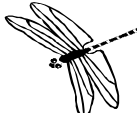


White Oak River Watershed Advisory Board



March 11, 2002 MINUTES

www.ces.ncsu.edu/WECO

For Monday, March 11, 2002 meeting

PLEASE NOTE: THE WORAB WILL NOT MEET IN APRIL!

**The next WORAB meeting is scheduled for
Monday, May 13, 2002
7:00 p.m.- 9:00 p.m.**

Agenda:

- ◆ Discussion Regarding Stream Maintenance Plan and Problems in Upper White Oak River Area (develop a panel of experts?)
- ◆ History of the White Oak River Watershed Advisory Board.
- ◆ Plan a booth for Hammock's Beach Canoe and Kayak festival

Attendance:

WORAB members/alternates:

Al Fox Connie Asero
Bill Norris Thurman Upchurch
Danny Crisman Jane Hoveland

Guests:

Bob Fox Sam King

Technical/support staff:

Christy Perrin, WECO
Jason Jolley, WECO
Lisa Wimpfheimer, NC CES

Update on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Study

Jason Jolley informed the group that he gave a presentation to the Onslow County Board of Commissioners on January 22, 2002. The Board did not take any action at that time and recommended a public meeting with Jones County. On Monday, February 25, Jason gave a presentation to the Onslow and Jones County Boards of Commissioners at a joint public meeting. Approximately 50 members of the public were in attendance. Community members and elected officials expressed their concerns over inaction related to past studies and problems associated with beavers and storm debris in the upper sections of the White Oak River. The Boards unanimously approved supporting the study and drafting letters to Congressman Jones and the USACE-Wilmington District purveying their support. They also asked that the USACE give them feedback on previous studies conducted on the White Oak River.

Jason also gave the same presentation to the Carteret County Board of Commissioners, but the Board did not take any action.

Jason also informed the group that he had spoken with the Army Corps of Engineers regarding the environmental component of their Continuing Authorities Funding and this could be a possible option should the Reconnaissance Study not be funding

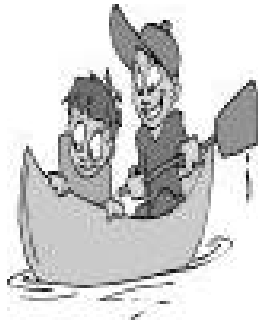
Discussion:

Someone suggested sending minutes to County Commissioners. Another member suggested asking the Division of Water Quality to write a letter of support to the Army Corps of Engineers regarding study. Other commented that it is likely that the Division of Water Quality just wants to be informed because they may be concerned about dredging.

ACTION ITEM: Connie Asero will draft letters from WORAB to the local state representatives and to Senators Helms and Edwards. WECO will work with Connie and Jane to send the letters out.

Hammocks Beach Canoe and Kayak Festival

A festival is tentatively planned for Saturday, July 20 at the state park. Non-profit groups are allowed to have interactive booths, so WORAB should consider participating. More information will be provided as the festival plans become more concrete.



Presentation to the Town of Swansboro

Christy Perrin gave WORAB a preview of the powerpoint presentation she plans to give to the Town of Swansboro at their workshop in Wednesday, March 13 regarding proposed urban stormwater best management practices (BMPs) sites for the Town of Swansboro. Five original sites were considered.

Site	BMP Proposed
Town Hall	Raingarden (bioretention area)
Municipal Park	Pervious Pavement
Ward Shore park	Raingarden
Stormwater Pond at River Reach West	Retro-fit for Better Function
Vacant Lot near Century 21	Pervious Pavement and Raingarden

After further exploration, a team of professionals recommended three sites. Feasibility of the sites for BMPs, educational opportunity, water quality benefit, and cost effectiveness were major factors in the selection of these three sites.

1. Town Hall for a raingarden.
2. Ward Shore for a raingarden.
3. Vacant lot near Century 21 for a mix of pervious pavement and traditional pavement.

