

Stakeholder Group, Tuesday March 18, 2008

The meeting was held from 2-4 pm in the first-floor Multi-purpose Room of the Lincoln County Senior Center located on the Gaston Community College Campus in Lincolnton. (For directions, see <http://www.gaston.cc.nc.us/aboutus/maps.html#linc1>).

Agenda:

Welcome and Introductions (15 min) *Hal Bryson*
Local Watershed Planning Overview (15 min) *Mike Herrmann*
Ecosystem Enhancement Program Project Overview (15 min) *Paul Wiesner*
Division of Water Quality Existing Monitoring Data (20 min) *Steve Kroeger*
Break (10 min)
Group Charter & Operations (15 min) *Hal Bryson*
Watershed Issues Discussion (20 min) *All*
Questions/Comments/Announcements (10 min)
Adjourn

Attendees List:

Name	Organization	Email
Rick McSwain	Lincoln SWCD	rmcswain@lincolncounty.org
Dean Parker	Gaston County Natural Resources	dparker@co.gaston.nc.us
Dan McClure	Carolina Land & Lakes RC&D	dan.mcclure@nc.usda.gov
Jack Huss	Carolina Land & Lakes RC&D	jhuss@aol.com
Tom Yocum	DWQ WAT	Tom.Yocum@NCmail.net
Steve Kroeger	DWQ WAT	steve.kroeger@ncmail.net
Stratford Kay	DWQ WAT	stratford.kay@ncmail.net
Jay Frick	NC Source Water Protection	jay.frick@ncmail.net
Hal Bryson	Ecosystem Enhancement Program (EEP), Watershed Planning	hal.bryson@ncmail.net
Michael Herrmann	EEP, Watershed Planning	michael.herrmann@ncmail.net
Watson Ross	EEP, Project Manager	watson.ross@ncmail.net
Jeff Horton	EEP, Property Specialist	Jeffrey.Horton@ncmail.net
Paul Wiesner	EEP, Project Manager	Paul.Weisner@ncmail.net
Randy Williams	Lincoln County B & LD	rwilliams@lincolncounty.org
Robert Carson	Lincoln County B & LD	rcarson@lincolncounty.org
Andrew Bryant	Lincoln County B & LD	abryant@lincolncounty.org
Justin Karriker	Lincoln SWCD	jkarriker@lincolncounty.org
Patty Hall	City of Cherryville, water supply	

Minutes:

After a short round of self-introductions by all the participants Hal Bryson provided a welcome and a short overview of the agenda for the day. Hal established an informal meeting atmosphere and presented an invitation to ask questions throughout the meeting. Hal made clear from his opening remarks that the intent amongst the EEP staff was to encourage open participation amongst all of the stakeholders throughout this meeting and the entire planning process.

Mike Hermann presented informational Power Point slides outlining the entire EEP local watershed planning (LWP) process. Much of this talk focused on the three major phases of EEP LWP initiatives, including initial data gathering, detailed field assessment tasks and the analysis and identification of potential project areas. He also presented examples of strategies that could be implemented to improve the watershed health for priority areas identified within the final Plan.

Paul Wiesner, project manager from the EEP western region (Asheville office), spoke about stream and wetland restoration activities at the landowner scale. He covered everything, from acquiring interest in the land, through easements, to the managing the heavy equipment on site. Paul presented a series of EEP projects though Power Point slides that showed several examples of degraded streams through their restoration phase. His before-and-after project photos were helpful to visualize what these types of activities encompass.

Steve Kroeger from the Division of Water Quality (DWQ) Watershed Assessment Team (WAT) presented an overview of their role in helping identify streams within the planning area in need of help (restoration/enhancement). Steve spoke about various tools that they use to determine the health of the aquatic systems. In addition to physical/chemical water quality parameters, he made special note about the role benthic macroinvertebrates (e.g, aquatic insects) play in helping to define the overall health of the stream. His presentation included a summary of existing water quality data from the limited number of existing DWQ monitoring sites in the study area.

After a short break Hal asked the group of participants about creating a charter. The seed of the idea was planted but no substantive comments or discussion developed. No action was taken. This idea will be left to evolve over time with the group. Hal suggested that some local stakeholder groups come up with a specific name (e.g., Indian & Howards Creek Local Advisory Team) to help define the group's mission and attach greater weight to LWP products, including future presentations and reports.

Although time was running short, Hal began to facilitate a discussion on local watershed issues. Questions were used to help frame the issues and several ideas were developed regarding this watershed plan. Ideas brought forth from participants included:

1. Lincoln County is looking into storm water regulations for the county
2. Lincoln County just passed a buffer ordinance
3. A DENR public water supply planning effort is being considered and it was noted that there may be areas of overlap or synergy

1. drinking water protection strategies where agricultural practices may contribute to high fecal coliform levels
2. possible overlapping areas where water source areas are desired for protection
4. Lincoln County's Little Creek Cove on Lake Norman has a recently completed a drinking water protection plan for an intake that may also have lots of recent data, some useful for this plan
5. Water treatment plant data exists upstream from the current DWQ station and may have some useful information (need to request permission)
6. With the planning effort now underway there may be opportunities to gain preference from the CWMTF applications for stream and wetland protection. Some preference is given to drinking water supply projects including land protection.
7. Little Creek Cove plan is narrowly focused. A broader plan like this may be complimentary.

Parking Lot:

- 1 - What kinds of ordinances came out of past EEP plans?
- 2 - The development of more specific group goals/objectives and a brainstorming session to identify and classify priority watershed issues will be covered at the next stakeholder group meeting in June.
- 3 - What are the EPA's 9 elements of a watershed plan and how do they compare with EEP's?

Next meeting:

The next meeting of the stakeholders group is tentatively scheduled for June 10th or 17th at the same facility. The meeting time will be from 1:00pm to 3:30 pm.