Meeting Discussion

A public meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 12 at the Cabarrus County Extension Center in Concord from 7:00-8:30.

The objectives of the public meeting are to inform citizens about the watershed planning project and to gather additional feedback about issues and priorities in the watershed.

The proposed agenda:

7:00-7:45

- What is a watershed? What is watershed planning? (Christy Perrin)
- NCWRP's purpose for local watershed planning (Hal Bryson)
- What are problems we may see and what do those problems look like? (Darren Peine)
- Watershed Assessment- what is it and what basic info have we found so far? (Jay Lawson)

7:45- 8:30

- Public participation exercise- mark on maps and write on walls specific areas of concern, or general issues of concern that should be considered.

WECO staff will develop a flier for advertising the public meeting. Watershed Group members are asked to post this flier at public places throughout the watershed beginning around October 29.

Please help us get the word out to people who may have a stake in this watershed plan- particularly in the headwater areas that need to be represented in the planning process.

Please plan on attending the meeting as well. We can give group members a few minutes to speak about the watershed plan to the public if you would like.

HAPPY HALLOWEEN!!



August Meeting Participants

Larry Boahn, City of Kannapolis
Hal Bryson, NCWRP
Joni Cardin, City of Concord
Chris Challis, Kennedy Covington
Mike Ciriello, Town of Huntersville
Jim Cowden, Coop. Extension Rowan County
Scott Herman, Cabarrus Co. SWCD Board
Jay Lawson, MACTEC
Donn McGinnis, Huntersville Planning Board
Darrin Peine, Charlotte Stormwater Svcs.
Randy Plummer, City of Concord
Dennis Testerman, Cabarrus SWCD

WECO is: Christy Perrin
Patrick Beggs
Leon Danielson
Kim McClain

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www.ces.ncsu.edu/WECO

