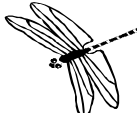


White Oak River Watershed Advisory Board



October 2001 MINUTES

www.ces.ncsu.edu/WECO

For Monday, Oct. 8, 2001 held at the Carteret County Annex

The Next WORAB meeting is on Monday November 12 from 7:00-9:00p.m. at the Carteret County Annex Building in Cedar Point.

Agenda

**Review draft letter to County Commissioners regarding funding of USACE
Plan presentation to County Commissioners
Schedule dates for watershed survey**

Attendance:

Community members:

Elmer Eddy	Steve Malay
Bob Fox	Jane Hoveland
Thurman Upchurch	Connie Asero
Sam King	Bill Norris
Bob Wolfe	Russ and Gerry Howell
Gene Heath	Randy Mason

CES and supporting agency attendees:

Christy Perrin, WECO, NCSU
Jason Jolley, WECO, NCSU
Lisa Wimpfheimer, CES Carteret
Bill Kirby-Smith, Duke Marine Lab

Volunteers for Watershed Survey:

Bob Wolfe
Steve Malay
Thurman Upchurch
Lisa Wimpfheimer
Jane Hoveland
Sam King
Bob Fox
Gene Heath

Welcome and Introductions

Christy Perrin opened the meeting and introduced Jason Jolley, the new program associate for WECO. Members and guests introduced themselves.

Review of WORAB Purpose and Membership Status

Christy Perrin, NCSU

Christy reviewed WORAB purpose for the benefit of guests and new members in attendance.

WORAB Purpose

The vision of the W.O.R.A.B. is to create a climate of local concern and empowerment to improve and maintain water quality in the watershed. This will involve managing the river and its associated land uses to provide for support of water uses, protect long-term water resource values, and sustain their contribution of economic benefit to the surrounding community.

Membership Status

Christy reminded the group that membership on the Advisory Board is subject to appointment by the Boards of County Commissioners. However, the WORAB previously agreed to maintain the "official" core group, but open the process to include individuals from Pettiford Creek watershed and Swansboro for the 319 project. Christy asked the group to discuss three questions:

1. Does the group need a name?
2. Does the group need a new WORAB chair?
3. Who are the decision-makers beyond the 319 project?

DECISION: The committee decided that some formality is more advantageous when the committee takes positions on issues. It was recommended that committee members and WECO present an updated list of members to the County Commissioners and provide an update on project status.

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DECISION: The committee also recommended that the Izaak Walton League be added to the committee and Bob Wolfe serve as representative. They also recommended that Connie Asero serve as a representative for recreation and tourism.

Christy will also contact Paul and Nancy Shuta of the Hidden Bay Subdivision in an attempt to gain representation from development and real estate interests.



Update on Town of Swansboro BMPs

Christy Perrin, NCSU

Christy reviewed the revised timeline for the project. A list of potential restoration sites should be submitted to the Town of Swansboro for approval in winter 2001. Following council approval, BMPs will also be designed and reviewed.. Larry Faison, Swansboro's new town manger, recommended to Christy that we add a vacant municipal lot adjacent to the White Oak River to the potential BMP list.

Update on Pettiford Creek portion of 319 Project

Christy Perrin, NCSU

Christy reviewed the timeline for the Pettiford Creek portion of the 319 project. In Winter 2001/2002, board members will assist in surveying the community to identify activities that lead to pollution. Board members and other volunteers will work in teams of two to administer the survey. A sign-up sheet for volunteers was distributed and a training date is set for the January meeting. Steve Malay offered to poll the Izaak Walton League and Connie Asero offered to poll the Kayak club for volunteers. Volunteers will be required to attend the training meeting, which is tentatively scheduled for the January 7, 2002 meeting.

DECISION: The group agreed to schedule the watershed survey for Saturday, January 26, 2002.

Pettiford Creek Stormwater Monitoring Locations

1. Star Hill-where golf course drainage flows under road near a vacant lot (drains golf course and residential)
2. Small tributary that runs under Hwy 58, just north of Hwy 24 near Parkerton Inn. Drains hwy runoff, marina, and residential areas.
3. Small tributary in the Croatan Forest that drains forested areas.

