

# White Oak River Watershed Advisory Board



# February 9, 2004 MINUTES

[www.ces.ncsu.edu/WECO](http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/WECO)

For Monday, February 9, 2004 meeting

**Mark your calendars with the following dates!**

**Help us distribute flyers in the Pettiford Creek watershed to publicize our public workshop:**

**Tuesday, March 16, 2004**

**From 10:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m.**

**Meet us in Captain Ed's parking lot on Highway 58**

And remember to join us at a **Workshop for the White Oak River**

**Monday, March 29, 2004**

**6:30 p.m.- 8:30 p.m.**

**Western Park Community Center, Cape Carteret**

## **Pettiford Creek Watershed Project Update**

Dave Bidelsbach, NCSU Dept. of Biological and Agricultural Engineering (BAE), has drafted a design for the stormwater wetland proposed for Mayor Vinson's lot. He shared the draft with WORAB at the meeting. Construction is scheduled for mid-late April, with the plants scheduled for planting in May. Since a number of demonstration stormwater BMPs are being completed in the White Oak Watershed, the Dept. of BAE has decided to hold one of their *Stormwater Academy* courses in the White Oak River watershed in May. Part of the Academy will consist of visiting the Swansboro BMPs, and participants will help with planting wetland plants in the Pettiford Creek stormwater wetland. The Stormwater Academy courses are targeted towards professionals who are interested in learning about stormwater BMPs- engineers, land surveyors, state and local government employees, landscape architects, private consultants, non-profits, and planners. We hope to have a date for this course decided before our public workshop, so we can advertise it at the workshop.

Other volunteers may participate in the wetland planting if they are interested as well.

*Additional potential projects in Pettiford Creek:*

Participants discussed some other projects that could be considered in Pettiford Creek if there are funds available after the stormwater wetland is completed. These include:

- Potential place for BMP adjacent to fiberglass shop on the corner before the bridge over Pettiford Creek, heading south on Hwy 58. Also, trees were cut in the utility easement, up to the creek edge. Potential to replant or ask electric Co-op to replant (area is near the fiberglass shop)?
- The Town of Peletier is considering putting a community park where the boat launch is located. Potential for BMPs to control runoff there.
- Southern States is closing. Potential opportunity to do something about the pond that is full of ducks there? Could be significant fecal coliform source.

The project team will check these sites out and discuss them with the WORAB at their next meeting.

## March 29 Public Workshop Planning

The draft agenda for the Public workshop is:

### **6:30-7:00**

Music from a local band (we're still working on this one-**Please call or email Christy if you know anyone who would play for free publicity**) and refreshments available

Participants will fill out page 1 of surveys to test their knowledge of water quality and how their actions impact water quality

Participants can visit a few stations for information- including a watershed model and displays from a local nursery of raingarden plants

### **7:00- 7:20**

Presentation on Pettiford Creek project and research results (Christy Perrin)

### **7:20-7:40**

Ways to protect Pettiford Creek and the White Oak River – overview of potential policies, projects, and individual actions (?Christy and/or Patrick, Diana Rashash)

### **7:40- 8:10**

How to make your own backyard raingarden (Bill Hunt, with help from Scott from Cedar Point Nursery and Jimmy from Yardworks)

### **8:10-8:20**

Participant questions/comments

### **8:20-8:30**

Participants fill out page 2 of their survey (what did you learn? How will you use this info?)

### **8:30**

Hand in surveys and Adjourn!

### **Food for the workshop:**

Since we are not allowed to spend our budget on food, volunteers are needed to provide some snacks and drinks for the meeting. Please let Christy know if you are able to bring food or drinks. So far, Christy, Patrick, and Jane have offered to bring snacks. Christy and Patrick will bring napkins and cups.

### **Publicity for the Workshop:**

When we held our kick-off workshop, we distributed fliers in the watershed and subsequently enjoyed a large turnout. Since this worked so well, we will distribute fliers in neighborhoods on **Tuesday, March 16, at 10:30 a.m. Meet at Captain Ed's on Hwy 58.** The more volunteers we get for this activity, the

quicker it will go!

We will also issue a press release to the Tideland News.

### **Additional assistance requested with the workshop:**

It would be very helpful if WORAB members could show up around 6:00 p.m. on March 29 to help set up the snacks, the room, and also to see if we need any extra hands during the meeting.

Please email or call Christy if you can help with any of the above requests!

[Christy\\_perrin@ncsu.edu](mailto:Christy_perrin@ncsu.edu) or 919-515-4542.



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### **Update on Proposed US Army Corps of Engineers Study: Counties decide not to sponsor the study**

If you will recall, after WORAB's push to Congress last year to get a US Army Corps of Engineers Reconnaissance study funded (it has been approved by Congress but not funded), the USACOE responded that it could move forward only when they received a letter from an incorporated entity indicating a commitment to sponsorship throughout the study. The 1-year \$100,000 Reconnaissance Study is funded completely by the Federal government, and sponsorship implies a potential financial and/or cost-matching commitment if all parties agree upon a study plan and cost-matching plan for the next phase of the study.

Last summer several WORAB members approached Onslow County to ask the County to serve as the local sponsor for the proposed study. The County hosted a public meeting on August 25 to hear from the US Army Corps of Engineers about next steps, and invited Carteret and Jones County officials, and the Town of Swansboro to attend. The county managers of all three

counties agreed to meet and work on a letter of intent to the USACOE to sponsor the Reconnaissance Study. The Eastern Carolina Council of Governments has offered to coordinate the study.

At a public meeting in August 2003, Onslow, Jones, and Carteret Counties agreed to draft a joint letter of sponsorship of the study. Christy spoke with Lori Brill, of Onslow County, in February 2004 to get an update of the progress of this study.

According to Lori, a meeting was held to determine the content of the letter. Carteret County was not represented at the meeting. The remaining commissioners decided not to move forward with the sponsorship letter. The consensus was that the counties want some involvement at other levels so as not to bear the full burden of any dredging costs that may be necessary. At least one of the local decision-makers present cited that many other studies have been done and no action has ever been taken.

At this point, no local organizations have agreed to sponsor the USACOE study. The study will not be moved forward unless this occurs.

### **276 Acres of Shellfish Waters in White Oak River Classified to Permanently Closed**

In January the Division of Shellfish Sanitation, NCDENR, changed the classification of 276 acres of shellfish waters from conditionally opened, to permanently closed. Conditionally opened refers to waters which usually close due to runoff pollution from rainfall. Permanently closed refers to waters which would usually open only during a drought.

This brings the total acreage of permanently closed waters in the river to 3,576, or 42% of monitored waters in the river. About 44 acres of the closed area are on the north side of N.C. 24 bridges in Swansboro. Another 15 acres is on the south side of Boathouse Creek, downstream from the Croatan National Forest campground at Cedar Point. Finally, 217 acres are closed upstream in the Peletier area of the river.  
(Source: *The Daily News*, Jan. 31, 2004)