Appendix V

Watauga River Basin
Workshop Summary
Discussion Question 1:

WHAT ARE THE MAIN THREATS TO WATER QUALITY IN THE WATAUGA RIVER BASIN?

Group 1

- Construction along Highway 105 (starting at headwaters of Watauga)
  ⇒ causes sediment
  ⇒ paving and runoff
  ⇒ private driveways and roads
- Wastewater treatment plants
  ⇒ Beech Mountain
  ⇒ package plants
- Septic tank failure or straight piping
- Agriculture
  ⇒ pesticide use
  ⇒ cattle in streams
- Golf courses
  ⇒ pesticides
  ⇒ fertilizer
- Forestry activities
  ⇒ tree cutting
- Streambank erosion
  ⇒ downstream from development
- Channelizing streams

Group 2

- WWTPs / Failing septic
- Development / Urbanization
- Rock crusher
- Gray water quality
- Golf courses
- Agriculture
  ⇒ Christmas trees
  ⇒ cattle
  ⇒ tobacco
The building of second homes
Logging
Sedimentation/Erosion
Road salt

**Group 3**

- Lack of ENFORCEMENT
  - not enough STAFF
  - insufficient penalties
- Lack of targeted information
  - Example: agency people – have they been told of the problem
- Sedimentation and Erosion
- Conflicting goals
  - residents
  - developers
- Diversity monitoring station locations
- Need for stormwater management requirements
- Old WWTPs

**Discussion Question 2:**

WHAT ARE THE PROBLEM AREAS OR WATERS AND WHAT RECOMMENDATIONS DO YOU HAVE FOR ADDRESSING THESE PROBLEMS/WATERS?

**Group 1**

*Impacted Areas*

- Along Highway 105
  - package plants
  - construction
- Development in Banner Elk area
  - (new – hopefully good plans for control)
- Livestock
  - Cove Creek area
  - Beaverdam Creek
⇒ Mainstem below Valle Crucis

- Septic systems
  ⇒ all over (rural?)
- Restoration areas
  * Look at John Vilas’ plan

**Recommendations**

- Combine package plants
- Cost share for live stock fences (fence away from streams)
- Grants for fixing straight piping
- Improved enforcement
- Need more monitoring
  * (need more data to stimulate getting grants and funding)
    ⇒ schools monitor
- More public education needed
  ⇒ private road building
  ⇒ contractor workshops
  ⇒ local registration of contractors, well drillers, septic tank installers, grading comp.
  ⇒ attitude
  ⇒ general education of public
- Research/Demo projects
  ⇒ stormwater wetland
- Model development
  * Demos and recognize good development
- Open space planning

**Group 2**

**Impacted Areas**

- Bethel
  ⇒ Lack of vegetation
- Cove Creek
  ⇒ New development
- Twin Rivers
  ⇒ Sedimentation (especially near Foscoe)
- Laurel Fork
Beech Mountain
  ⇒ WWTP
Headwaters of the Watauga River

**Recommendations**

- More enforcement people
- Bug Planning and Inspections
- Education programs
  - ⇒ NCCEs
  - ⇒ NCSU
  - ⇒ TVA
  - ⇒ Blue Ridge RC&D
- Contractor Association Program for Green Builders
- WWTP’s monitoring / DWQ current enforcement
- Restoration projects
- Preservation

**Group 3**

**Impacted Areas**

- Sedimentation and erosion
- Valley Creek and an unnamed tributary to Valley Creek - Two-tenths mile up Seven Devils Road.
- Runoff into Valley Creek from roads, ski runs, golf courses.
- Laurel Fork
- Borrow Pit – Highway 105 opposite entrance to Adams Apple
- Cove Creek – Above restoration area

**Recommendations**

- Enforce county standards
- Develop local (Seven Devils) standards
- Local regulations for buffers – 20 to 100 feet depending on situation
- Require implementation of the existing plan
Discussion Question 3:

WHAT LOCAL AGENCIES OR ORGANIZATIONS SHOULD BE INVOLVED IN ADDRESSING THE PROBLEMS?

**Group 1**
- Local school systems
- Blue Ridge RC&D
- Soil and water districts
- Local government staff and elected officials, planning boards, COG
- ASU, Lees McRae, Community Colleges
- Farm Bureau, farm organizations
- Extension
- DOT

**Group 2**
- 1-866-STOMPUD (statewide)
- Previous Pavement
- DWQ
- NRCS
- NCCES
- Watauga/Avery County Planning and Inspections
- TVA

**Group 3**
- Watauga River Conservation Partners
- Watauga County Planning and Inspections
- Avery County Planning and Inspections
- NRCS
- Extension
- Stream Watch
- Local school board