Update on Monitoring Efforts

Bill Kirby-Smith, Duke University Marine Lab

Bill distributed a handout consisting of a map highlighting sample points and levels of fecal coliform detected at each site for sampling to date. Bill informed the group that he was engaging in "forensic ecology" by identifying where to conduct routine monitoring. He is able to take 15 samples per trip at different places. He needs data for ten replications at one site and then begins to look for patterns and settle on places to conduct further sampling.

He began sampling in more open water and moved toward the shoreline. He noted that the bridge is a good break point in hydrology between the upper and lower portions of the creek. In the tests for fecal coliform he is looking for 14 colonies in a background of 10 million. Bill referenced the handout and noted that sampling measurements ranging from the teens to 100s is of little concern for human contact but could be damaging to shellfish. Sampling with ranges of 200+ is dangerous to swimmers and sampling falling between 500 and 1000 are dangerous to humans

Bill noted that sources of fecal coliform are higher near freshwater. He also noted that he is looking for "hot spots", not just area with a high number, but areas with a high number relative to the size of the basin or body of water. He will continue looking throughout the fall season and noted that fluctuations could occur during heavy rainfall. Bill also noted that counts upstream of human habitation that were high just during low tide

would indicate wildlife being a contributor to fecal coliform contamination.

Bill informed the committee that fecal coliform is killed by sunlight and the salinity of the water. When managing ponds, shallower is better if trying to reduce fecal coliform. However, with shallow waters, you get cattails and other vegetation that may be viewed as undesirable and you cannot hold as much water in shallow retention areas.

Questions for Bill

Question: How do you prevent fecal coliform contamination from wildlife?

You limit the rate of runoff by hydrologic change or detention ponds (thereby slowing the flow).

Question: I notice increased crab deaths in my traps after a cotton field is sprayed. Are you doing pesticide or herbicide testing?

No. Pesticide and herbicide testing is expensive and cost \$100-\$1000 per data point because samples must be collected in the field and examined in an laboratory environment. Ninety percent of crab deaths are caused by temporary low levels of oxygen at the bottom of a water body.

Question: I notice ditches or "cuts" on the map in certain areas where you are sampling; are these mosquito ditches?

Yes. This was previously done for mosquito ditches and/or logging and is pretty common on the East Coast.



Update on Crystal Coast Kayak Club Activities

Connie Asero

Connie reported that the kayak club and the Izaak Walton League have endorsed the wild and scenic river designation. The club is also working to get a grant to develop the last section of the "Saltwater Adventure Trail". Information can be obtained at www.ccckc.org.

After the wild and scenic river designation effort is complete, the club will begin working on "National

Recreational Trail" designation to give the trail national recognition. The club also removed 138 bags of garbage from the river and several large appliances and tires during the "Clean Sweep" event.

US Army Corps of Engineers Study

Connie Asero

Connie reminded everyone that the sediment study has not been funded. This site should be added to the USACE capability list by March if it is to have any chance of getting funded in the next fiscal year. Mickey Scruggs at the USACE should be contacted. Connie asked who would lead this effort.

Comment: No reservations in sending another letter of encouragement regarding this issue to the boards of county commissioners.

Comment: We need an issue to see through to fruition.

DECISION: The committee elected Jane Hoveland as its chairman.

DECISION: The committee decided to have Christy draft a letter to the Boards of County Commissioners urging them to encourage US Army Corps of Engineers to study the mouth of the White Oak River. Christy will draft the letter and bring it to the Nov. 12 meeting for review. This issue will also be presented to the Boards of County Commissioners and member of the WORAB will attend for support.

Next Meeting

The committee will review a draft letter and discuss a strategy at the November meeting. It was suggested that we contact Pete Allen, county manager, before any meetings to gain his support. It was also suggested that we use a PowerPoint presentation for these meetings.

Contact Christy Perrin with questions or comments concerning the White Oak River Advisory Board Meeting Summary
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