Town Hall and Ward Shore are suggested for raingardens since they would be relatively inexpensive to create, and would provide a large educational benefit due to their public locations.

The team had concern about fill material found at the vacant lot site, and felt that if the site was not treated somehow then they were not improving water quality in the White Oak. A suggestion is to place traditional pavement on the upper portion where questionable fill material is present and direct stormwater to pervious pavement on the lower portions of the site.

The municipal park was not chosen because the high water table there would not allow for pervious pavement and the forest nearby may already provide water quality benefits. The River Reach stormwater pond was not chosen because of questions about the amount of land for a retro-fit, and the location was not well suited for education.

Update since the March meeting:

On March 13 Christy spoke to the Town of Swansboro Commissioners at their workshop meeting and asked them to pass a resolution to allow the use of property for constructing BMPs.

The Town passed the resolution at their March 19 public meeting, with the stipulation that the Town be involved with the design stage, and that any plantings at Ward Shore should be low-growing as to not impede the view of the inlet.

Next steps: A request for proposals will be sent out to hire a firm to design the BMPs. The Town of Swansboro and WORAB will review the site designs. Another RFP must be sent to hire someone to build the BMPs and construct educational signs. The WORAB will then help plan a public “ribbon-cutting” ceremony to introduce the BMPs to the public.

Recommendation for New WORAB member

Connie Asero noted the importance of having representation from the upper White Oak River area on our board. She suggested we contact Michael Banks and ask him to join WORAB,

ACTION ITEM: Connie will ask Mike to join the WORAB and WECO will follow up with him.

Update on Mike Banks joining WOARB

Connie spoke with Mike and he decided to join the WORAB.

Miscellaneous Discussions Regarding Storm Debris and Beaver Problems

Several members expressed concern about storm debris and beaver problems in the upper portions of the White Oak River. These concerns were also stated by citizens at the public meeting concerning the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers study of the White Oak River.

Bill Norris informed the group that Onslow County was using money for stream and storm debris clean-up at Starky's and Grant's Creeks. Members expressed concern that university scientists and wildlife federation representatives state the value of storm debris for water quality and aquatic habitat, but they may not realize the problems and magnitude of storm debris on the White Oak River. The County does not have the manpower or money to manage the entire river, but citizens are working to keep areas maintained that have previously been cleaned up.

It was suggested that stream maintenance is valuable to eco-tourism, especially if the Salt Water Adventure Trail develops and an economic benefit regarding the importance of stream maintenance can be demonstrated. It was suggested that WORAB seek a grant for a stream maintenance study.

A member expressed the need to address the concerns of citizens on the North end of the White Oak, so they will support our initiatives on the lower portions of the White Oak.

Some concern was expressed that changes in the delta of the White Oak River were never quantified and degradation of water quality was also not quantified. A desire for comprehensive data sampling and trend lines was expressed. It was noted by other members that we are measuring fecal coliform and nutrients in an effort to determine shellfish closure problems and data exists demonstrating that shellfish closure problems are worse today than they were 5 years ago.

Question: Was this group formed to address shellfish closures? What was the purpose of this group originally?

A: Lisa: Shellfish closures and the widening of the bridge were initial catalysts for the group. However, the focus depends on the interest to the board and membership changes have occurred over time.

DECISION AND ACTION ITEMS:

- **Connie will ask Michael Banks to join WORAB**
- **Connie will draft letters to elected officials concerning USACE study of the White Oak River.**
- **There will be no meeting in April. The group will meet Monday, May 13.**

Next Meeting:

- ❖ **The group can further discuss stream maintenance issues and Michael Banks can assist WORAB in addressing concerns regarding the upper portion of the White Oak.**
- ❖ **WECO will work to assemble a panel of experts to address beaver and storm debris problems.**
- ❖ **Lisa will compile a history of WORAB and a presentation on that history will be given to update new members.**

For more information about the White Oak River Watershed Advisory Board, or to be removed from this mailing list, please contact Jason Jolley at 919-515-4542.