

# Upper Rocky River/Clarke Creek Local Watershed Planning Group

**Next Meeting to  
be held  
January 27  
at the Cabarrus  
Cooperative  
Extension Center  
2:00-4:00 p.m.**

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

## Meeting Objectives

To hear update and get  
feedback on the technical  
watershed assessment

### **This summary includes:**

- Overview of presentations from public meeting
- List of considerations for watershed plan from public meeting participants

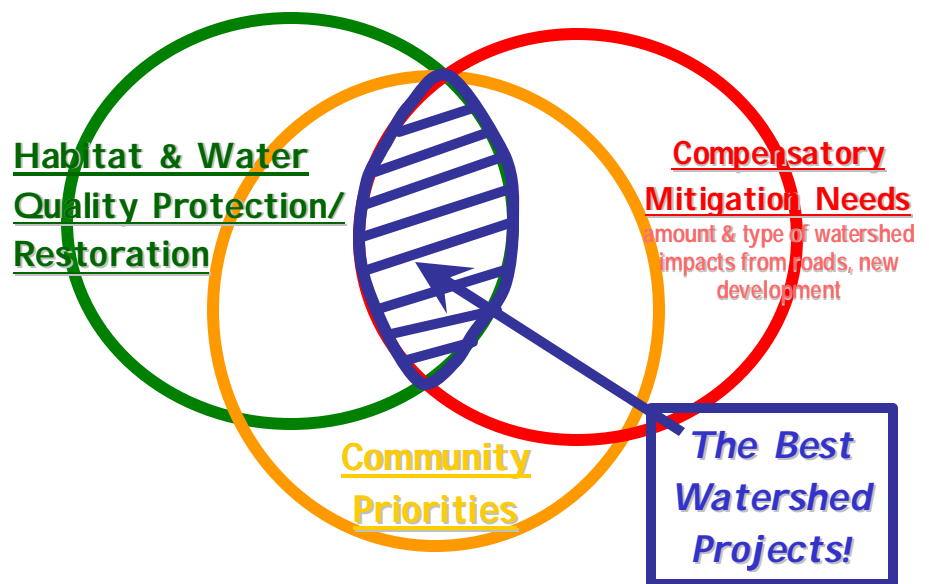
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## **Planning Group Hosts Public Meeting**

The project team hosted a public meeting on November 12 to inform the community about the watershed planning project, and to provide an opportunity for citizens to comment. Twenty people attended, including some watershed planning group members.

Christy Perrin, WECO, kicked off the meeting with a definition of a watershed. Hal Bryson, Ecosystem Enhancement Program of NCDENR, (formerly NC Wetlands Restoration Program!) then gave a brief presentation about EEP and their goals for local watershed planning. Hal presented a graphic that illustrates their ideal watershed strategy:



Darren Peine, Charlotte Stormwater Services, then provided a presentation on the Impacts of Urbanization that was provided by the Center for Watershed Protection. The presentation illustrates the impacts of impervious surface and subsequent increases of stormwater runoff on stream quality. Impacts include smothering of habitat by sediments, loss of habitat variety, and loss of stream buffer. He described the differences between streams that have varying amounts of impervious surface, and what types of restoration is recommended depending on the degree of degradation. His entire presentation, as well as the others, is online for viewing at [www.ces.ncsu.edu/WECO/rockyriv.html](http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/WECO/rockyriv.html)

Jay Lawson then presented an overview of the technical assessment that MACTEC is conducting for the watershed planning effort. He provided a

description of what the assessment will measure, and then described some of the problems they have identified so far. Some of the impacts are due to historical agricultural uses, while others are results of urbanization in the watershed. His presentation is also available on the WECO website.

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### **Public Involvement Exercise: What do we need to consider in creating this watershed plan? (what are your issues of concern)**

Meeting Participants were asked to respond to this question. They responded with the following list of concerns for the watershed team to consider. A recurring theme is the desire to coordinate efforts across local governments, and to present a common voice for the watershed.

- Protection of (Lake Howell) water supply
- Standardization of stream buffer policy between cities and counties
- Balance urbanization with intended goals of restoration (both are goals)
- Develop standard for greenways in stream areas across the country
- Use BMPs that work towards goals
- Public education about greenways
- Enforcement of policies is necessary
- Agree w/overall goals of this project
- Classifying streams (as presented by Darren) is a good approach
- Are we advocating a top down or bottom-up approach? Are we looking at the basin or its tributaries?
- Sustainability – economic **and** political (Getting 90% of what you need and sacrificing some to meet needs)
- Work on stream corridors, but look

- beyond the corridors for connections
- Work w/farmers to use BMP's and to ensure that agriculture continues to have a part
- Involve schools/kids
- Duplication of effort – county development standards and the city's EPA Stormwater Phase II requirements. Don't do what has been done- coordinate!
- Regional coordination and public education and involvement (part of EPA Phase II in Kannapolis)
- Speak with one voice
- How to sell to political bodies if there are 2 different views (state vs. local)
- Most efforts so far have been agricultural. Practical recreational aspects of these projects will increase home values, make easier to sell.
- Visible restoration projects as examples (+ greenways)
- Restoration using cane breaks. Canes keep banks in place. (USDA involved?) Cheaper technique
- Use concrete pavers on greenways – last long and allow water to soak.

**Thank you to everyone who came out to host the public meeting and/or participate! New voices were heard and new connections were made - a great success!**



